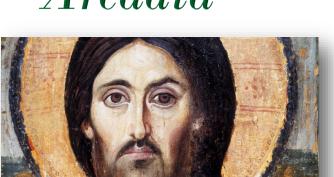
St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

16 & 17 AUGUST 2025

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends: Saturday 7:00pm Vigil Sunday 9:00am Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish Office for the following:

Baptisms Reconciliation For the Sick Marriages Funerals

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 Parish Office 9653 2312



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

SELF REFLECTION

In Luke 12:49-53, Jesus speaks about bringing fire to the earth and causing division rather than peace. This reminds me that following Him can challenge my comfort, relationships, and even my sense of peace. His truth sometimes reveals differences in values, priorities, and beliefs—even among loved ones. I am called to remain faithful to Him, even when it's difficult or misunderstood, trusting that His fire purifies and transforms.

What does the "fire" Jesus speaks of mean in my life today?

How do I respond when following Christ causes tension or disagreement?

Am I willing to put Jesus first, even above close relationships?

In what areas do I need courage to live out my faith more boldly?

Faithfulness Courage

Lord Jesus, You came to set the world on fire with Your love and truth. Give me courage to stand for You, even when it brings challenge or division.

Amen

First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, come to my aid!

Second Reading: Heb 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!



GOSPEL Luke 12:49-53
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Source: Liturgia Brisbane 2025

GOSPEL REFLECTION 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/ Heb 12:1-4/ Lk 12:49-53

We often come to Church seeking peace, comfort, and reassurance - but Jesus offers something far more intense. In the Gospel, He declares, "I came to cast fire on the earth," and speaks of division, not peace. Yet, as we explore the lives of Jeremiah, Jesus, and the early Christian community, we discover that the fire Christ brings is not destruction, but purification—the fire of truth, love, and uncompromising faith.

Are we ready to accept the fire of truth, love, and unwavering faith in our lives?

The Gospel today, highlights Jesus' intention to bring a fire of transformation and purification.

Following Christ means embracing the fire of the Holy Spirit - a fire that transforms, purifies, and even divides - calling us to courageous, unwavering faith even in the face of rejection, persecution, and personal cost.

To remain steadfast faith, we need the fire of the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!" What is this fire? It is not a fire of destruction, but of transformation. Jesus speaks of the fire of the Holy Spirit - the fire of truth, love, justice and holiness. It purifies hearts, awakens consciences, and sets people free. But this same fire also brings resistance, because not everyone is ready to be changed.

Jesus' words remind us that the Gospel demands a response. It divides - not because it promotes conflict, but because it requires us to choose. His love is steadfast love. It asks for our whole heart. That kind of love will disturb those who cling to comfort, pride, or sin. Even within families, this can cause division.

Jesus does not encourage violence or hatred but makes it clear: truth challenges falsehood, and light exposes darkness. The fire of the Spirit within us calls us to stand firm, even when it costs us.

Source: Breaking the Word, Redemptorist Publications India, Bangalore

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

August 2025

Monday 18: Judges 2:11-19. Mt 19:16-22

R. Lord, remember us, for the love you bear your people.

Tuesday 19: Judges 6:11-24. Mt 19:23-30

R. The Lord speaks of peace to his people

St John Eudes, Priest

Wednesday 20: Judges 9:6-15. Mt 20:1-16

R. Lord, your strength gives joy to the king

St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor

Thursday 21: Judges 11:29-39. Mt 22:1-14

R. Here am I, Lord: I come to do your will

St Pius X, Pope

Friday 22: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22. Mt 22:34-40

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 23: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17. Mt 23:1-12

R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him

St Rose of Lima, Virgin





Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for August 2025:

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES ARE ON THE NOTICEBOARD.

Any suggestions to Parish Pastoral Council or Parish Finance can be given to Fr Shansana.

ROSTER NOW AVAILABLE

The next Roster is now available in the Sacristy for collection.

If you would like to join any of the ministries listed, please speak to Father Shansana.

Your help is essential.

Together, we can bring compassion and care to those in need.

Please contact the parish office.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Father David Orr 19/08/1972 - 53 years

Congratulations and best wishes on your Anniversary of Priesthood.

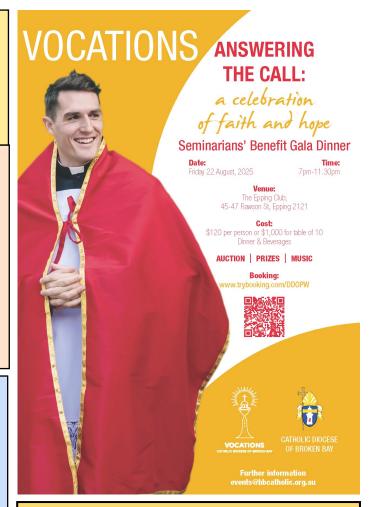
God's blessings on you and thank you for all you do in the service of God.

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service." 1 Timothy 1:12

HEALING MASS

the First Thursday of each month

NEXT DATE: Thursday, 4 September 9.30am Mass



SEMINARIANS' BENEFIT GALA DINNER Friday, 22 August 2025

The Epping Club
45-47 Rawson Street, Epping
7pm to 11.30pm
Cost \$120 per person

The purpose of the dinner is to connect our seminarians with parishioners and to raise awareness within our Diocese of the ongoing need to assist Catholic men in answering the call to the priesthood.

The Diocese is hoping to secure sponsorships for the event to cover the cost of the evening, and whatever is raised that evening will be used to assist with seminary education and support for current and future seminarians over a 7 year formation programme.

This event will provide us with the opportunity to support young men on their vocational journey.

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

We welcome into God's family, all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Vincent Bacha, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died:

Luke Manassa, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione.~ May they rest in Peace.



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Calling All Children and Families!

We invite all children and families who are interested in getting involved in upcoming parish activities and children Masses to reach out!

If your child would like to participate, please send an email to the parish office with the child's name and a contact number. We look forward to welcoming more young faces into our parish life!



OUR LADY OF FATIMA DAY

We will be celebrating "Our Lady of Fatima Day"

On 12 October 2025

Please keep this day in your diary.

We invite everyone from St Benedict's to attend this beautiful celebration. Details to come.

We invite children to be part of the Fatima Play and the Procession (please phone 0438 521 421 for details)

PIETY SHOP NEWS

We invite you to take a moment to explore our Piety Shop, It offers a wonderful selection of items to support and enrich your spiritual life, including: Religious gifts for sacraments like Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Rosaries, prayer cards, and medals Bibles, missals, and spiritual books for adults and children.

Come and see what's new!

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP!

Youth group is back on this term!

Time: 4pm to 5.30pm

each Friday during school term.

Everyone welcome (8 to 12 year olds)

Thank you, Gabe & Jules!



CATECHISTS' NEWS

I would like to share a reflection by Michael Tebbutt titled "The Spirituality of the Catechist" in the Catechist magazine "Connections" Term 3 2025 over the next few weeks. "When we talk or think about spirituality, we often think that spirituality is found within. That it has to do with the inner life. Sure, spirituality has to do with the soul but if it is true spirituality it has as much to do with the body as the soul? Can you imagine having the spirituality of the catechist without going into a class or two each week, meeting with the children and proclaiming the Gospel to them in ways that the children can understand?"

Free training for all Catechists continues to be provided by the CCD –

Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3rd Millenium" continues on Friday 15th August 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The topic this week is "Tools for Catechesis: The Catechism and Directory for Catechesis".

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

Please keep our parish Catechists, and the students that they teach, in prayer. If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact myself or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless, Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

Paper Flowers workshop Wednesday 3rd September 7.30 - 9.30pm



\$10 per participant

RSVP Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425 834 017 **by 31/8/25**

This month we will be making colourful crepe paper poppies and magnolias.

Hope you can make it!

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.

~ Song of Solomon 2:1-2 ~

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm**. Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every
Wednesday morning:
after 9.30am Mass.
Come and meet new people and
have a cuppa!
For more details call
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

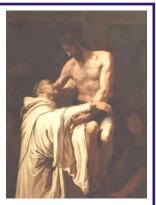
Saint Bernard of Clairvaux - Memorial

Feast Day: August 20

c. 1090 - 1153

Patron Saint of beekeepers, bees, candlemakers, chandlers, Cistercians, and Knights Templar Canonised by Pope Alexander III on January 18, 1174

Declared a Doctor of the Church (Doctor Mellifluus, "Honey-Sweet Doctor") by Pope Pius VIII in 1830



Bernard was born into a noble family in Fontaines, France, the third of seven children. His parents instilled in him a deep faith, and he received a comprehensive education. He excelled at Scripture study and was devoted to the Blessed Virgin. Bernard's mother's death when he was nineteen sparked his resolve to live solely for God. He decided to enter the newly formed Cistercian monastery in Cîteaux, the Abbey of Notre Dame. His virtue, clarity of purpose, and evident holiness then inspired thirty young noblemen to join him, including all of his brothers except the youngest, who would join him later, as would his father. His sister would become a Benedictine nun.

The Cistercian order, established in 1098, returned to the ideals of the Rule of Saint Benedict that prescribed a balanced life of prayer and work for all monks. They would not involve themselves in societal and political affairs or accumulate significant land and wealth. In 1113, Bernard, his brothers, and their noble companions journeyed to the Abbey of Notre Dame where Abbot Stephen Harding joyfully admitted them. Abbot Stephen, now a saint, spent twenty-five years as abbot. Committed to a more faithful living of the Rule of Benedict, his holiness and administrative skills enabled the new Cistercian order to grow rapidly. Numerous men joined, resulting in the establishment of many new monasteries. Abbot Stephen appointed Bernard as abbot at the monastery in Clairvaux.

Abbot Bernard earned respect for his holiness and leadership in monastic reform. A prolific writer, he left behind roughly 530 letters and 300 sermons, including a series of eighty-six sermons on the Song of Songs. Additionally, he wrote more than twenty longer works. His treatise "On Loving God" passionately and rationally articulates the reasons we should love God. In all his works, Abbot Bernard taught the mind and drew the heart to conversion and love. He emphasized God's personal nature, our call to mystical union with Him, the need for humility, the benefits of asceticism, and the central role that the Blessed Virgin must play in our lives. A theologian, contemplative, and mystic, Bernard's central goals were to love God and to draw others into that same love.

Bernard founded many monasteries, assisted popes and bishops with Church needs, was an eloquent apologist in defense of the faith, defended persecuted Jews, assisted at Church councils, preached at the second Crusade, and helped resolve many disputes. Many miracles were attributed to him, including healing the sick, casting out demons, multiplying food, calming storms, and raising the dead. With spiritual discernment, he was able to read people's inner thoughts and intentions. He saw Mary as our Mediatrix and as the Star of the Sea who guides us through the darkness of life.

When Abbot Bernard died, his monastery in Clairvaux numbered about 700 monks; he founded at least sixty-eight monasteries. He has since been given the title the mellifluous Doctor of the Church, meaning that his words were like honey—convincing, forthcoming, elegant, sweet, and effective.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, you navigated the weaknesses of your age, inspired countless others to love God, and made a lasting impact upon the world.

Please pray that I will never waver in my love of God and will firmly believe that profound holiness is achievable.

Please pray for the whole Church, that we will love Mary in our hearts and allow her to lead us through the darkness we encounter.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 August 2025 DELIVERANCE RETREAT
Guided by Fr Sam Samuel VC, Fr John Prince VC & Fr Juby Varghese VC
8th-10th August Starts on Friday 5.30pm & ends on Sunday 4.00pm For bookings: 02 4372 | 598 or email: drcretreatrego@gmail.com 3rd Monday, 18th August Healing Prayer Service, 7:00pm-9:00pm at St Patrick's Church, 11 Macquarie street, Wallsend 31st August, 9:00am - 4:00pm One Day Pilgrimage (Last Sunday)

• Praise and Worship • Preaching the Word

• Eucharistic Adoration • Divine Mercy Chaplet • Holy Mass

ALL ARE WELCOME, NO BOOKING REQUIRED, BYO LUNCH DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE 160 Hensons Road, SOMERSBY, SYDNEY-NSW 2250, Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drcsydney@gmail.com • www.divineretreatcentre.org • Find us on facebook

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.

Book Now

Terms & Conditions apply - contact johanne@ettravel.com.au for more details Single supplement available upon request. Land only price available. Price subject to availability and currency fluctuations.



Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

23/8/2025—24/8/2025 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	7.00pm	9.00am	10.30am
Acolyte		Paul C	
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Kath M	John family
Reader2	Mary C	Judy H	John family
Prayers	Miriam B	Mary C	Sharon O
TV		Mary A	Trey O
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Pauline H	Adam F
Music		Theresa N	Martina J
Music		Keith W	Sandra M
Morning Tea		Tania T	
FLOWERS	Hannah A		



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you"

Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings **6.30am** Morning prayer - Lauds

12.45pm Midday prayer

6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers **8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NOTICE

Please pray for all children and their families as they commence the sacramental process for Confirmation.

For any queries please email the parish office: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026

Planned Giving Envelopes are now ready for collection. They can be found on the front pew in the church, arranged in alphabetical order.

A sincere thank you to all who have already opted in to this important program. If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program, please contact the parish office.

Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW...

When we sing 'Holy, Holy, Holy' at mass we are uniting our voices with those in heaven in their unending hymn of praise (Rev 4:8)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm (School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com

After hours: 0437 884 233

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia





MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159

121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

PARISH BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

CBA—Catholic Development Fund