

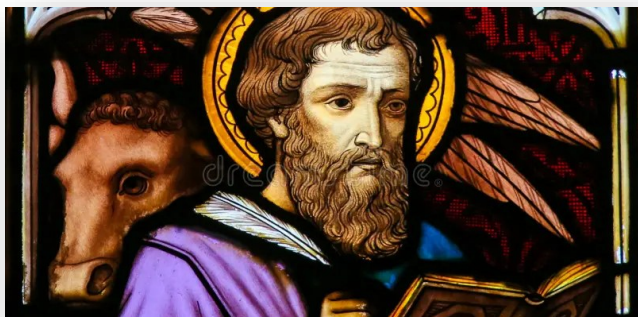
# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

23 & 24 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 ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord,  
for I cry to you all the day long.

### OPENING PRAYER

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.

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

Luke 13:22–30 is a powerful passage where Jesus talks about the narrow door and the urgency of truly following Him. He warns that many will try to enter but won't be able to because they waited too long or assumed they were safe just by association with Him.

This passage challenges me to examine the sincerity of my faith. Am I truly walking with Jesus, or just going through the motions? It's easy to assume I'm on the right path, but Jesus reminds me that knowing about Him isn't the same as knowing Him. I'm reminded to live out my faith with humility, urgency, and authenticity—not just relying on religious habits or past experiences. I want to be among those who enter through the narrow door, not just standing outside wishing I had taken Him more seriously.

*Lord Jesus, You call me to enter through the narrow door—to follow You with all my heart, not just in words but in how I live. Help me not to assume I'm close to You just because I've been near religious things. Search my heart, God, and show me where I've grown complacent or proud. Give me the humility to repent, the courage to obey, and the grace to keep walking in Your truth.*

*May I not be found outside knocking, but inside -  
because I knew You, trusted You, and followed You.  
Amen*

**First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

***They will gather all of your people from all nations***

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

***The word of the Lord.***

***Thanks be to God.***

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.** Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

**Second Reading: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13**

**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

***The Lord disciplines those he loves***

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

***The word of the Lord.***

***Thanks be to God.***

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.**

**Alleluia!**



**GOSPEL Luke 13:22-30**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

***From East and West they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God***

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from the east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

***The Gospel of the Lord.***

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Is 66:18-21/Ps 116/ Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/ Lk 13:22-30**

God's love is boundless and for people of all walks of life. Following him calls us to enter through the narrow door of faith. Today's readings remind us that salvation comes not from status or entitlement, but from a heart fully committed to Christ. Let us examine our hearts and ask, 'Have I made efforts to be Christ's face to others, or have I clung to pride and division? With contrite hearts, let us seek His mercy.

Jesus urges us to strive through the narrow door, for true faith, not status, leads to God's eternal feast.

This demands total commitment—not mere admiration but becoming Christ's face to others. Those claiming, "We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets" (Luke 13:26), hear, "I do not know where you come from" (Luke 13:25). Like Pharisees boasting Abraham's lineage (John 8:39), they presume salvation through status, but Jesus seeks a transformed heart. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matt 7:21). The reversal stuns: "People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29), while some "heirs" are cast out (Matt 8:11-12). Jesus repeats, "The last will be first, and the first last" (Luke 13:30, Matt 19:30; Mark 10:31).

His reversals - "the last will be first" (Luke 13:30; Matt 20:16) - demand humility. Release your "rights"; invite the newcomer to your seat, let the quiet parishioner proclaim the Word, serve silently. Heal divides - pray with those of other tongues, share with the poor, see all as equal. Hebrews urges us to "lift your drooping hands" (Heb 12:12), supporting the marginalized. Work your salvation "with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12), embodying Christ's love.

Source: Breaking the Word, Redemptorist Publications India, Bangalore

**WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS**

*August 2025*

- Monday 25: 1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10. Mt 23:13-22  
**R.** The Lord takes delight in his people  
**St Louis**
- Tuesday 26: 1 Thess 2:1-8. Mt 23:23-26  
**R.** You have searched me and you know me Lord
- Wednesday 27: 1 Thess 2:9-13. Mt 23:27-32  
**R.** You have searched me and you know me, Lord  
**St Monica**
- Thursday 28: 1 Thess 3:7-13. Mt 24:42-51  
**R.** Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!  
**St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor**
- Friday 29: Jer 1:17-19. Mk 6:17-29  
**R.** I will sing your salvation  
**The Passion of St John the Baptist, Martyr**
- Saturday 30: 1 Thess 4:9-11. Mt 25:14-30  
**R.** The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.



**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.

## FUNERAL NOTICE

### THE LATE SHANNON MURRAY

Shannon's funeral will be held on  
**Monday 1st September 2025**  
**at 10.30am**

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,  
Catholic Church Warnervale**

91 Sparks Road  
Woongarra

Our prayers and condolences  
to the Murray family

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let  
perpetual light shine upon her.  
May she rest in peace. Amen*

## HEALING MASS

the First Thursday of each month

**NEXT DATE: Thursday, 4th September**  
**9.30am Mass**



Australia is facing a deepening crisis. Over 273,000 people sought help from homelessness services last year, many also struggling with mental illness. Services are overstretched and many people are left without care, shelter, or hope. Many who are homeless also live with serious mental health challenges. Services are overwhelmed, and too many people are left without the help they desperately need.

This year's **Social Justice Statement** calls us to follow the example of Jesus, who always noticed, listened to, and cared for those on the edge of society. Just as Jesus healed the blind man Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52), we are called to see and respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers living in hardship.

## GCEA—SPRING DINNER

**Saturday 13th September**  
**at 6pm**

**The Galston Club**  
2 course meal, tea and coffee

\$55 concession/\$65 adult

RSVP 10th September  
[www.gcea.org.au](http://www.gcea.org.au)

To book visit the URL below

<https://events.humanitix.com/gcea-spring-dinner-2025>

## 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

'As catechists we do go into our classes, and we do proclaim the Gospel to the children and help them to process the meaning of what we proclaim through various writing, drama, singing and art activities. In doing these things each week, we are giving expression to our spirituality as catechists in a real-life manner. For spirituality to be genuine, it requires external expression.' ("The Spirituality of the Catechist" by Michael Tebbutt)

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

· Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3rd Millennium" continues on Friday 29th August 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The topic this week is "The Natural World and Religion".

· RSVP [registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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.

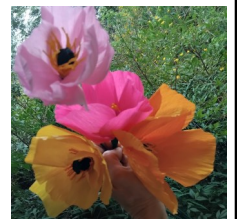
God bless,

Miriam Brown  
[srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto: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 Augustine of Hippo**  
**Bishop and Doctor of the Church**  
**Feast Day: August 28**  
**354 - 430**



**Patron Saint of brewers, printers, and theologians**  
**Invoked against sore eyes and vermin**  
**Pre-Congregation canonisation**  
**Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Boniface VIII in 1298**  
**Referred to as “Doctor of Grace” by popular acclaim**

Despite her challenging life, Monica's prayers and compelling virtues led her husband, mother-in-law, and her three children to convert. Augustine, the oldest, was born Aurelius Augustinus Hipponensis in Tagaste, present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria, North Africa. His father, Patricius (Patrick), was a pagan, known for his violent temper and immoral lifestyle. Monica lived out her Catholic faith as a model of charity in the face of her husband's temper and adultery.

Augustine's father would not permit his children to be baptized, but Monica's faith instilled within Augustine an awareness of his Savior. Still, he became a troublemaker. After Patricius' death, Augustine went to Carthage to continue his education where he became intoxicated by his literary successes and moved in with a young woman with whom he fathered a child. He became a follower of Manichaeism, which looked at reality as a struggle between light (good) and dark (evil).

When Augustine finished his studies around age nineteen, he returned to Tagaste with his girlfriend and son. He taught there and in Carthage before accepting an invitation to Rome. Monica told Augustine that she was going with him, but he tricked her and left without her. After a few years, he accepted a position in Milan where his mother caught up with him and witnessed his conversion.

Still searching for truth, Augustine met the future saint, Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Ambrose taught Augustine how to properly read the Bible. While sitting in a garden one day, Augustine heard a child's voice say, "Take and read." He picked up the Bible next to him and randomly opened to Romans 13:13–14 which advised proper conduct, "not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and licentiousness, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh." He hastily began his conversion.

Time talking with Catholic friends, Monica's wisdom and insight, and her tearful prayers led to Augustine's baptism by Bishop Ambrose during the Easter Vigil in 387, along with his son. As Augustine returned to Tagaste with his mother, son, and friends, Monica fell ill just outside Rome and died. Augustine beautifully depicted their love and recounted her passing in the Confessions.

Upon returning home, Augustine formed a religious community with his friends. By the people's acclamation, he became a priest in 391 and was consecrated as bishop of the nearby town of Hippo in 396. One of the greatest theologians in Church history, Augustine's pastoral work, sermons, and attentiveness to people's needs changed their lives. His autobiographical Confessions traces his conversion, interspersed with theological insights. In City of God, he defends the faith and points society to the ideals to which it is called. Over five million words written by Augustine have survived until today, numbering over 1,000 documents.

*Saint Augustine, you were a sinner redeemed by Christ.  
You then devoted your whole life to the glory of God  
and the salvation of souls.  
Please pray that I will discover what you discovered  
and imitate your radical conversion,  
holding nothing back from our merciful God.*

*Saint Augustine of Hippo, pray for me.  
Jesus, I trust in You*



# Incredible SRI LANKA

13 NIGHTS/14 DAYS  
DEPARTING AUSTRALIA  
22 SEPTEMBER 2025

With your host  
Fr. Michael Kelly OSB  
Abbot General Emeritus

Colombo, Kandy, Haputale, Yala,  
Galle, Key ancient sites &  
Benedictine Communities

**A\$5,945**  
Per person twin share  
**A\$500**  
Per person deposit

## INCLUSIONS

- Economy class flights on Singapore Airlines
- 5 star accommodation for 13 nights
- Daily Breakfast & Dinner
- Dinner from day 2 to Day 14
- Our own Airconditioned 24-seater coach
- First Class train tickets from Kandy to Ella including box lunch
- English speaking guide / Driver throughout the tour
- Entrance tickets to places we visit as in the itinerary.
- A visit to St. Anthony's Shrine
- Visit Benedictine Communities and Anglican sites

**Book Now**

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

"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 Judy Varghese VC  
**8th-10th August**  
Starts on Friday 5.30pm & ends on Sunday 4.00pm  
For bookings: 02 4372 1598 or email: drcrtreatreg@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.

**DIocese OF BROKEN BAY PILGRIMAGE**  
SAT 29 NOV- WED 3 DEC

**FLIGHTS + 4 NIGHTS ACCOMODATION + REGO**  
\$1,645 PER PERSON, INCL GST  
Limited opportunity for \$500 subsidy  
Reducing cost to \$1,145

Day 1	Sat 29 Nov	Departure (Travel Day)
Day 2	Sun 30 Nov	ACYF
Day 3	Mon 1 Dec	ACYF
Day 4	Tue 2 Dec	ACYF
Day 5	Wed 3 Dec	Return (Travel Day)

**TO REGISTER INTEREST TO ATTEND ACYF - PLEASE SCAN**



**BROKEN BAY PILGRIMAGE ONLINE INFORMATION EVENING**  
7PM MON 11 AUGUST 2025  
TO REGISTER VIA EMAIL - PLEASE SCAN



**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL**  
MELBOURNE 2025

## INCLUSIONS

- Economy class return airfare from Sydney
- 4 nights' Accommodation Holiday Inn Express
- Breakfast daily
- Broken Bay Group dinner 29 November
- Return airport coach transfers
- ACYF Melbourne Registration fee
- Broken Bay Pilgrim T-Shirt

**Not included:**

- Travel insurance
- Lunches and dinners on festival days

Pilgrimage is open to young people in Year 9 at school, through to the age of 25, and their leaders and clergy.

 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY  
mission@bbcatholic.org.au

# Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**30/8/2025—31/8/2025  
22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

	<b>SATURDAY 7.00pm</b>	<b>SUNDAY 9.00am</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10.30am</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Nigel M	George A
<b>Reader1</b>	Miriam B	Ann L	Sandra M
<b>Reader2</b>	Margaret B	Gabrielle W	Leanne A
<b>Prayers</b>	Mary C	Matt W	Lorna B
<b>TV</b>		Jules O	Teresa G
<b>Music</b>		Karina S	Melanie H
<b>Music</b>		Noelle T	Marisa Q
<b>Music</b>		John T	Adam F
<b>Music</b>			Hannah F
<b>Morning Tea</b>		<b>Mandah V</b>	
<b>FLOWERS</b>	<b>Mona M</b>		



**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

### CONFIRMATION

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

Confirmation will take place on Thursday 23rd October

Presenting of Certificates: Sunday 26th October at the 10.30am Mass

### NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS - early 2026

Our next program starts with Reconciliation In March 2026.

For any queries please email the parish office:  
[arcadia.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au)

## DID YOU KNOW...

We say the Creed every Mass which was written in 325A.D as the statement of our core beliefs as Catholics



## 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.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.pariah@bbcatholic.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB  
**Email:** [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto: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**