## St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

**6 & 7 SEPTEMBER 2025** 

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

PARISH MASS TIMES

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



You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.

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: Costly Discipleship**

This Sunday's Gospel, Luke 14:25-33:

Following Jesus means total commitment, even when it costs me comfort, relationships, or possessions. True discipleship asks me to place Him above everything else and being ready to let go of anything that holds me back.

#### I reflect:

- Do I put Christ above my relationships and possessions?
- What "cross" am I called to carry each day?
- Have I honestly considered the sacrifices of following Him?
- Do I sometimes follow only when it's convenient?
- What might I need to surrender today to be His true disciple?

## **Commitment and Sacrifice**

#### Lord,

help me place You above all else in my life. Give me strength to carry my cross daily, courage to surrender what holds me back, and faith to follow You with a true and willing heart. Amen.

#### TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18 (JB)
A reading from the book of Wisdom
Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;
for a perishable body presses down the soul,
and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.
It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;
who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading: Philemon 1: 9-10, 12-17 (JB)
A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon

Page 1: 5 him not as a place anymore but as a very deal

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him - I could say - a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

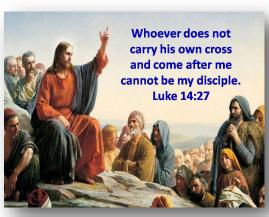
All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes, and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

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





#### GOSPEL REFLECTION 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 9:13-18 / Psalm 90 / Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17 / Luke 14:25-33

The readings this Sunday remind us that following God requires wisdom, courage, and wholehearted commitment.

- In the First Reading (Wisdom 9:13–18), we are told that human understanding is limited. Only God's Spirit can guide us to know His will. This shows us that discipleship begins not with our own plans, but with humility and openness to divine wisdom.
- The Psalm (Psalm 90) echoes this by reminding us of the shortness of life and urging us to number our days wisely. It calls us to live each moment intentionally, seeking meaning and purpose in God rather than chasing fleeting things.
- In the Second Reading (Philemon 9–10, 12–17), Paul appeals to Philemon to welcome Onesimus, not as a slave but as a beloved brother. This reveals the transforming power of discipleship—true commitment to Christ changes how we treat one another, breaking down walls of status and division.
- In the Gospel (Luke 14:25–33), Jesus speaks boldly about the cost of following Him. He calls His disciples to place Him above family, possessions, and even personal comfort, to carry their cross, and to count the cost. Discipleship is not half-hearted; it demands everything.

#### The connection among the readings is clear:

To truly follow Christ, we need **God's wisdom** to guide us (Wisdom), a heart that recognizes the shortness of life and seeks what truly matters (Psalm), relationships transformed by love and equality in Christ (Philemon), and the courage to embrace the radical cost of discipleship (Gospel).

#### **Key Thought**

Discipleship is not easy—it requires letting go, choosing wisely, loving deeply, and surrendering fully. But when we do, we discover true life in Christ.

Source: chatgpt.com

#### WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

#### September 2025

Monday 8: Micah 5:1-4. Mt 1:1-16, 18-23.

R. With delight I rejoice in the Lord.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday 9: Col 2:6-15. Lk 6:12-19.

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

St Peter Claver, priest

Wednesday 10: Col 3:1-11. Lk 6:20-26.

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

Thursday 11: Col 3:12-17. Lk 6:27-38.

R. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Friday 12: 1 Tim 1:1-2, 12-14. Lk 6:39-42.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord. **The Most Holy Name of Mary** 

Saturday 13: 1 Tim 1:15-17. Lk 6:43-49.

R. Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever. **St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor** 

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

When you follow her; you will not go astray; When you pray to her, You will not despair; When you think of her, You will not err; When she holds you up, You will not fail; When she protects you, You will not fear; When she leads you, You will not be fatigued; When she favors you, You will arrive safely.

She keeps her Son from striking us; She keeps the devil from hurting us; She keeps our virtues from escaping us; She keeps our merits from being destroyed; She keeps our graces from being lost.

-St Bernard.

Source: Ordo 2025



#### Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for September 2025:

#### For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES ARE ON THE NOTICEBOARD.

Any suggestions to Parish Pastoral Council or Parish Finance can be given to Fr Shansana or letter placed in the suggestions box in the Church sacristy entry.



#### 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!

#### **PARISH WORKING BEE**

Saturday, September 27 10.15am to 12pm

We need your help to keep our parish grounds looking beautiful. Please come along and lend a hand—bring your rakes, gloves, and plenty of energy!

This is a wonderful way to serve our parish community and spend time together in friendship. Every bit of help makes a big difference. Save the date and join us—we'd love to see you there!

#### **GCEA SPRING DINNER**

#### **BOOK YOUR SEAT NOW!**

Saturday, September 13 | 6:00 PM | Galston Club Enjoy a delicious 2-course meal \$55 Concession or \$65 Adult

We warmly invite you to the **GCEA Annual Spring Dinner**—a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and faith-filled purpose.

This year, we are proud to support **Paul El-Chaar**, whose dedication to teaching Scripture in Galston high school is changing young lives. By joining us, you're not only enjoying a great night out—you're directly helping to bring the Word of God to the next generation.

Our parish will be hosting a table, and we would **LOVE** for you to be part of it! Tickets are selling fast—don't miss this opportunity to gather, celebrate, and support this powerful mission.

To reserve your spot, please contact **Paula on 0423 078 282** today!

#### HAPPY FATHERS' DAY

"The quality of a father can be seen in the goals, dreams and aspirations he sets not only for himself, but for his family." ~ Reed Markham ~

This Father's Day, we pause to honour the men who have shaped our lives with love, patience and wisdom. A father's role is not only about providing; it's about being present, showing kindness, leading by example and walking beside us through life's challenges. Fathers encourage us when we doubt ourselves, offer guidance when we feel uncertain and celebrate our joys as if they were their own.

So, this Father's Day we honour fathers past and present, near and far. We reflect on the ways their love, wisdom and presence have influenced us and shaped the people we are today.

#### **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.

#### 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:

Shannon Murray, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, .~ May they rest in Peace.





#### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA DAY**

Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day
Will be held on
Sunday 12 October 2025
starting at 12:30pm

Here at St Benedict's Parish, Arcadia. Details to come. Contact: 0438 521 421



# SAVE THE DATE! St Benedict's Country Fete

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Mark your calendars and get ready!

Our much-loved St Benedict's Country Fete will return next year—bigger, brighter, and full of fun for the whole family.

There will be stalls, games, food, entertainment, raffles, and plenty of parish spirit to enjoy.

This is one of the highlights of our parish year, and we can't wait to welcome parishioners, families, and friends from near and far. Stay tuned for more details—and start spreading the word!

Together, let's make this fete a joyful celebration of community and faith!

#### 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)** 

#### **CATECHISTS' NEWS**

'The Spirituality of the Catechist' by Michael Tebbutt, Openness to God continued "The love of the Father for the Son, and the love of the Son for the Father and from this love, is the Holy Spirit who completes this relationship of love. As St Augustine said, 'our hearts are restless, Lord, until they find their rest in You.' By being open to a relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we will find our rest in our God."

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

Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millenium" continues on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sep 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The topic this week is "The History of Liturgy"

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 10th September NOTE: Date Change 7.30 - 9.30pm



\$10 per participant

RSVP Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425 834 017 **by 8/9/25** 

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!

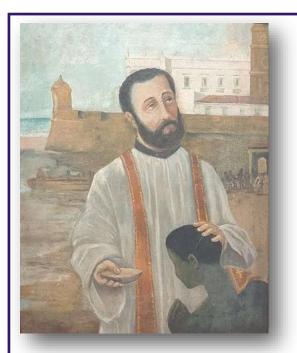
For more details call

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 Peter Claver, Priest

Feast Day: September 9 c. 1581-1654

Patron Saint of African missions, African-Americans, black missions, black people, foreign missions, interracial justice, slaves, and Colombia Invoked against slavery

Saint Peter Claver was born to devout, upper-class parents in Verdú, Catalonia, Spain. At age twenty, he entered the Jesuit novitiate. At the Jesuit college of Montesión on Mallorca, off the Spanish coast, Peter decided to become a missionary in the South American Spanish colonies. In 1610, he set sail for Cartagena, Colombia, a major hub in the transatlantic slave trade that had replaced enslavement of the indigenous people. By 1610, Spanish ships transported an estimated 10,000 slaves to Cartagena to be sold annually. Disease and malnutrition on the slave ships led to the deaths of one-third of the slaves during the journey. Despite Church outcries, the cruel behavior continued.

After six years of study in Tunja and Bogotá, Father Claver committed himself to serving the African slaves. He signed his final profession: "Peter Claver, slave of the slaves, forever." During thirty-eight years as a priest in Cartagena, Father Claver catechized and baptized an estimated 300,000 slaves. He waited at the port for a new slave ship to arrive, each containing as many as 500 slaves. For the two-to-three month journey, they were poorly fed once a day, chained naked to each other, abused, threatened, and forced to sit in their own excrement and vomit. Their metal shackles caused the flesh on their wrists to bleed and become infected.

Once the ship arrived, Father Claver begged door-to-door for food for his new flock. With a small band of interpreters and charitable workers, he entered the foul-smelling hull of the ship where many lay dead, while the fearful survivors needed medical treatment and compassion. As a sign of love, he kissed their sores, sucked out the infectious pus, and washed the wounds with his handkerchiefs. He would baptize any babies, provide food, and demonstrate a compassion that many had never seen. He then helped transport the slaves to a new location, carrying those who could not walk, where they could be well fed and regain their strength before being sold.

Father Claver's primary concern was the salvation of souls, but he chastised the oppressors, calling them to repentance for their cruelty. He preached the Gospel to the slaves in ways they could understand and helped them see their innate dignity. He told them that there was a loving God who died for their sins, who wanted to forgive them and fill them with joy. He held up the crucifix, revealing the God Who suffered for them, showing them the way to Heaven. As they listened, learned, believed, and converted, they were baptized, often a moment of tears and rejoicing. If a ship was not due for months, Peter traveled the countryside to see those he had baptized. Upon arriving on a plantation, he spent his time with the slaves, sleeping and eating in the slaves' quarters. He further instructed them in the Catholic faith, taught them to pray, and offered hope.

After decades of ministry to the slaves, Father Claver fell ill. One of his caregivers, a slave, mistreated him in his final days. Father Claver accepted this treatment, uniting it with Christ's suffering on the Cross as a form of penance for his own sins and as a way to deepen his communion with the slaves.

Saint Peter Claver, you journeyed into the hellish conditions of abuse and suffering, caused by greed and a lack of respect for human dignity. You brought Christ's light, administered the Sacraments, and gave hope to those who needed it most. Please pray that I will be a beacon of hope for those in need, by preaching Christ Crucified and making the salvation of souls, beginning with my own, my first priority. Saint Peter Claver, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life





**FORMATION SERIES** 

**Facilitated by Chris Ohlsen** 

#### Rekindle the Wonder

Pope Francis, in his 2022 Apostolic Letter Desiderio Desideravi (on the liturgical Formation of the People of God) encouraged us to rekindle our wonder in the liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments. This presentation will scope out some core principles such as: what is liturgy, what is liturgical sign and symbol, as well as delving into the who, what, where, why and some practical aspects of the Sacraments.

An exciting and interactive formation opportunity for all Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Musicians, Servers, Parish Liturgical Commission Members, diocesan parish staff and interested parishioners.

Saturday 25 October 9:30 am - 3:00 pm Caroline Chisholm Centre 2/423 Pennant Hills Rd Pennant Hills Morning tea and lunch provided



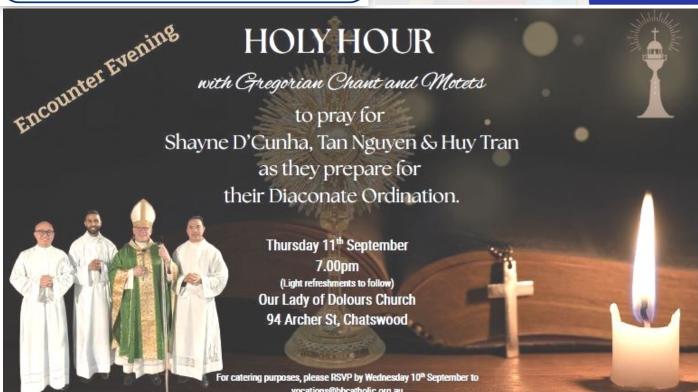
**REGISTER NOW** 

mission@bbcatholic.org.au



**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.



#### THINKING ABOUT THE SACRAMENTS AS AN ADULT?

If you've been considering receiving the Sacraments whether Baptism, Reconciliation, or Holy Communion, as an adult or a more mature person, we warmly invite you to take the next step in your faith journey. A new Adult Sacramental Program will be starting soon. Please contact Fr Shansana or reach out to the Parish office for more information. We'd love to walk with you on this sacred path.

### Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

#### **NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER**

#### 13/9/2025—14/9/2025 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - YEAR C

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	7.00pm	9.00am	10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	George A
Reader1	Daniel V	Nigel M	Azzi Family
Reader2	Edyn V	Kath M	Matt W
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Sandra M
TV		Teresa G	Jutrisa Family
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Keith W
Music		John T	Martina J
Music			
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	Gabrielle W		



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 UPDATE**



#### 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 - mid 2026

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

#### **DID YOU KNOW...**

That carrying the cross daily, as Jesus says in today's Gospel, is linked to the Catholic practice of offering up our sufferings—uniting them with Christ's sacrifice at Mass?

#### 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**