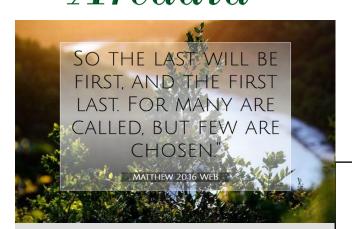
# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





# PARISH MASS TIMES

# Weekend:

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

# Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm *Adoration* 

7:00pm Mass & Confession

(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 10:00am to 11:00am

Adoration & Confession

(Reconciliation)

# **MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses**

Sundays 7:00am Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Shansana: 0437 884 233

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

23 & 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

# **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

# **SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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.* 

# **REFLECTION - COVET & ENVY**

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16: Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the Vineyard "I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.".

This parable is about the 9th Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet one's goods".

COVET means when you want what someone else has. ENVY means when you don't want someone else to have what they've been given.

Coveting wants to gain something for yourself. Envying wants to deny something to someone else. We covet what God chooses to give to others.

- Do I feel God owes me something or that I deserve certain things from God?
- Do I ever compare myself with others?
- Have I ever felt God has been unfair with me and not given me what I deserve or have I been surprised with God's unexpected generosity?



## **PRAYER**

Lord, I count it as a privilege to serve you, so help me always to be content in my service. Help me also to be content with what you bless me with in the way of wages or rewards. Help me to do your work in the best way possible according to your will. **Amen**.

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 (JB)
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



### R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

**Second Reading:** *Philippians 1:20-24, 27 (JB)* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians *For me to live is Christ.* 



Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Why are you jealous because I am generous?



Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION** 

Sunday, September 24 Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 Philippians 1:20-24, 27 Matthew 20:1-16

# You too go into my vineyard. (Matthew 20:4)

Jesus told this parable to help us better understand how generous and merciful God is. But the seeming unfairness of the landowner's decision can still leave us feeling a bit unsettled. We might react differently, however, when we consider the lives of two people who, like the workers in this parable, came to the vineyard later

Felix Leseur was raised Catholic in nineteenth-century France but lost his faith in medical school and became an atheist. His wife, Elisabeth, on the other hand, grew closer to God and began praying fervently for her husband's conversion. After her death at the age of forty-seven, Felix began reading her diary. The deep faith he saw there touched him, and he returned to the Lord at the age of fifty-six and eventually became a priest.

St. Angela of Foligno was born in 1248 to a wealthy family in Umbria, Italy. Married at a young age, she reveled in the worldly life and all its trappings. But a series of natural disasters and an ongoing war led her to reexamine her priorities. At the age of thirty-seven—considered midlife for that time—she sought the Lord's mercy in Confession. Then after the premature deaths of her husband, mother, and two children, she gave up all her possessions and became a lay Franciscan.

When we hear about people like Felix and Angela, we don't begrudge them the heavenly reward they are now enjoying. It doesn't matter that they came later to the vineyard. God and his angels in heaven still rejoiced, and so should we anytime we hear of someone turning to God later in life.

God is always inviting people to "go into my vineyard" (Matthew 20:4). Today at Mass, pray for the people you know who have not yet accepted his invitation. May they one day receive the reward he so graciously has in store for them!

"Father, I praise you for your mercy and generosity, which has no bounds!"

Source: Word Among Us India

# LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Monday 25 Readings: Ezra 1:1-6. Lk 8:16-18.

R: The Lord has done marvels for us.

Readings: Ezra 6:708,12, 14-20. Tuesday 26

R: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs

Wednesday 27 Readings: Ezra 9:5-9. Lk 9:1-6.

R: Blessed be God who lives for ever.

St Vincent de Paul, priest

Thursday 28 Readings: Haggai 1:1-8. Lk 9:7-9.

R: The Lord takes delight in his people.

St Wenceslaus, martyr

St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs

Friday 29 Readings: Dan 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rev 12:7-12.

R: In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises Lord.

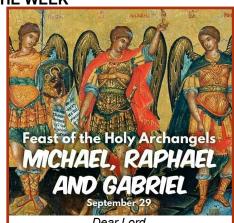
Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

Readings: Zech 2:5-9, 14-15. Lk 9:43-45. Saturday 30

R: The Lord will guard us, like a shepherd guarding his flock.

St Jerome, priest, doctor

Source: Ordo 2023



#### Dear Lord.

You have given us archangels to assist us during our time here on earth. Saint Michael is our protector; I ask him to come to my aid. and protect us from danger. Saint Gabriel is a messenger of the Good News;

I ask him to help me clearly hear Your voice and to teach me the truth. Saint Raphael is the healing angel; I ask him to take my need for healing and that of everyone I know. Holy angels, pray for us.

Amen.

# POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

### FOR PEOPLE LIVING ON THE MARGINS

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



### THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4 - To keep constant guard over the actions of one's life.

# **PARISH FUNDS**

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Acct: 100002141

Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: **CBA—Catholic Development Fund** 

# **PARISH NOTICE**

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Parish office is closed on Mondays during school holidays:

25th September

2nd October

9th October

Fridays is open as usual.

For anything urgent please call Fr Shansana.

# ST BENEDICT'S FETE 2024 **HELP WANTED**

We are hoping to hold a PARISH fete next year in APRIL 2024. We are in need of volunteers and helpers. If anyone would like to join our team for the fete please contact Fr Shansana or the parish office as soon as possible.



Your help would be appreciated!



# **CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS** Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devasting earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals.

Donate at www.caritas.org.au



# Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day

# Here at St Benedict's Parish, Sunday 8th October 2023 at 12:30pm

Commences with a children's play and recital of the Rosary in 5 languages followed by a Procession, Holy Mass, and then afternoon tea and raffle.

For further information: 0438 521 421

There will be a nine-day "NOVENA" held at 6.25pm in St Benedict's Church, starting Fri 29th September 2023, followed by Mass at 7.00pm.

# 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 Charlie Camilleri, Gina Volpato (John's mum), Brother Mario & Brother Terry, Koana Zouein (Rita Sarkis' mum), Jenny Taylor and baby Hugo.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Sr Patricia, Antoinette Nati, Tony Takchi and Rosaria Cali. May they rest in Peace.





# **VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!**

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

# **RITA SARKIS**

Thank you Rita for your involvement in Vinnies and being a Catechist. You are always willing to help out in our parish when we need the help and when one of the Catechists are away you are ready to step in and we really appreciate it. God bless you in all you do!

Who would you like to nominate for next week? Please let us know so we can acknowledge their kindness.

# **CHILDREN'S MASS**

**NEXT SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 10.30AM MASS** 

**FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA** 

### **SYNOD OF BISHOPS OCTOBER 2023**

In just a few weeks' time, members of the XVI General Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will gather to begin the first session.

We invite you to keep in your prayers both Bishop Anthony Randazzo and Chancellor of our Diocese, Kelly Paget as they prepare to travel to Rome for this significant gathering.

# **GCEA**

# **Galston Christian Education Association**

A big thank you to everyone who attended the GCEA spring function last Saturday night. Our parish had the largest numbers there this year! It was such a lovely night and a special thanks to **Pauline Honor** who has been a longstanding valued member with GCEA! Pauline has consistently attended all the prayer and committee meetings throughout the past years.

For those who do not know what GCEA is about, it is an association who fund raise to pay for an SRE or scripture teacher at Galston high school. Currently we have Paul El-Chaar teaching years 7, 8, 9 & 10. He has at least 30 students from each year attending and it's a full two days a week of teaching. This is a combined scripture teaching of mixed denomination Christianity. Thank you to Paul for taking on this big commitment.

#### **Future Dates:**

Next Committee & AGM: Monday 23/10/2023 7.30pm

At Galston Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Next Prayer luncheon: Saturday 18/11/2023 12pm

At St Benedict's Parish Arcadia. All are welcome.

# **CCC PRAYER GROUP**

Prayer meeting held every

Wednesday morning: after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

Come and meet new people and have a cuppa! For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

# **CATECHISTS' NEWS**

Term 3 finished this week and Term 4 will start on Monday 9th October. Wishing all a safe and enjoyable holiday break!

A big thanks to **Martine Musumeci** for offering to be a Catechist at Hillside PS! Martine is looking forward to starting next term.

A Catechist or helper is still **needed** at Glenorie PS on Wednesdays 10:10am – 10:50am, if you are interested or available, please contact me or the parish office. You will be provided with free training and a Teacher's manual to guide you in presenting the lessons to the students. This is a wonderful opportunity to help grow your own faith!

Current training available for all Catechists who have completed the induction training – 'Level 2 Certificate – The Church in the 3rd Millennium' – Fridays 10am – 12:15pm via Zoom. This training will take a break during the holidays and will resume on Friday 13th October, the topic will be 'The Natural World and Religion'.

To register email registrations@bbcatholic.org.au, for further information please contact me.

There is also ongoing training in Safeguarding Children for current Catechists during these school holidays: Tuesday 3rd October 10am – 12:30pm at Pennant Hills

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

God bless,

Miriam Brown <a href="mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com">srearcadia@gmail.com</a>
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



# KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT 2024 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## What is SRE/Scripture?

SRE (or Special Religious Education, also known as Scripture) is a dedicated time set aside in Public Schools and mandated in the NSW Education Act (1990) that gives parents the choice to have their children formed in the faith of their family. Volunteer Catholic SRE teachers, also known as Catechists, teach children about Jesus and the Catholic faith.

# How can my child attend Catholic SRE?

All children are welcome to attend Catholic SRE classes at their school. Parents/carers nominate the religious faith and denomination they wish their child to attend. This can be done at the time of enrolment or at any time by notifying the school principal in writing.

# **ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP**

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano Ph: 9653 2312



# SAINT OF THE WEEK



# SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN, Martyrs

c. 287 or 303 Feast Day: September 26

Patron Saint of apothecaries, barbers, blind people, chemical industry, druggists, midwives, physicians, pharmacists, surgeons

Today, the Church honors Saints Cosmas and Damian—twin brothers, physicians, and martyrs who have been widely venerated in the East and West since the time of their deaths. Little is known for certain about these saints. What we do know is that they were martyrs, most likely under Roman Emperor Diocletian. What has come down to us by way of legend, however, offers an inspiring witness of faith and courage from the early Church.

Cosmas and Damian might have been born in Cyrrhus, modern-day Syria, and later moved to the Gulf of Iskenderun in Cilicia, modern-day Turkey, in the mid- to late-third century. They were twins, sons of a Christian mother and possibly a Christian father, who raised them in the faith. They were educated in the science of healing and became physicians.

At that time, physicians were often paid based on their reputations. Those who were highly skilled and successful often catered to the wealthy, receiving regular salaries from them. Others charged for services on a case-by-case basis. Because Cosmas and Damian were Christians, legend holds that they decided to evangelize the largely pagan community in which they lived by doing something extraordinary. They offered their healing services for free! This charitable work earned them the title "Anargyroi," meaning "without silver." Their counter-cultural practice caught the attention of their fellow citizens and drew many to the faith. Legends hold that they were excellent physicians who healed many, perhaps more through their prayers than by their science. One legend states that they were the first to transplant a leg to an amputee, which is often depicted in art.

In 284, Diocletian became the Roman emperor and embarked on many reforms within the empire. In 303, he began to issue a series of edicts that led to an empire-wide persecution and death of many Christians. Prior to that, persecutions were more localized and random. Around the year 287 or 303 (records are conflicting), the Roman Prefect Lysias of Cilicia arrested the twins Cosmas and Damian. Christians of prominence were often the first to be targeted.

As was the custom, the brothers were given the opportunity to publicly renounce their faith and honor the Roman gods to save their lives. They refused and were sentenced to death. Various legends surrounding their deaths state that they were first tortured in an attempt to get them to comply with the prefect's wishes. However, they were miraculously preserved from suffering, sustaining no injuries. Multiple attempts were then made to kill them by drowning, fire, arrows, and stoning, but each attempt failed. Finally, Cosmas and Damian, along with three of their brothers, were beheaded.

It is believed that Cosmas and Damian were buried in the city of Cyrrhus, their possible birthplace. From that time on, they have been widely venerated. Many miraculous healings have been attributed to their intercession. Within a century of their martyrdom, churches were built in their honor in Jerusalem, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

In the sixth century, Roman Emperor Justinian I honored these saints by restoring the city of their burial. Shortly after, the emperor received a miraculous cure through their intercession. In gratitude, he brought their relics to Constantinople where he built a Church in their honor that became a popular pilgrimage site. In that church, a custom began where the faithful would remain all night at their tomb in prayer, seeking miraculous cures to their ailments. Many miracles have been reported over the centuries.

Also in the sixth century, Pope Symmachus inserted the names of Cosmas and Damian into the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) and Pope Felix IV repurposed a fourth-century pagan temple in Rome, within the Forum of Peace, renaming it the Basilica Santi Cosma e Damiano. Though it has gone through many renovations, the fifth-century mosaics depicting their story are among the most revered pieces of sacred art in Rome.

Though we will never know the exact historical details of the lives and martyrdoms of Saints Cosmas and Damian until we reach the glories of Heaven, the virtues they enshrine should be a source of inspiration and encouragement. Their work of evangelization through free and selfless service in the name of Christ is worthy of imitation. Their heroic martyrdom presents us with the virtues of courage and fidelity to Christ. Their miraculous intercession for those who have been ill should invite us to rely upon their intercession for the sick today.

Saints Cosmas and Damian, you were touched by Christ and sought to share your faith in Him through your selfless and free service to all who needed your medical care. When persecuted, you remained strong in your faith, preferring death over sin. Please pray for me, that I will follow your example of selfless service to others and will have the courage to be a witness to Christ no matter the cost. I also entrust to you, this day, all who are ill and in need of your prayers. Saints Cosmas and Damian, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

#### DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, Puzzles (with all pieces) etc. as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc. Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. Many Thanks for your kind Generosity.

Photo 1 – Seafarers grateful for your kind donations

Photo 2 – Sr Mary on a ship at Port Botany with seafarers

Photo 3 – Sr Mary takes the seafarers out

Sr Mary boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse she reports it.

Cathy Holling 0403 062 255







Photo 1 Photo 2 Photo 3

# majellan media

# **FAITH**

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." - Matthew 17:20

In a world filled with uncertainty, enhancing our faith becomes an anchor that guides us through the stormy seas of life. Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful words "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." remind us that faith is not about having all the answers but about taking that initial step, driven by trust and hope.

Faith is a universal concept that transcends boundaries and unites people from all walks of life. In this moment, let's delve into our Christian perspective.

Faith is a journey, not a destination. It's a path that requires continuous effort and reflection. Just as a seed needs nurturing to grow into a mighty tree, our faith needs care and attention to flourish.

In our quest to enhance our faith, we must first understand its essence. It's not blind belief but a deep conviction in something greater than ourselves. It's the trust that God has a plan even when we can't fathom it.

Nurturing faith involves prayer, reflection, and action. We pray for wisdom, guidance, and strength, not only for ourselves but for those who need it most - the marginalised in society. Our faith should inspire us to be a voice for the voiceless, to stand up for justice, and to extend a helping hand to those in need.

Therefore, let's view faith as a journey of trust, hope, and action. It is a force that can move mountains and inspire change and take that first step in faith, even when the path seems uncertain.

Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you with open hearts, seeking to enhance our faith. In the midst of doubt and fear, we ask for your guidance and strength. Help us to walk in faith, just as Abraham did when he journeyed into the unknown, trusting in your promises. Lord, grant us the wisdom to see the beauty in the unseen, the courage to face adversity, and the patience to wait for your perfect timing. May our faith be a source of inspiration to others, especially the marginalised in our world, and may it serve as a beacon of hope for the young generation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Source: Majellan.media

# Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

# **NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER** 30/9/2023 to 1/10/2023

# TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	Gebran A
Reader1	Miriam B	Paula E	CHILDREN'S MASS
Reader2	Mary C	Ann L	CHILDREN'S MASS
Prayers	Kathryn S	Judy H	CHILDREN'S MASS
TV		Tyrone E	Jonah A
Music		Melanie H	Karina S
Music		Marisa Q	Noelle T
Music		Nigel M	John T
Music			
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	Hannah A		

Thank You!

Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!

If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish.

#### **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.

# PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

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

After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159 Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

MONASTERY: 9653 1159

Facebook

Parish Roste

**BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:** 

BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141

Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:

**CBA—Catholic Development Fund** 

For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:

Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.