

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

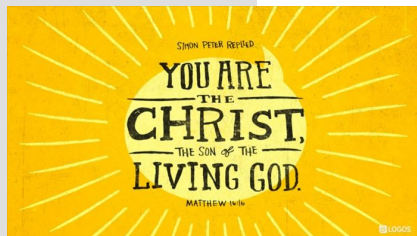
YEAR A

26 & 27 AUGUST 2023

PARISH Masses

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 10am to 11am
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

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.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS 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.**

WORLD DAY PRAYER FOR CREATION



God of the universe,

We thank You for Your many good gifts -

For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, for clean water and fresh air, for food and shelter, animals, and plants.

Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted and wasted what You have given us. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, to touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things.

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference, and we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough food and clean water. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species And help us to willingly share your gifts Today and always. Amen.

— Fiona Murdoch, Eco-Congregation Ireland

First Reading: *Isaiah 22:19-23 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

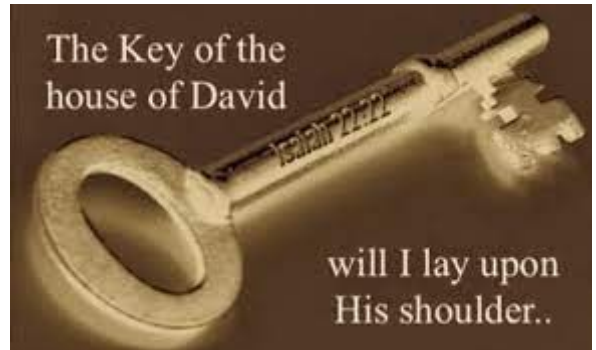
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: *Romans 11:33-36 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God - how deep his wisdom and knowledge - and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 16:13-20 (JB)*

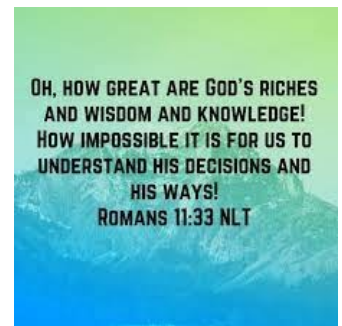
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, August 27

Isaiah 22:19-23

Psalms 138:1-3, 6, 8

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

But who do you say that I am? (Matthew 16:15)

Jesus didn't pull any punches with his disciples, did he? Yes, he wanted them to tell him what the crowds were saying about him. But he wasn't just interested in the "word on the street." The most important question that Jesus asked his disciples—the question that made all the difference—was a more personal one: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15, emphasis added).

It's the question that makes all the difference for you, too. Because being able to explain what other people say about Jesus doesn't really change your life. As you think about who Jesus is, you might hear the echoes of your mother or grandfather telling you that Jesus is the Son of God. You might hear friends or coworkers say that he's a healer or great moral leader. You might hear a teacher or catechist tell you that he is the Messiah. You might hear your parish priest say that he is the Lord of heaven and earth.

But what about *you*? After all that input from other people, after your own life experiences, who do you say that Jesus is? Find some time today to take this question into your time of prayer. Ask your heavenly Father for the grace—the same grace he gave to Simon Peter in today's Gospel—to reveal Jesus to you more deeply and to convince you more powerfully that he is *your* Messiah and Savior.

Then tell Jesus who you say that he is. If you felt his presence during a troubled time, praise him for being your best friend and guide. If you experienced the relief and joy of forgiveness, thank him for being your Redeemer and merciful Savior. If you catch a glimpse of his glory at the Father's right hand, worship him for being the Lord of history, the Son of God.

Who we say that Jesus is changes everything. So who is he to you?

"Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

AUGUST

Monday 28 Readings: 1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10. Mt 23:13-22.

R: The Lord takes delight in his people.

St Augustine, bishop, doctor.

Tuesday 29 Readings: Jer 1:17-19. Mk 6:17-29.

R: I will sing your salvation.

The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr.

Wednesday 30 Readings: 1 Thess 2:9-13. Mt 23:27-32.

R: You have searched me and you know me, Lord.

Thursday 31 Readings: 1 Thess 3:7-13. Mt 24:42-51.

R: Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

SEPTEMBER

Friday 1 Readings: 1 Thess 4:1-8. Mt 25:1-13.

R: Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION.

SPRING EMBER DAY - Special Day of Prayer and Penance

Saturday 2 Readings: 1 Thess 4:9-11. Mt 25:14-30.

R: The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

O God,
You raised up St. John
the Baptist to prepare a
perfect person for Christ.
We call upon St. John's
intercession to properly
prepare us with a true
sense of repentance to
receive Your grace and
salvation.
Make us faithful to Truth
and justice, as You did
Your servant, John the
Baptist, herald of Your
Son's birth and death.
Lord, may You increase
Your life within us.
Amen.

Source: Ordo 2023

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2023

FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.



THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT
Chapter 4 - To hate no man.

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

BEING A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY

"The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." - Mahatma Gandhi

Social justice isn't just a buzzword; it's a commitment to stand up for fairness and to look out for those who might need a helping hand. It's about seeing that spark of humanity in everyone and making sure that even those who often feel forgotten know that they matter.

We don't have to move mountains to make a difference. Maybe it starts with understanding the struggles of others, offering a listening ear, or volunteering some time. Small actions can have a big impact, creating waves of change that reach far and wide.

The beautiful thing about working toward social justice is that it doesn't rest on the shoulders of a few. It's a shared effort, a collective push towards a world where no one is left behind. Together, we can create a society that embraces everyone with respect and empathy.

We all have a part to play, so let's be inspired to do good and to stand up for what's right. It might not always be easy, but it's undoubtedly worthwhile.

Let's conclude with a prayer:

Dear Lord, guide us in our daily actions to reach out with compassion and strive for justice. Help us see those in need and empower us to make a difference.

May we build a community of hope, love, and fairness where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. In Your name, we pray.

Amen.

Source: majellan.media

GCEA SPRING DINNER

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE CONTINUED MINISTRY OF GCEA AT GALSTON HIGH SCHOOL



16 SEPTEMBER | 6PM

THE GALSTON CLUB
2 course meal, tea & coffee

\$55 Concession | \$65 Adult



To book visit the URL below or scan the QR code:
<https://events.humanitix.com/gcea-spring-dinner-2023>

RSVP Sept 5th
www.gcea.org.au

Dear Parishioners,

Please join us at the GCEA Spring Dinner. This is to celebrate and support the ministry of Paul El-Chaar to continue to teach Religious Education at Galston High School.

Last year our parish had a table and we had such a wonderful night. Please call Paula or the parish office so you can join our table and support our own Paul El-Chaar with this wonderful work he is doing. It is definitely an enjoyable evening!

Purchase Tickets at:
<https://events.humanitix.com/gcea-spring-dinner-2023> or contact parish office.

Father Shansana

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

Thank you to everyone who helps out our parish making it into the beautiful community we have.

For the nomination this week we would like to thank:

PETER BELLEW

Thank you for your time volunteering to do the readings and always there willing to help out whenever we need it. Your help is greatly appreciated! God bless you in all you do!

(Is there someone you would like to nominate? Please mention it to Fr Shansana or Paula.)

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

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



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

REMINDERS FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN CURRENTLY ENROLLED FOR CONFIRMATION:

- Final class this week.
- Practice session:
SATURDAY September 2nd 8am to 10am
- Presentation to the Parish:
SUNDAY September 3rd 10.30am Mass
- Confirmation:
THURSDAY September 7th 6.30pm
- Certificates' distribution:
SUNDAY September 16th 9.00am



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan.

Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an.

ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering visit:

www.aidtochurch.org/pakistanappeal

or scan the QR code.



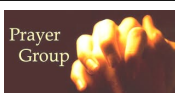
QUILTING GROUP



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

Everyone 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

Therefore, after having taken all things into consideration, and by apostolic authority I establish the lay ministry of Catechist The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments will soon publish the Rite of Institution of the lay ministry of Catechist.

Conclusion of Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter 10 May 2021 Instituting the Ministry of Catechist.

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.

The second session this week will be 'Renewal in the Church.

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

Also, due to changes in personal circumstances, we are in need of Catechists to help at Glenorie (Wednesdays 10:10am – 10:50am) and Hillside (Fridays 8:50am – 9:40am) schools.

If you are available at these times and are interested in joining this ministry and becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office. Training, a Teacher's Manual and workbooks are provided free.

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



CHURCH BULLETIN FUNNIES



A little old woman who is devout Catholic lives next door to a loud-mouthed atheist. Every morning the lady goes to her front porch and shouts, "Praise the Lord."

Every day the atheist neighbour can't help himself and shouts back, "There is no God!"

The lady begins to experience financial hardship with cost-of-living rises and buying her weekly groceries becomes more difficult. However, every morning she continues to go out on her front porch and asks God for help with her groceries and shouts, "Praise the Lord!"

One morning she discovers three bags of groceries on her porch and immediately yells. "Praise the Lord!"

At that moment the atheist jumps out from behind some bushes and says, "Ha, got you. There's no God. I bought those groceries for you."

The lady looks at him and smiles. Then she shouts even louder. "Praise the Lord! Not only did you provide for me, Lord, you also made Satan pay for the groceries!"

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT MONICA

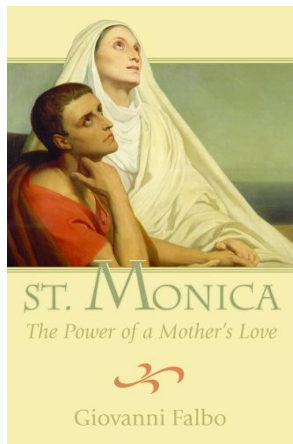
(Mother of St Augustine)

C. 332-387

Feast Day: August 27

**Patron Saint of homemakers, married women, mothers,
abuse victims, alcoholics, and widows**

Invoked against difficult marriages and difficult children



Son, for my own part I have no further delight in any thing in this life. What I do here any longer, and why I am here, I know not, now that my hopes in this world are accomplished. There was one thing for which I desired to linger for a while in this life, that I might see you as a Catholic Christian before I died. My God has done this for me more abundantly, that I should now see you, despising earthly happiness, become His servant.

~Words of Saint Monica, from Saint Augustine's Confessions

Saint Monica, whom we honor today, was the mother of one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church: Saint Augustine. Monica was most likely born in Thagaste, present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria, North Africa, and was a member of the Berber tribe, a diverse group of peoples indigenous to North Africa prior to the arrival of the Arabs. Thagaste was then part of the Roman Empire, which had legalized Christianity just twenty years before Monica was born. She was raised in a Christian home and became quite devout. Because Christianity was still new to the Roman Empire, Christians were likely a minority at that time. Monica married a man named Patricius (Patrick), who was a pagan and said to have had a violent temper and an immoral lifestyle. Patricius' mother lived with the couple and is said to have had the same violent temperament as her son. Monica and Patricius had three children: sons Augustine and Navigius and a daughter whose name is unknown.

Monica's marriage and home life were difficult, but she was a woman of deep faith and prayer. Earlier in her life she had struggled with alcohol but overcame those difficulties. Once married, her husband opposed her Christian faith and prayer life, but he also saw in her something that led to his respect for her. She wanted to baptize her children when they were born, but Patricius refused permission. His refusal broke her heart and led to her unwavering prayers for her family. When Augustine became ill as a child, Patricius initially agreed to permit his baptism, but when the boy recovered, Patricius once again forbade it.

Monica's only recourse was prayer. She prayed fervently for her family's conversion, and her prayers began to take hold. Patricius admired Monica's virtues and was deeply affected by her love for him. That, coupled with her prayers, led to Patricius' conversion and baptism around the year 370. He died one year later. Patricius' mother also converted.

Augustine, her oldest child, was around sixteen when his father died. He had received a good education as a youth at a school about twenty miles south of their hometown. When Augustine was seventeen, he was sent to Carthage, in modern-day Tunisia, to study rhetoric. Though part of the Roman Empire at that time, Carthage had its roots in Greek culture and had some of the best schools where many prominent figures in society were educated. In Carthage, Augustine was searching for truth. After reading Cicero's dialogue *Hortensius*, his thirst for truth grew stronger. Around this time, Augustine met a woman with whom he lived and had a child, despite his mother's strong warnings against fornication.

In Carthage, Augustine was introduced to the teachings of Mani, a man who claimed to be the final prophet in a line of prophets such as Buddha, Zoroaster, and Jesus. Mani taught that there was a fundamental conflict between two opposite, co-eternal principles: light and darkness. Light was good; darkness was evil. He taught that the material world was a union of light and darkness, good and evil, and that the goal of human life was to release the light trapped within the darkness of the material world. Augustine embraced this religion, becoming a Manichaean. But there was one problem Augustine would face: his mother's prayers and faith were powerful.

When Augustine returned from school in Carthage, he began to teach in his hometown. It was then that he announced he had become a Manichaean. As a result, Monica threw him out of her house as an act of the deepest love. God then spoke to her in a vision that gave her hope for her son, and she reconciled with him.

Augustine decided to open a school of Rhetoric, and he could think of no better place to do so than Rome. Around the age of thirty-one, he informed his mother that he was going to Rome. Because of her motherly concern for her son and because she had seen her two other children convert and be baptized, she informed Augustine she was going with him. However, before she knew it, Augustine snuck away and traveled to Rome without her. She would not give up, so she followed. By the time she arrived in Rome, Augustine had already left and taken a prestigious teaching position in Milan. She followed him there.

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(continued from previous...)

Over the next four years in Milan, Monica never gave up, praying for her son through tears. Since Augustine was impressed with intellectuals, he was drawn to the Catholic Bishop of Milan and future Saint Ambrose. Bishop Ambrose was an answer to a mother's prayers. Around the year 387, at the age of thirty-three, Augustine converted to Christianity and was baptized by Bishop Ambrose.

Once converted, Augustine and his mother decided to return home to Thagaste, but Monica would never complete the trip. She fell ill and died in Ostia, a city just outside of Rome. Augustine went on to become one of the most influential theologians in the history of the Church. In his book, *Confessions*, Saint Augustine shares the beautiful story of his mother. He highlights all that we know about her. He shares her early struggle with alcohol. When Augustine went astray at Carthage, he recalls how she wept for him more than most mothers would weep over the death of their child. Augustine recounts how fervently his mother prayed while they were in Milan and sought the counsel of Bishop Ambrose. Augustine's most tender description of his mother describes his relationship with her after his conversion, their conversations, and her death. She had a profound impact upon him, and he, in turn, has had a profound impact upon the entire Church.

Saint Monica endured a difficult life, but she persevered, overcame her difficulties, and devoted herself to a life of prayer and virtuous living. Her prayers and virtues first won over her husband and mother-in-law, then all three of her children. Though Saint Augustine is the most well-known, this mother, daughter-in-law, and wife made a difference in the lives of her entire family. Saint Monica is seen by many as a model of hope for those whose family members have gone astray. As we honor her today, ponder the power of her prayers. As you do, be reminded that your prayers for your family are also powerful. If you have someone in your family who has gone astray, allow Saint Monica to inspire you and devote yourself to praying for them, so that each member of your family will share, one day, the glories of Heaven with you.

Saint Monica, though you had a difficult life, you continually turned your difficulties over to God. You prayed, grew in virtue, and had a profound impact on your whole family. Please pray for me, that I will never lose hope for those who have gone astray but will remain faithful in prayer for them, trusting in God's divine mercy. Saint Monica, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

IGNITE 2023

Ignite 2023 is fast approaching and now is the time to start making plans!

Have you considered volunteering and assisting to make this the best conference ever!

Opportunities exist to volunteer in either a part-time or full-time capacity. Click below to register for a volunteer role* and use one of these Coupon Codes (enter in the 'enter coupon code' box to reveal the rego option):

For Full-Time (\$100 - rostered close to entire program) - vft23

For Part-Time (\$165 - rostered about half of the sessions) - vpt23

Please note that you can choose the invoice option if payment is an issue

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

Shortly after registering and paying for your ticket, the Ignite team will send you an email to an online questionnaire enabling you to indicate the different roles you would like to serve in, and the time slots that you are available.

Please note that Mandatory Volunteer Training is on Thursday 31st August, 2023, 6pm – 9.30pm, MacKillop Centre, St Leo's College, Wahroonga (enter the college via Unwin Rd)



Contact Angela Harris (Ignite Volunteer Co-ordinator 2023) if you have any questions about Volunteering for Ignite.

For more information about Ignite visit:

<https://igniteconference.com.au/sydney>


Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

2/9/2023 to 3/9/2023

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Parish Roster

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul E
Reader1	Mary C	Gebran A	CHILDREN'S MASS
Reader2	Miriam B	Kath M	CHILDREN'S MASS
Prayers	Maria G	Ann L	CHILDREN'S MASS
TV		Joshua A	Tyrone E
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		Noelle T	Martina J
Music		John T	Keith W
Music			
Morning Tea		Teresa G	Robin B
 FLOWERS	Mona M		

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](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)

MONASTERY: 9653 1159



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.