

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



FORGIVE
as you've been
FORGIVEN

Matthew 18:21-35

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 **9:00am to 10:00am next week**
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-FOURTH SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER


Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
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 - FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 18:21-35: "Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'"

God wants us to forgive others. And if we hold on to unforgiveness and hatred in our hearts toward others, then it demonstrates we have not truly repented of our sins and therefore God will not forgive us either.

- *Do I struggle to forgive people who have upset me?*
- *Do I show unforgiveness by avoiding and ignoring the person who has hurt me?*
- *Do I say hurtful things about the person behind their back?*
- *Do forgive others so God will forgive me?*
- *Do I wait until they ask us to forgive them?*
- *Do I pray that God will help me become truly forgiving to my brothers and sisters and family around me?*



We forgive
others because
God forgave us.

PRAYER

Lord, give me the grace to acknowledge my sins and help me to become forgiving towards others without holding a grudge against them. **Amen.**

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7 (JB)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

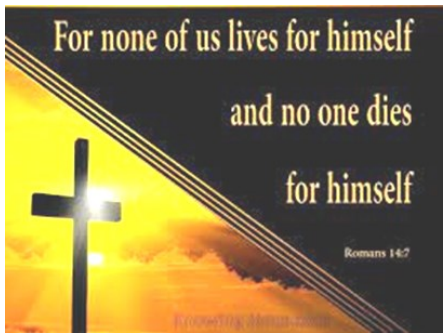
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm:

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**



Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, September 17

Sirach 27:30-28:7

Psalm 103:1-4, 9-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you? (Matthew 18:33)

People saddled with impossible debt, desperate pleas for more time, threats of imprisonment and even torture. Why did Jesus tell such an upsetting parable? To help his disciples understand the need to show mercy when someone sins against them.

Peter's question started it all: "How often must I forgive?" (Matthew 18:21). It was understandable. Shouldn't there be a limit to how often we should forgive, especially repeated offenses? An honest look at ourselves might help us see the answer. How often do we go to the Lord asking mercy for the same sins again and again? We would never want him to tell us we have reached our limit. Thankfully, he never does; he repeatedly forgives us.

Not only does God forgive us again and again; he doesn't hold our sins against us. Remember the unforgiving servant. His entire debt was wiped out. There was nothing hanging over him. Similarly, God has pardoned every sin we have ever committed and stands ready to forgive every sin we will ever commit. Nothing is outside the scope of his mercy. He forgives us *everything*.

This is the standard of mercy that Jesus calls us to imitate. It's not so different from the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us. . .as we forgive" (Matthew 6:12). Granted, today's parable is more graphic. But it shows us that God doesn't want us imprisoned in unforgiveness and tortured by resentment. He knows how hard it is to forgive. But he went so far as to give us his only Son to cleanse us and soften our hearts so that we can share that same mercy.

Mercy goes beyond simply not punishing offenses. It forgives the entire debt. That's how God treats us. Let that truth change how you treat the people who offend you.

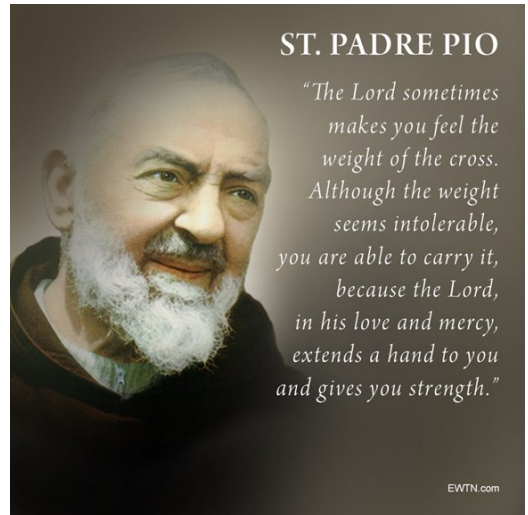
"Heavenly Father, strengthen me to be able to forgive others as you have forgiven me!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 18 Readings: 1 Tim 2:1-8. Lk 7:1-10.
R: Blest be the Lord for he has heard my prayer.
- Tuesday 19 Readings: 1 Tim 3:1-13. Lk 7:11-17.
R: I will walk with blameless heart.
St Januarius, bishop, martyr
- Wednesday 20 Readings: 1 Tim 3:14-16. Lk 7:31-35.
R: How great are the works of the Lord!
Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, martyr, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs
- Thursday 21 Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13. Mt 9:9-13.
R: Their message goes out through all the earth.
St Matthew, apostle, evangelist
- Friday 22 Readings: 1 Tim 6:2-12. Lk 8:1-3.
R: Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
- Saturday 23 Readings: 1 Tim 6:13-16. Lk 8:4-15.
R: Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.
St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest



Source: Ordo 2023

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: 10002141

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

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!

BIRTHDAY WISHES!

Wishing **SISTER WENDY** a very happy birthday!

19th September

God bless you on your birthday!



CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS

Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating 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:

KEITH WALLACE

Thank you Keith for the beautiful singing and various instruments you play to keep our parish full of sounds of joy! 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.

YOUNG ADULTS EVENT

Join us on Friday, September 22nd for a special Holy Hour and Discernment Evening with guest speaker Fr Marek Woldan, at Holy Name Parish in Wahroonga!

This is an opportunity for you to discern your call in life, so don't miss this chance to find out more information and explore your vocation. St. John Paul II said: 'Be not afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power' – come and do just that! The night will start at 6pm and will be followed by dinner – we look forward to seeing you there!

#findyourcalling
#discernmentnight
#vocationsoffice

RSVP TODAY! To 0418 522 449 or
vocations.ministry@bbcatholic.org.au

DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER MARKS DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH AND ALSO WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY ON

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

These awareness days link very nicely with a CatholicCare program designed specifically to improve quality of life, wellbeing and support positive brain health for seniors across the Diocese.

CatholicCare's Memory Innovations Centre programs focus on having fun, connecting with others and stimulating your brain. Programs are run at Waitara and on The Central Coast allowing you to choose a location to suit you. We can also offer group programs of your choice run at your retirement village, club or parish group. Classes include brain games, exercise and art therapy.

You can join anytime and one free trial lesson is available for all parishioners. To book in for a trial session or to receive more information, call Senior Living CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2659, email seniors@catholiccaredbb.org.au or visit

www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/mic

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

Last day for Term 3 is this Friday 22 September. 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 week's topic will be 'Tools for Catechesis.'

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

God bless,
Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com
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.

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.

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.
Everyone welcome.

For more details call
Angela Egiziano Ph: 9653 2312





SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT JANUARIUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR

Died c. 304

Feast Day: September 19

Patron Saint of Naples, Italy and blood banks

The third-century theologian Tertullian famously wrote, "The more we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed." Sometimes, his phrase is translated as, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church" (*Apologeticus*, L.13). There has been no time when this phrase rang truer than in the Roman Empire between the years 303 and 313. In 303 and 304, the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued a series of edicts initiating what has come to be known as the "Great Persecution." Though the exact reason for this persecution remains unclear, many Christians were imprisoned, tortured, and killed. Others had their properties confiscated or were sent to work in mines under harsh conditions. Among the most famous martyrs of this persecution are Saints George, Catherine of Alexandria, Agnes, Sebastian, Vincent, Pancras, Cosmas, Damian, Anastasia, Lucy, and today's saint, Saint Januarius.

Januarius is believed to have been born into a wealthy aristocratic family in the city of Benevento, located about 150 miles southeast of Rome, via the Appian Way. Little is known for certain about Januarius' childhood and life, aside from what was recorded centuries later in various legends. One legend states that he became a priest at the age of fifteen in Benevento and the bishop of either Benevento or Naples at twenty. When persecutions under Emperor Diocletian began in 303 and 304, chaos ensued across the empire, including Naples. According to legend, four of Bishop Januarius' friends were arrested: two deacons named Sosius and Proculus, and two laymen named Eutyches and Acutius. To encourage them, Bishop Januarius went to visit them in prison. However, during his visit, he too was arrested and imprisoned by Timothy, the Governor of Campania. Shortly afterward, the bishop's deacon, Festus, and a lay lector named Desiderius were also arrested when they came to visit Bishop Januarius.

During their interrogations, each Christian boldly professed his faith. They were threatened with death if they refused to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods, but they refused. Consequently, an order was issued for them to be burned. However, when Bishop Januarius was thrown into the flames, he remained unharmed. Next, it was decreed that they be fed to wild beasts in the arena. According to one legend, the beasts became docile and refused to devour them. Ultimately, they were ordered to be beheaded. When the executioner approached, he was struck blind, but Bishop Januarius cured him in front of everyone, leading to many conversions. After consenting to their martyrdom, all seven men were beheaded. Saint Januarius' body was taken to Naples and buried in the principal church. Since then, many miracles have been reported by those who prayed at his tomb. It is believed that Naples was saved from volcanic eruptions from nearby Mount Vesuvius due to these miracles.

Though his heroic martyrdom is the greatest witness he could offer, God has continued to use Saint Januarius in a mysterious and ongoing way. Legend holds that, after his death, a holy woman named Eusebia collected some of his blood and stored it in two glass vials. That blood, the blood of a martyr, was later enshrined in the church next to his body. Veneration of Saint Januarius began soon after his death. At some point, an ongoing miraculous phenomenon began to occur. Every year, three times each year, his dried blood liquefies in the presence of the faithful. On some occasions, the blood fails to liquefy, which some interpret as a sign that the faithful should pray for an impending threat to the city. The first written record of the liquefaction of Saint Januarius' blood is believed to be from 1389, as noted in the chronicle of the cleric Giovanni Diacono of Naples. Records of this annual miracle have continued ever since.

Today, the blood is enclosed in a silver reliquary containing two hermetically sealed vials. The larger one is about four inches high and two-and-a-quarter inches in diameter. Throughout the year, the blood appears as an opaque, dark, and solid mass when viewed in the light. When turned to the side, it does not move. The first instance of liquefaction is on the Saturday before the first Sunday of May, commemorating the translation of the saint's relics to Naples. The second time is on September 19, the feast of Saint Januarius. The third event takes place on the anniversary of the 1631 eruption of Mount Vesuvius, December 16, when a silver bust believed to house the skull of Saint Januarius is placed on the altar, and the blood is brought out for veneration. The liquefaction usually occurs during the first two times but often fails on December 16. Although scientists have attempted to explain this phenomenon, no one has successfully cast sufficient doubt on its miraculous nature. It remains a source of deep devotion for Catholics in Naples and continues to inspire many worldwide.

As we honor this ancient saint who continues to inspire us today, ponder the simple truth that miracles do happen. For God, miracles are easy. However, miracles should never be the foundation of our faith in God. True faith comes only from a personal encounter with the Living Lord. Ponder the depth of your own faith. Though this miracle should inspire you, look more deeply and ponder the true source of faith in your life. Seek out the voice of God as that source, spoken gently to you in your conscience. Listen to Him and allow Him to reveal Himself to you, so that God and God alone is the true source of all that you believe and all that you do.

Saint Januarius, you laid down your life for your faith after being arrested for charitably visiting your friends in prison. Your love is inspiring, as is your courage. Please pray for me, that I will find great inspiration in your witness and seek to imitate your selflessness and courage in my own life. Saint Januarius, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

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

A DIVINE INQUIRY

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

3 words can mean lots
to a person in need.

Are
You
OK?

In a world where everyone seems so busy and caught up in their own lives, it's easy to forget the simple but profound act of asking someone, "Are you okay?" As Christians we know the Bible provides us with timeless wisdom on this matter.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NRSV). This passage serves as a reminder that showing compassion by asking someone how they are doing can help to lighten their emotional load, fulfilling the very essence of Christian love and community.

Another guiding scripture is Hebrews 13:16: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Inquiring about someone's well-being is an easy yet powerful way to do good and share emotional support, and it is a sacrifice that God finds pleasing.


In today's society, it's might seem more difficult than ever to look out for one another. The focus on looking out for one another is not as it used to be. Jesus continually tells us to be there for each other, bearing burdens and sharing goodness. Sometimes it takes courage.

So let us have the courage to look out for our neighbour:

**Heavenly Father,
grant us the courage to ask
those around us how they are truly feeling.
May we serve as conduits of your love and
compassion, bringing hope and
solace to those in need.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

Parish Roster

<p align="center">NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER 23/9/2023 to 24/9/2023 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A</p>			
	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	Paul C
Reader1	Kathryn S	Peter G	Eva F
Reader2	Mary C	Kath M	Lorna B
Prayers	Margaret B	Matt W	Isabella M
TV		Sebastian W	Michael E
Music		Mark Q	Mark Q
Music		Marisa Q	
Music		Keith W	Adam F
Music		Theresa N	
Morning Tea		Rosie S	
 FLOWERS	Gabrielle W		

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.pariah@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: [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)

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.