

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



*“Pray always
and never
lose heart.”
~Jesus*

(Luke 18:1)

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil

Sunday 9:00am

Sunday 10:30am

Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)

Saturdays 9:00am to 10:00am
Adoration & Confession (Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am

Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Shansana or Parish
Office for the following:

Baptisms
Reconciliation
For the Sick
Marriages
Funerals

Parish Priest:
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233
Parish Office 9653 2312



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

18 & 19 OCTOBER 2025

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of 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.

SELF-REFLECTION: PERSISTENT FAITH

This Sunday's Gospel Reflection – **Luke 18:1–8**

In this parable, Jesus reminds us to pray always and never lose heart. Like the persistent widow, we are called to trust that God hears our prayers, even when the answer seems delayed. True faith endures in patience and hope.

Reflection Questions:

- Do I persevere in prayer, even when it's hard?
- What am I praying for that requires patience?
- Do I trust God's timing?
- How do I keep faith when I feel unheard?
- What helps me stay close to God in waiting?

Enduring Hope

Prayer:

Lord, strengthen my faith and teach me to pray without losing heart. Help me to trust Your timing and never give up hope. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13 (JB)

A reading from the book of Exodus

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm until sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm: Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures - from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience - but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

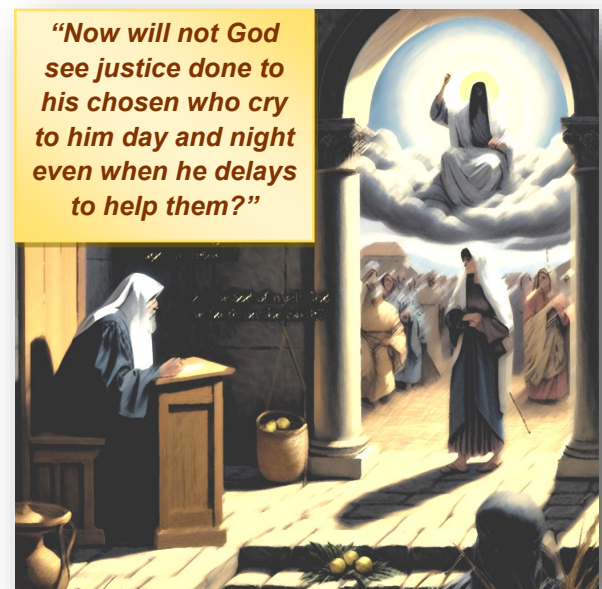
God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Readings: Exodus 17:8–13; Psalm 120; 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2; Luke 18:1–8

Today's readings invite us to **persevere in faith and prayer**. In Exodus, Moses' hands grow weary in battle, but with the support of Aaron and Hur, the Israelites prevail — reminding us that prayer, faith, and community sustain us in struggles. Psalm 120 expresses the longing for peace and honesty amid conflict, reflecting the trust we place in God even when life is challenging. In 2 Timothy, Paul urges Timothy to remain faithful to Scripture and boldly proclaim God's Word, even in difficult times. Finally, in the Gospel, Jesus teaches the parable of the persistent widow, encouraging us to pray continually and never lose heart, trusting that God hears every prayer. Together, these readings remind us that faith, prayer, and perseverance strengthen us to face life's challenges.

Key Thought:

"Perseverance in prayer and faith strengthens us to face every challenge."

It ties together Moses' endurance, the psalmist's trust, Paul's encouragement, and Jesus' teaching on persistent prayer.

Take-Home Challenge:

This week, commit to **persistent prayer**, seek support from your community, and trust God's guidance in every challenge you face.

Prayer:

Lord, give me strength to persevere in faith, courage to speak Your Word boldly, and patience to pray without ceasing. May I trust Your presence in every struggle and live as a faithful witness to Your love. Amen.

Source: chatgpt.com

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

October 2025

- Monday 20: Rom 4:20-25. Lk 12:13-21.
R. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; he has come to his people.
- Tuesday 21: Rom 5:12, 15, 17-21. Lk 12:35-38.
R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.
- Wednesday 22: Rom 6:12-18. Lk 12:39-48.
R. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
St John Paul II, pope.
- Thursday 23: Rom 6:19-23. Lk 12:49-53.
R. Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
St John of Capistrano, priest.
- Friday 24: Rom 7:18-25. Lk 12:54-59.
R. Teach me your laws, O Lord.
St Anthony Claret, bishop.
- Saturday 25: Rom 8:1-11. Lk 13:1-9.
R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.



St John of Capistrano

"Be brave, and let your courage be strengthened by the Lord."

Source: Ordo 2025 image: mycatholic.life



Pope Leo XIV prayer intention for October 2025:

For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF NOSTRA AETATE

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Nostra Aetate ("In Our Times"), a groundbreaking document of the Second Vatican Council promulgated on 28 October 1965. Though the shortest of the Council's declarations, it boldly calls the Church to deepen understanding and build relationships with people of all religions, recognising the truth and holiness found in other faiths while proclaiming Christ as "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Over the decades, popes from St John Paul II to Pope Francis have continued this mission through gestures of reconciliation, interfaith dialogue, and shared prayer, promoting social harmony, respect, and collaboration across diverse communities. Nostra Aetate remains a watershed moment in the Church's journey towards dialogue, peace, and the celebration of God's presence in every culture and tradition.

MEMORIAL MASS

MARIA PAPPALARDO

One month mass
Will be held on the 26th October 2025
At the 9.00am mass
Followed by morning tea. All welcome

*Eternal rest grant to her O Lord
and let the perpetual light shine upon her
and may she rest in peace.
Amen.*

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE YEAR 12 STUDENTS FOR THEIR HSC EXAMS

Prayer for HSC Students

*Lord, grant our Year 12 students calm minds, focused
hearts, and confidence in their abilities.
Help them to study wisely, remain peaceful under
pressure, and trust in Your guidance.
May their efforts reflect their talents and perseverance.
Amen.*

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass is held on the first
Thursday of each month at 9.30am.

The next Healing Mass will be on
Thursday November 6.



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

LUKE ROTON

This week we thank **Luke Roton** for his wonderful help volunteering in our parish garden. Working so hard alongside **Joe Gatt**, Luke has been helping to keep our grounds beautiful and welcoming for the past few weeks. Your generosity and time are truly appreciated!

PASTORAL CARE SEMINAR DAY

To celebrate **Pastoral Care Week 2025**, CatholicCare's Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Team invite you to our **Pastoral Care Seminar Day** on **Wednesday 22nd October between 9:00 am and 3:00pm**. This will be a day of enrichment and fellowship for all those people in the Diocese of Broken Bay who are involved in a ministry to care for the sick.

All are very welcome to attend, including: Priests, Deacons, Religious, Pastoral Care Practitioners, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Pastoral Visitors and Social Workers.

Our special guest presenter will be Peter Mudge, author of 'Living Spirituality' Series 1, 2 and 3. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Venue:

Caroline Chisholm Centre,
423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills.

For enquiries, please contact:
Peter Brown on 0418 616 602

To register your attendance, please send an email to: peter.brown@catholiccaredbb.org.au

PIETY SHOP NEWS

Visit Our Parish Piety Shop!

Our parish piety shop has **new stock** available, including devotional items, prayer books, rosaries, and gifts for all occasions.

We warmly invite you to come and have a look—you might find something special for yourself or a loved one. Your support helps sustain our parish and its ministries, so thank you for helping us continue our work in the community! **Lila Bacha**

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: Gabrielle Hawkins, Harrison & Xavier Steel.

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:

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



2025 WORKSHOPS



Nativity Nesting Dolls

5 NOVEMBER 2025
7:30- 9:30PM

\$15 /PARTICIPANT
RSVP BY 2 NOV



Journey to Bethlehem Shadow Boxes

3 DECEMBER 2025
7:30- 9:30PM

\$15 /PARTICIPANT
RSVP BY 30 NOV

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH MEETING ROOM
2 FAGANS RD, ARCADIA

RSVP

Create.Share.Encounter
A Creative Women's Ministry

themakerstablesydney@gmail.com
Martine 0458-533-250 or Nerida 0425-834-017

CATECHISTS' NEWS

The Spirituality of the Catechist by Michael Tebbutt continues **"Authenticity of life. We need to practice what we preach to the children to be real teachers of the Gospel. Do we say one thing but then do another? If we do, our audience will see right through us and we will not be authentic witnesses."**

Term 4 returned last week, with SRE (Scripture) classes resuming.

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

- Ministry Induction training for Provisional Catechists starts on Monday 13th October from 10am-12:15pm via Zoom. The topic will be "Mission and Ministry of the Catechist."
- Level 2 training for fully authorised Catechists on "The Church in the 3rd Millennium" continues on Friday 17th Oct 10am -12:15pm via Zoom. The topic will be "Interfaith Dialogue and Ecumenism"

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

Please keep our parish Catechists, and the students that they teach, in prayer. **We especially pray for year 12 students for their upcoming HSC exams.**

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



OCTOBER ROSARY VISITING HOMES



We will be holding the Rosary at different parishioners' homes each week. The Rosary will begin on 13th October 2025.

If you would like to host the Rosary at your home, please add your name on the list at the Sacristy window.

We warmly invite everyone to join in this beautiful devotion!

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP!

Youth group is now closed for the term. Look forward to seeing you next term. Have a great holiday break!

NEXT DRAFT ROSTER

The draft roster is now up on the Sacristy window. Please check the dates and amend as necessary.

FIRST FETE MEETING

Tuesday, 21st October | 7:00 PM
Parish Meeting Room



All welcome to help plan and organise next year's fete planned for March 2026. Your help would be appreciated.

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!



FEAST OF THE WEEK

Saint John Paul II, Pope

Feast Day: October 22

1920-2005

**Patron Saint of World Youth Days
Canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014**

Born in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Józef Wojtyła's early life was one of loss and suffering. When Karol was twelve, his mother and two siblings had already died. His father, who taught him devotion to Mary and how to pray, died when Karol was twenty-one. His university studies were forced underground when Germany invaded Poland, igniting World War II. To avoid deportation, Karol worked in a quarry and a chemical factory. Sensing God calling him to the priesthood, Karol studied in a clandestine seminary. He escaped a 1944 Nazi round-up by hiding in his uncle's house and then hid in the archbishop's residence until the Soviet Red Army liberated Kraków on January 19, 1945.

On November 1, 1946, Karol was ordained a priest and then studied for his doctorate in Rome. While in Rome, Father Wojtyła visited the Capuchin monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo, where the famous mystic Padre Pio resided. In confession, Padre Pio told Father Wojtyła that he would "ascend to the highest office in the Church." In 2002, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio.

Back in Poland, Father Wojtyła spent ten years in pastoral ministry, taught and served as university chaplain, received a second doctorate in philosophy, and wrote poems, plays, and articles. He gathered university students for prayer and discussion, as well as kayaking and camping trips. While on a camping trip with friends in 1958, he was called back to Warsaw and learned that he had been named auxiliary bishop of Krakow at age thirty-eight. The new bishop lived simply and maintained his friendships. He took part in the Second Vatican Council, becoming cardinal for Kraków in 1967.

When Pope John Paul I died in 1978 after thirty-three days in office, the cardinals chose Cardinal Wojtyła as pope, the first non-Italian pope in 455 years. In his inaugural homily, Pope John Paul II said words that echoed during his papacy, "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ."

Pope John Paul II drew massive crowds in 129 countries while in office. He met with heads of state, held open-air Masses, began World Youth Day celebrations, met with leaders of other faiths and survived an assassination attempt. He commanded a powerful and endearing presence everywhere, almost always speaking in the native language. In 1979, his visit to his homeland sparked the Solidarity Movement, leading to communism's downfall in Poland. The movement spread across Eastern Europe, where democratic governments replaced communism in the coming decades.

Pope John Paul II wrote extensively on morality, dogma, spirituality, Mariology, sexuality, family life, marriage, the dignity of the person, the economy, and society. Along with his encyclicals, apostolic exhortations, apostolic letters, apostolic constitutions, *motu proprio*, many catecheses, homilies, plays, and books, he reformed the Code of Canon Law and promulgated the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Among the 482 saints that Pope John Paul II canonized was Saint Faustina Kowalska, the Polish nun entrusted with the Divine Mercy message. He instituted Divine Mercy Sunday on the second Sunday of the octave of Easter. After bravely suffering with Parkinson's disease, unable to walk and barely able to talk, Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Saint John Paul II, you lost your earthly family but you were later entrusted with the entire world as your children. Please pray that I will never allow hardships to deter me from serving God's will, remaining hopeful and fearless as I serve our glorious God. Saint John Paul II, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

among all peoples



This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Zambia to help women overcome poverty and mothers give birth safely.

The Women's Cooperative, led by Sr Jane will provide women with the training and support required to break the cycle of scarcity, and the Chilonga Mission Hospital is determined to ensure every woman and baby receives a safe and dignified start to life.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mission, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.

Envelopes are in the pews.



**catholic
mission**

Freecall: 1800 257 296

catholicmission.org.au/mission



OUR LADY OF FATIMA FEAST DAY

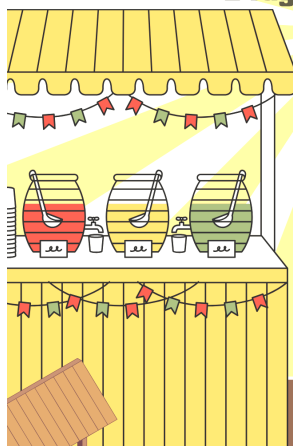


Last Sunday we welcomed Fr Dr Mirko to our celebration of Our Lady of Fatima and he gave a strong heartfelt homily. The day commenced with a short children's play. The beautifully dressed children and angels gave an innocent and loving portrayal of events at Fatima in 1917. After the play the rosary was recited in five languages with Litany and Consecration to Our Lady. Then the procession began with the statue of Our Lady outside the Church. It was warm and sunny and then suddenly during the procession, clouds covered the sky and a cool breeze began to gently blow, giving all the faithful some comfort from the heat. Some said a sign of the Holy Spirit. The procession was performed with respectful prayer and silence, whilst singing the hymn with joy. Once the procession ended, Mass began with a glorious entrance hymn: "Immaculate Mary We Praise God in You". After Mass, a delightful supper was enjoyed by all and raffle prizes were drawn. Thank you and God bless to all who attended and who helped make this day successful.

THE MORE THE MERRIER KIDS MARKETS

Saturday, 1st November, 2025
St Benedict's Parish
2 Fagans Rd, Arcadia

10 AM
-
3 PM



**ALL STALLS WILL BE RUN BY
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18!
JUMPING CASTLE, GAMES,
FRESH FRUIT & VEG,
FOOD, FUN AND MUCH
MORE!**

Please come and support our Youth Group
Fundraiser event

For more information please contact
Clare or Dominic Woodbury
0425-834-017 / nerida.woodbury@gmail.com

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!

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

25/10/2025 to 26/10/2025
29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	George A
Reader1	Miriam B	Kath M	Azzi Family
Reader2	Edyn V	Teresa G	John Family
Prayers	Daniel V	Judy H	Leanne A
TV		Roderick R	Jutrisa Family
Music		Rebecca R	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Noelle T
Music		Pauline H	John T
Music			Martina J
Morning Tea		Mandah V	
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

Confirmation will take place on:
Thursday 23rd October 6.30pm

Please keep the candidates in your prayers.

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...

The Vatican City is the world's smallest country, both in size and population, and it's the spiritual center of the Catholic Church.



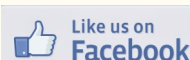
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.00am to 2.00pm
(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](https://www.facebook.com/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