

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

9 & 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

REFLECTION - FORGIVENESS

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20 : "I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

God wants the best for each of us. We can help each other to goodness, we can support each other, correct each other, and help each other on our way to God. Jesus promises guidance and his presence to his followers for all ages. If we gather in his name, he is with us.

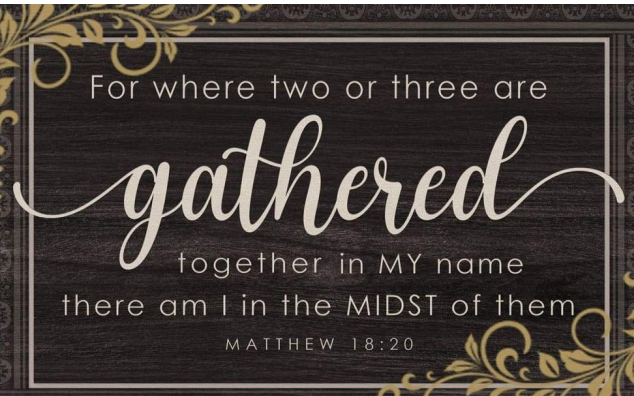
If we
really want
to love
we must
learn how
to forgive.



- Am I a forgiving person protecting others from harm?
- Do I gossip or bring others into an argument?
- Do I forgive someone when they repent?
- Do I take it seriously the call to be responsible for one another in love, kindness and care as Jesus taught us?

PRAYER

Lord, please help me learn to forgive, even when society tells me the best thing to do is get even. Grant me patience and understanding, and help me act out of love and kindness rather than hate and anger. Grant me peace, and give me more forgiveness than I think I need. **Amen.**



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

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**



Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, September 10

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 13:8-10

Matthew 18:15-20

*Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
(Matthew 18:18)*

Jesus' words sound familiar, don't they? That's because two Sundays ago, we heard him say the same thing to Peter. Then Jesus was giving Peter the keys to the kingdom and establishing him as leader of the Church (Matthew 16:18-19). Along with that position, he was giving Peter a specific ministry that came with a special authority and grace: the power to bind and loose. That ministry continues today in Peter's successors.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus seems to be doing something different. He's speaking to all his disciples, and he extends this call to bind and loose to all of them—and in a way, even to us.

While most of us aren't priests who hear confessions, we are all called to forgive. Jesus wants us to understand that both our forgiveness and our failure to forgive have an effect on people. By our words and the thoughts in our hearts, we can keep someone bound in condemnation or judgment. But we can also "loose" them by forgiving them. And forgiveness always releases people from the chains of guilt or shame. This means that we can help them experience the freedom that Jesus wants for them. We can continue his ministry of reconciliation in our corner of the world (1 Corinthians 5:18).

How amazing that Jesus trusts us to share in this sacred calling! He doesn't want anyone to remain trapped in sin or in unforgiveness. He knows the danger that sin poses to our souls. That's why he urges us to "cut off" and "throw away" anything in our lives that leads us astray (Matthew 18:8). That's why he never stops seeking after his lost sheep (18:10-14). And that's why he calls us to forgive "seventy-seven times. . . from [our] heart" (18:22, 25). Because as we forgive people who sin against us, we won't just be freeing them. We'll be "loosing" ourselves from those chains, too.

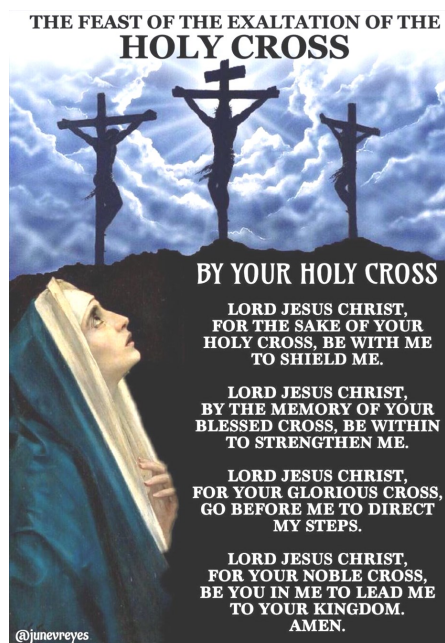
"Jesus, help me to forgive today."

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 11 Readings: Col 1:24-2:3. Lk 6:6-11.
R: In God is my safety and glory.
- Tuesday 12 Readings: Col 2:6-15. Lk 6:12-19.
R: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.
The Most Holy Name of Mary
- Wednesday 13 Readings: Col 3:1-11. Lk 6:20-26.
R: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.
St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
- Thursday 14 Readings: Num 21:4-9 or Phil 2:6-11. Jn 3:13-17.
R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
- Friday 15 Readings: Heb 5:7-9. Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35.
R: Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.
Our Lady of Sorrows
- Saturday 16 Readings: 1 Tim 1:15-17. Lk 6:43-49.
R: Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever.
Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr



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: 100002141
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

FATHER SHANSANA

13TH SEPTEMBER 2000 - 23 YEARS



Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

Your holy service to the Lord touches so many hearts and inspires so many lives.

May God's goodness and kindness be with you on this special day and all the days of your life.

God bless you and may He keep you safe in the palm of His hand.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA FEAST DAY



Will be held on **SUNDAY 8th October** this year.
If any children would like to participate in the play as angels, please phone Teresa on: **0438 521 421**.
It would be lovely to honour Our Lady with your participation.

GCEA SPRING DINNER

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

Spring Dinner

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,

ONLY ONE MORE WEEK! 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.

As part of the night's entertainment, accomplished musician, songwriter and Marian College teacher Yossi Cascun will be performing Classical Guitar during dinner.

Once again Fr Bernard has donated a calf for the silent auction! Thank you Fr Bernard!

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

or contact parish office.

Father Shansana

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ON THURSDAY NIGHT!

We wish you the best as you continue with this spiritual journey. May you hold Jesus Christ forever in your heart and be able to make time for him amidst every chaos and peace.

May God bless your life with happiness, devotion and love like he fills the sky with stars and sunshine.



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 **Sr Patricia, Antoinette Nati, Tony Takchi and Rosaria Cali. May they rest in Peace.**



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week we have more than one volunteer we would like to thank!

For the nomination this week we would like to thank the following for helping at the Sacrament of Confirmation which was held on Thursday night. We could not have done it all without them! The evening was beautiful and ran smoothly! A big thank you to:

NERIDA WOODBURY & PAUL EL-CHAAR for holding the sessions for 4 weeks as well as **MARY CASCUN** for filling in for Paul when he was away, also helping organise the confirmation night.

MARY CASCUN for making sure the church was super clean and tidy prior to the Confirmation night.

JOE GATT for cleaning outside the church and sweating scrubbing the tiles for the bishop to walk on spotless ground!

MARY ABOOD for helping with the TV and helping with supper and the evening.

MELANIE HUME for the awesome help with making sure everything will run smoothly and prepared the PowerPoint and the wonderful music.

NOELLE TAKCHI for the beautiful singing.

PAUL CAMILLERI for being an Acolyte.

GEBRAN AZZI for being Senior server.

JOHN-PAUL AZZI, JONAH AZZI, RODERICK RAAD & TYRONE EL-CHAAR for altar serving.

ROBIN BARBARA for helping with supper and cleaning the kitchen.

ANGELA SCOTTI for organising two beautiful flower arrangements.

GABRIELLE WALL for rearranging all the flowers spending a few hours on Thursday to make sure the flowers are looking amazing!

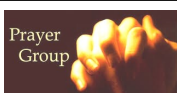
GUIDO SCOTTI for helping with the Thurible.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you, for coming together and helping at this special occasion. We have managed to see the hand of God at work. We are forever grateful for your support and assistance. Indeed you revealed the true foundation of this parish is kindness and love.

May the grace of the Lord be with you all!

Paula El-Chaar - Sacramental Co-ordinator

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

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

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 'Development of the Child and Adolescent II'.

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

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This Sunday, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings.

Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano.

Ph: 9653 2312.





SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR

c. 347-407

Feast Day: September 13

Patron Saint of preachers, orators, lecturers, and public speakers

Saint John Chrysostom was born as John of Antioch. “Chrysostom” is a title attributed to him, meaning “Golden Mouth,” an honorific Greek title emphasizing the power of his preaching and writings. He was born in Antioch, modern-day Turkey, to Christian parents. His father was a high-ranking military officer who died shortly after John’s birth. John’s twenty-year-old widowed mother opted not to remarry, choosing instead to devote herself entirely to raising her son and John’s older sister. Around the age of twenty, John met Bishop Meletius, a man of stellar character and intelligence, and a powerful preacher. Over the next three years, John abandoned his pagan studies and began devoting himself to the study of Scripture, the ascetic life, and prayer. He was baptized, became a lector, and underwent a profound conversion. Feeling drawn to a life of greater solitude and prayer, he became a hermit, living in a cave near Antioch, where he embraced extreme fasting and other ascetic practices, and studied the Bible continuously—allegedly memorizing most of it—for several years. After about eight years as a hermit, John’s health was compromised from extreme fasting and penance, and he returned to Antioch to recover.

In Antioch, around the year 381, when John was about thirty-three years old, he was ordained a deacon. His years of prayer, Scripture study, and penance prepared him well for this time of more public service in the Church. About five years later, he was ordained a priest and spent around eleven years in Antioch in a very fruitful ministry. During this period, he wrote most of his sermons and commentaries, many of which still exist. His writings—containing profound works of dogmatic, moral, and historical teachings from the early Church—reveal a deep understanding of the Sacred Scripture. They are practical, relevant, and bold, never shying away from condemning prevalent sins, while being deeply pastoral in nature. He became well known and highly influential, his fame extending beyond Antioch.

At that time, Bishop Flavian was Bishop of Antioch. Many presumed that Father John would be his successor. However, in 397, the Archbishop of Constantinople died, and soon after, the Roman Emperor—to avoid causing an uproar in Antioch—secretly sent for Father John, appointing him as the archbishop’s successor. He was ordained as Archbishop of Constantinople by the Patriarch of Alexandria in the presence of many other bishops and prominent churchmen.

Constantinople was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and the most important archbishopric in the East. Archbishop John’s powerful position brought with it much wealth, prestige, and power. However, he immediately eliminated many of the extravagances that were commonplace, lived in simplicity, cared for the poor, railed against sin, rooted out abuses among the clergy, and continued his fiery preaching. As the Roman Empire had only recently become Christian, much of the pagan culture and lifestyles remained. The new archbishop sought to create a new civilization and culture based on Scripture. His sermons offered clear moral and spiritual guidance on how to live and what society as a whole should embrace. He especially preached against the materialism and extravagances of the imperial court. He quickly gained the respect of many citizens but also made enemies who felt he was too strict and took offense to him. This was especially true of those living luxurious and immoral lives, including Empress Eudoxia. In the year 403, through the schemes of the empress, Archbishop John was falsely accused of heresy and cruelty to the empress, deposed, and exiled. However, due to a sudden natural disaster that damaged the imperial palace, along with a revolt among the people, he was recalled for fear of God’s wrath. Before long, however, he was exiled again because he refused to abandon his fearless preaching. While in exile, he remained hopeful he would return and regularly wrote to his people. The pope and the Western Roman Emperor tried to intervene, but to no avail. After three years in exile, he was ordered to be taken to the edge of the Roman Empire where he would be even more isolated. Due to harsh conditions on the journey and the cruelty of the soldiers that exacerbated his already poor health, he died en route.

Saint John Chrysostom was a convert, a holy deacon, an influential priest, an exceptionally consequential archbishop, and a prolific writer. This latter quality ultimately earned him the distinction of being a Doctor of the Church. In addition to his pastoral work, he left behind about 700 sermons, hundreds of letters, commentaries on Scripture, theological treatises—including important teachings on the Eucharist and priesthood—and other writings that remain influential today.

Saint John Chrysostom, from an early age you sought the truth. Once you discovered it, you radically devoted yourself to Christ through prayer, penance, and the study of Scripture. Once well-formed in the faith, God gave you to the world as a powerful shepherd who preached, wrote, and taught fearlessly, continuously seeking the salvation of souls. Please pray for me, that I will open myself to the many truths of our faith so that I will become well-formed in order for God to use me for his glory and the salvation of others. Saint John Chrysostom, 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

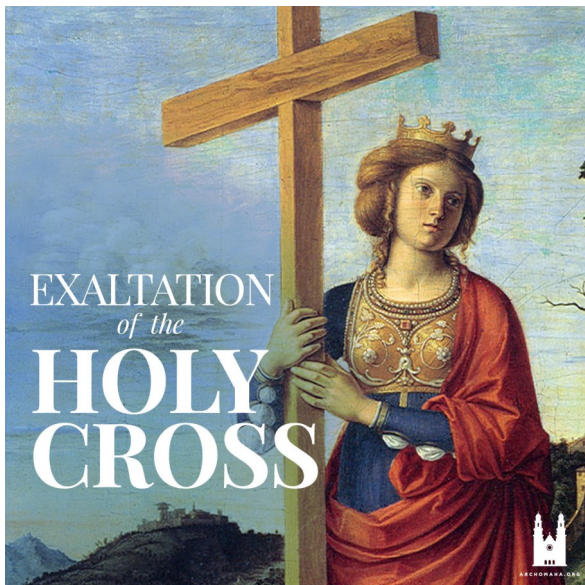


Photo 2



Photo 3

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SEPTEMBER 14



On 13 September 335, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (also called the Church of the Resurrection) was dedicated. The following day, the cross that Empress Helena had discovered on 14 September 320, was venerated in a solemn ceremony. In 614, the Persian King, Chosroes II, waged war on the Romans. After conquering Jerusalem, he confiscated many treasures, among which was the Cross of Jesus. The Byzantine emperor Heraclius initiated peace negotiations, but was rejected. He then waged war and won near Nineveh, asking for the restitution of the Cross, which then returned to Jerusalem. Today, the cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: "Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!" (Pope Francis)

"Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" John 3:13-17.

Source: vaticannews.va


Please join us for morning tea after the 9am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

16/9/2023 to 17/9/2023

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Parish Roster

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	Jerry L
Reader1		Nigel M	Glenice L
Reader2	Maria G	Melanie H	
Prayers	Mary C	Peter G	Teresa G
TV		Joshua A	Xavier F
Music		Mark Q	Mark Q
Music		Keith W	Adam F
Music		Helen F	Theresa N
Music		Marisa Q	
Morning Tea		Mary A	
 FLOWERS	Angela S		

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.