St Benedict's Parish Arcadia





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 Fr Eugene 0499 548 521 Parish Office 9653 2312



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR C 31 MAY & 1 JUNE 2025

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

COLLECT

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. 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: MISSION

This Sunday's Gospel, John 14:23-29, In this Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that He had to suffer, die, and rise from the dead — and now, He is returning to His Father in heaven. Before He leaves, He blesses His friends and sends them out to share His love with the whole world.

I ask myself:

- Do I believe that Jesus is still with me, even though I can't see Him?
- How can I be a witness for Jesus in my family, school, or with friends?
- Am I open to the Holy Spirit, like the disciples were?

Jesus is in heaven, praying for me, and sending me out with His love. I want to live in a way that shows others who He is.

Ascension Mission Blessing

Dear Jesus.

Thank You for rising from the dead and showing me Your love. Even though You returned to heaven, I know You are still with me. Help me to be Your witness by sharing Your love, peace, and kindness. Send me Your Holy Spirit so I can be strong and brave in following You. Amen.

First Reading: *Acts 1:1-11 (JB)* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: *Hebrews* 9:24-28, 10:19-23 (*JB*)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews Christ has entered heaven.

It is not as though Christ has entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he had opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our mind sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Luke 24:46-53 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION Sunday, June 1 Luke 24:46-53

Catechism Themes: Christ already reigns through his Church . . . (CCC 668-670) & Until all things are subject to him. (CCC 671-672)

Christ's Ascension into heaven symbolized his Lordship. He now revealed his participation in the Father's power and authority. What the Son possessed by his divinity nature, he made manifest in the economy of salvation.

While Christ now reigns with his Father, he still dwells in his Body, the Church. Through the Church, Christ acts in the world. Through the Church he announces the immanence of God's Kingdom. The Church, imperfect as an assembly of sinners, still dares to declare the Kingdom. For the Church is made whole through the work of Christ's Spirit.

The Church continues the mission of the Master in her evangelization. Part of the invitation to Christ is our worship. As Jesus praises the Father, so should we.

Has worship ever moved you to action? How? How has worship of God sustained you in times of trial and uncertainty?

In Luke, the risen Lord inspired his followers to praise God and wait. The vision was before them. But they needed something more. A little help from heaven above. That help would come soon in the form of wind and fire.

Like the disciples in that forgotten room, we need inspiration. God has given us living inspiration, the Spirit itself. The Spirit moves us to vision and action, to praise and worship. We will soon celebrate the gift of the Spirit. Until that time, let us see the wider picture and thank God for his vision, not just our own.

God calls us to give witness to his power. How can you give such a witness this week? How can you praise God for that opportunity?

Source: word-Sunday.com

WEEKDAY LITURGICAL READINGS

JUNE 2025

Monday 2: Acts 19:1-8. Jn 16:29-33.

R. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth. **Sts Marcellinus and Peter,** martyrs

Tuesday 3: Acts 20:17-27. Jn 17:1-11.

R. Sing to God, O kindgoms of the earth. Charles Lwanga & companions, martyrs

Wednesday 4: Acts 20:28-38. Jn 17:11-19.

R. Sing to God, O Kingdoms of the earth.

Thursday 5: Acts 22:30,23:6-11. Jn 17:20-26.

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

St Boniface, bishop, martyr

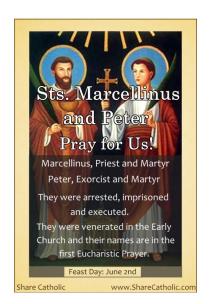
Friday 6: Acts 25:13-21. Jn 21:15-19.

R. The Lord has set his throne in heaven.

St Norbert, bishop. St Marcellin Champagnat, religious

Saturday 7: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31. Jn 21:20-25.

R. The just will gaze on your face, O Lord.



Source: Ordo 2025



POPE LEO XIV 8 MAY 2025 "We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to welcoming... everyone with open arms—everyone who needs our charity, our presence, dialogue, and love." Pope Leo XIV 8 May 2025

HOLY COMMUNION CEREMONY

WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 10.30AM

NEW ROSTER

The NEW roster is now ready to be picked up from Sacristy with your name on it. Please collect it ASAP.

ELDER ADVOCACY WEBINAR: PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO ELDER ABUSE

Presented by: Briony Underwood, Team Leader Education, Elder Rights Advocacy Victoria (part of the Older Persons Advocacy Network – OPAN)

As part of our recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), this webinar will explore the essential role of advocacy in safeguarding the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of older Australians.

Key topics include:

Recognising the signs of elder abuse and how to respond effectively

- Supporting older people and their families to navigate concerns and service systems
- An overview of the Serious Incident Response Scheme (SIRS)
- Understanding the Charter of Aged Care Rights
- The vital role of independent advocacy in safeguarding older Australians

The session will be held on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 11.30am and will run for approximately 1 hour.

To find out more or register visit the following link.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Let us take this week to:

- Pray daily for unity among Christians of all traditions.
- Reflect on the things that unite us in Christ.
- Seek opportunities to grow in love, dialogue, and mutual respect.

May our shared faith in Jesus draw us closer to one another and lead us toward the unity He desires for His people.

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



GLENICE LUI

A heartfelt thank you to Glenice Lui for her dedication, hard work, and many hours spent preparing and submitting the church grant application.

Thanks to her commitment and perseverance, the grant has been approved — a wonderful achievement that will make a significant difference to our parish. The funding will help improve our security systems, lighting, and other important upgrades, ensuring a safer and more welcoming environment for all.

We are truly grateful for Glenice's contribution to our church community! God bless you Glenice always!

NEW ELECTED ABBOT GENERAL

We joyfully announce that Most Reverend Dr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB has been elected as the Abbot General (Superior General) of the Sylvestro-Benedictine Congregation.



By virtue of this election, he now becomes the 119th successor of Saint Sylvester Guzzolini, Abbot and founder of the Monastic Order. This is a moment of great honour and responsibility, as he steps into a sacred line of spiritual leadership and service within the Benedictine tradition.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations and prayers for Abbot General Dr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB as he undertakes this important mission for the Church and the monastic community.

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 Bruce Shankland, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, and Father Alberic.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died:

Joseph El-Chaar, His Holiness POPE FRANCIS, Marilyn Deguara (George Arcella's mother in law), Domenico Fusca, Pellegrino Vaccarella, Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry, Colleen Bennett & Helen Facione. — May they rest in Peace.



PARISH NOTICES

Please note the new email address for the parish office:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

Also note that Father Shansana will be away from the parish from May 9th to June 1st 2025. During his absence, Fr Eugene will be looking after the parish.

For anything urgent, please contact:

- Fr Eugene 0499 548 521
- Paula 0423 078 282

Thank you for your understanding and prayers for Father Shansana during his time away.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You who in your ascension
filled the Eleven with joy,
make us worthy of that same joy
through your prayer and your mercy.

Lord Jesus,

You who in your ascension bore our fragile humanity into heaven and opened for us the way that leads to Heaven, fill us with the joy of serenity and peace.

Lord Jesus,

You who by ascending into heaven clothed us with the gift of the Holy Spirit, make us your witnesses in our daily lives telling of the joy of your Mercy.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training being provided by the CCD -

Ministry Induction training for new Catechists continues on Monday evening 6:15-8:30pm via Zoom. This week's topic is 'Development of the Child and Adolescent.

Training during the July school holidays for all fully authorised Catechists – the topic is 'Teaching Discipleship in the 21stCentury, Australia'. Various dates have been provided, please contact me if interested.

Skills in the Classroom training for all Catechists on Tuesday 22 July 6:15pm – 8:30pm via Zoom on 'Prayer in the Classroom'

RSVP registrations@bbcatholic.org.au

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests. Even if you don't feel that you are called to be a Catechist, please keep our parish Catechists and the students that they teach, in prayer.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

PIETY SHOP NEWS

We invite you to take a moment to explore our Piety Shop, It offers a wonderful selection of items to support and enrich your spiritual life, including: Religious gifts for sacraments like Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Rosaries, prayer cards, and medals Bibles, missals, and spiritual books for adults and children.

Come and see what's new!

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP HAS RE-COMMENCED

Fridays SCHOOL TERM

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Ages: 8-12 years old



If you are aged 14-16 and would like to help out, please email the parish office.

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks. Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

At our June workshop, we will be learning the beautiful craft of crocheting. We will be making small crocheted squares and Remembrance Day poppies.

All materials and refreshments will be provided.



Crochet workshop Wednesday, 4th June 2025 7.30-9.30pm in the Parish meeting room \$10 per participant

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

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!



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr

Feast Day: June 5 c. 675-754

Patron Saint of Great Germania

Saint Boniface was born in the recently Christianized Kingdom of Wessex in southern England, a descendant of the Germanic pagans who had conquered Roman Britain just a couple of centuries earlier. Named Wynfrid at birth, he was born into a noble family, raised in the Catholic faith, and given a good education. Wynfrid was inspired to follow the example of the missionary monks who came to his hometown. His father eventually consented, and Wynfrid was sent to a nearby Benedictine monastery for seven years before going to the Abbey of Nursling, about 100 miles away, where he excelled in his studies and prayer life, made vows as a Benedictine monk, and was ordained a priest at age thirty. He quickly became known as an excellent preacher and teacher with a profound understanding of Sacred Scripture, as well as an excellent administrator, organizer, and diplomat.

Father Wynfrid sensed a call to evangelize the people of his ancestral homeland. Though he had no personal connection with them, he spoke a dialect of their shared language. In 716, Father Wynfrid obtained permission from his abbot to travel to Frisia, modern-day Netherlands, to assist a missionary priest. At the time, the local pagan king was at war with the Christian Frankish king. The pagans were unlikely to convert to their enemy's religion. Father Wynfrid also saw that the Frankish Church needed reform, organization, and stability if it were to flourish.

After little progress, Father Wynfrid returned to his monastery in Nursling. In 718, he traveled to Rome to consult with the holy father. Pope Gregory II received him and sent him north to evangelize the Germanic pagans. The pope changed Wynfrid's name to Boniface, which means "doer of good." Despite challenges, within three years there was much good fruit, and the pope called Father Boniface to Rome. Pope Gregory II ordained Boniface a bishop, naming him regional bishop of all of Germany. With this new authority, Bishop Boniface organized the Frankish Church, built monasteries and churches, and improved relations between the Catholics and pagans.

Over the next thirty years, Bishop Boniface served four popes by evangelizing, organizing, and reforming the Frankish Church. He called synods to establish clear ecclesiastical laws of governance, worked with the Frankish kings and local authorities, and created the foundational framework for the evangelization of the pagans.

At age seventy-nine, Bishop Boniface returned to Frisia to preach to and convert the remaining pagans. After much success, while preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for the new converts, Bishop Boniface and dozens of his companions were murdered, most likely by common thieves. Finding books and letters, the murderers threw them in the forest. Those books and letters were later found and are preserved, including a Bible that Bishop Boniface is believed to have used as a shield as he was slain by a sword. The bishop's last words are recorded as, "Cease, my sons, from fighting, give up warfare, for the witness of Scripture recommends that we do not give an eye for an eye but rather good for evil. Here is the long awaited day, the time of our end has now come; courage in the Lord!" Today, he is known as the "Apostle of Germany."

Saint Boniface, you responded to God's call with zeal for His will. Through your holy obedience and service, many received the gift of eternal salvation. Please pray that I will never hesitate to say "Yes" to God's will. Saint Boniface and companions, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life

JUBILEE OF FAMILIES, CHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 30 MAY - 1 JUNE

This Jubilee celebrates the importance of the family unit, recognising the unique roles played by children and grandparents; and also honours the elderly members of our communities, some of whom are without family members of their own.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise You and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony. May they rediscover each day the grace they have received, and as small domestic Churches, may they know how to witness to Your presence and to the love with which Christ loves the Church. We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know. Sustain them and make them aware of the path to holiness upon which You call them, so that they might experience Your infinite mercy and find new ways to grow in

We pray to You for children and young people: may they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;

We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them; and for the experience of fraternity that the family can give to the world. Amen.



VARROVILLE MGL SISTERS

The Varroville MGL Sisters are holding a **Jubilatio Pentecost Intensive** Wednesday 4th June - Sunday 8th June.

"Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit"

Come and encounter the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Experience a time of deep renewal and joy as we celebrate and embrace the gift of the Spirit through fellowship, inputs, prayer and practical workshops.

trybooking.com/CZPVZ



PASTORAL WORKS MAY 2025

This month, we invite you to support the Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) Appeal! Look out for the envelopes located in your parish, or make your contribution here: www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks

Your generosity makes a real difference in support of vital local ministries and programs, including:

Hospital Chaplaincy – Bringing comfort and hope to the sick and isolated Support for Catechists – Sharing the Gospel with children in public schools

Thank you for being a part of this mission to bring the hope and healing of Christ to our community.

All donations over \$2 are 100% tax deductible.

Envelopes can be found on the pews.

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

7/6/2025 to 8/6/2025 PENTECOST - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul C	George A
Reader1	Miriam B	Mary C	Mirko J
Reader2	Margaret B	Azzi family	Leanne A
Prayers	Mary C	Kath M	Lorna B
TV		Jules O	Joseph M
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Theresa N
Music		Pauline H	Jack/Adam F
Music		Keith W	Sandra M
Morning Tea		Mandah V	
FLOWERS	Mona M		



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

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 Readings6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds12.45pm Midday prayer

6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers **8.00pm** Night prayer - Compline

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM NOTICE

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION UPDATE

Our Holy Communion preparation has now come to a joyful close. After weeks of learning, praying, and growing in faith, our children are ready to receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time. With hearts full of excitement and gratitude, we now wait patiently for the special day:

June 22nd - Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

when they will meet Jesus in a most beautiful and sacred way.

Let us keep them in our prayers as they take this important step in their journey of faith.

NEXT SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

Enrolments for the next Sacramental Program are now open. Forms will be distributed through public schools in the coming weeks.

For children not attending public schools, please contact the parish office or collect a form from the Church Sacristy or email:

arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au

DID YOU KNOW...

Music sheets were invented by a Benedictine monk around the year 1000A.D. named Guido D'Arrezo

Parish office Hours:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm (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





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