

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia

To desire eternal life with all spiritual longing.
Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4



COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:

Church Attendance:
One person per 2sqm,
maximum 300 people.

Masks are strongly
recommended by the Bishop.

ONLINE Booking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BJSGK>
Or call Paula on 0423 078 282



PARISH MASSES

Weekend Mass:

Saturday	7:00pm
Sunday	9:00am
Sunday	10:30am
Sunday Latin	4.30pm

Weekday Mass:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 7:00pm followed by Confession
First Friday of the month 6.30pm Adoration

MONASTERY CHAPEL Mass

Sundays	7:00am
Daily	7:00am

Please contact Father Bernard for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

Fr Bernard: 0416 032 497

Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

12 & 13 December 2020

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
There stands among you, unknown to you,
the one who is coming after me.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

ADVENT WREATH



Third Candle:

Symbolizes Joy— with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Introduction

Priest:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Saviour, the true light who has come into our world. As we continue this Advent Season, we ask you to bless this Advent wreath. We honour and remember your first coming at Bethlehem, You are coming, now, among us in grace. We recall your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that they may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption, when you will come to reign as universal king for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

(The first, second and third (rose - joy) candle, *The Shepherd's Candle*, are now lit by the Acolyte. We recall that shepherds were the first to hear the news of the birth of the Messiah.)

Reader:

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd. You know your flock and call each by name.

V. Come, Em - man - u - el, R. Come to save us.

V. Be our way and truth, R. Be our light.

Composed by Father Stephen List, Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.

Reader:

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd ready to search out and look for the lost sheep and lay down your life for them.

V. Come, bring us your peace, R. Peace we've longed for.

V. Hope of all the earth, R. Be our guide.

Composed by Father Stephen List, Tarrawarra Abbey. Used with Permission.

Gospel reading for this Week*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.
 His name was John.
 He came as a witness,
 as a witness to speak for the light,
 so that everyone might believe through him.
 He was not the light,
 only a witness to speak for the light.



This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
 Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jerusalem Bible translation of Scripture is used in the Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). Acknowledgement: The Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers. Liturgia Copyright 2020

GOSPEL REFLECTION*John 1:6-8, 19-28*

John the Baptist stood alone against the hypocrisy of his time and all time. He told the truth, because he witnessed to God's Truth, the Christ.

John was the Elijah figure, filled with the fire of the Spirit. His ministry fulfilled the cycle of prophets, for John prepared his audience for coming of the Messiah. No Spirit-filled prophets were necessary in the time of the Messiah, because he would offer the Spirit to everyone.

John's message and ministry of a repentant baptism prefigured Christ's. John baptized in the spirit of hope. The baptism of Jesus realized that hope. Those baptized by John looked forward to a life with God. Those baptized by the Christ lived in God.

We are now half way through Advent. The closer Christmas comes, the stronger the pull to God and the crazier the season becomes. Anticipation became proclamation which is now witness. It's time to take stock. How strong was your witness this week? Was it personal? Was it honest?

Through his ministry, John the Baptist opened the way for Jesus of Nazareth. As Christians, we, too, prepare the way of the Lord for others. Our words, our example, our character need to be transparent, like John's. While the world may not understand us, it will never be able to charge us with duplicity or diversion. Our witness will be true and from the heart. And everyone will know who we follow, who we expect to soon arrive.

How can you be a little more honest (and authentic) this week? Reflect on your words, your actions, and your character. Pray and plan for this coming week.

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT*Chapter 4**To do no wrong to anyone, and to bear patiently wrongs done to oneself.***POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2020****FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER**

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

AMEN**CATHOLIC YOUTH BROKEN BAY****A Christmas Pilgrimage**

Catholic Youth Broken Bay invites you to participate in "A Christmas Pilgrimage" this coming Advent season!

"A Christmas Pilgrimage" is a collaboration between St Peter's Catholic College, St Leo's Catholic College, and students, staff and priests from around the Diocese with special guests you will not want to miss! What better way to celebrate the end of a challenging year than by bringing the true meaning of Christmas alive in our Catholic community of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The pilgrimage will follow the Nativity story in the Gospel of Luke and some of the Gospel of Matthew. We have fantastic Christmas Carols, special reflections, lovely "moving pilgrimage stops", a special version of "Silent Night Invitation" by Father Rob Galea, Natasha and Gary Pinto, and more! Last - and definitely not least - we have "voices of Broken Bay", where throughout the pilgrimage stops we will hear what a number of different students, staff and priests from the Diocese love about Christmas and what the true meaning of Christmas is to them.

The pilgrimage will run for 11 days with a new 10-15 min episode released each day. The start date for Catholic schools will be 1 December whilst for parishes it will be 14 December. This will be a great resource to use each day in preparation for Christmas, or even right after Christmas in preparation for the Epiphany.

So please join us on "A Christmas Pilgrimage" from 14 December and feel free to stream, share and enjoy!

Let us enter into the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ, and into the mission of "giving" just as Christ did by helping those in need through our support of St Vincent De Paul's Christmas Appeal.

May God bless us all and our families this Advent and Christmas Season.

December 14 to December 24

Catholic Youth Broken Bay
Facebook & Youtube

Please contact parish office if you would like us to add to the below to pray for someone

Call 9653 2312 or email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

In Our Parish

**We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died,
especially George Cascun and Vince Sellaro.**

We welcome into God's family to all who were recently baptised.

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Nancy Kazzi and Tony Jasprizza.

GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

GLENORIE COMMUNITY CAROLS

The Carols continues in 2020, celebrating everything about Christmas. Join us on the Les Shore Oval at Glenorie 6pm Sunday 20th December.

Bring your picnic rug, your favourite food (I'm thinking antipasto platter) and drink, and your family and join in the fun of carols. You will enjoy the Matt Moody Jazz Band, local singers and artists and of course Santa.

Show your support for your community and join us at the Glenorie Carols. Don't forget your outdoor chairs for a comfortable night. This is a ticketed event and tickets are FREE. Register at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/glenoriecarols>

We look forward to seeing you there.

Roger Hokin
Youth and Young Adults Minister
Dural District Anglican Churches
GCEA Secretary
roger@duralanglican.org.au
0413 067 770

BENEDICTINE NUNS JAMBEROO ONLINE RETREATS

The Benedictine Nuns of Jamberoo are beginning to offer online retreats. Our upcoming retreat is titled:

Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days

Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information go to the following link on our website:
www.jamberooabbey.org.au - click on **Retreats**

ROSTERS

The Roster is available at the Sacristy window for Christmas Masses. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please fill in your names for the times you are available. Otherwise email the office arcadia.parish@bigpond.com with the times and slots you are available to help out.

We are also in urgent need of **Saturday night Acolytes** please. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte please contact Father Bernard.

CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every Friday night after 7pm Mass, and Wednesday mornings after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

CATECHIST NEWS

Congratulations to the following catechists who received service awards last Sunday 6th December:

Mary Abood for 5 years of service as a Catechist
Noelle Takchi for 10 years of service as a Catechist
Gebran Azzi for 15 years of service as a Catechist
Bernadette Watt for 20 years of service as a Catechist
Rita Sarkis for 20 years of service as a Catechist
Miriam Brown for 20 year of service as a Catechist

Well done to these very special people and many thanks for all the years you have given to this wonderful and rewarding ministry.

All Scripture (SRE) classes finished this week. Wishing all our Catechists and families a blessed Christmas and a safe and restful holiday season.

God bless,

Miriam Brown 9652 0558 or srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



Share the season's greetings with a social justice twist!

The Season of giving



Jesuit Refugee Service Australia invites you to take part in **Christmas cards for Action**.

Send a Christmas message to your local MP, family & friends and remind them that women, children, and men seeking asylum will not be so lucky this holiday season. There are 4 cards to choose from. The intricate artwork on the cards are done by two talented women, Hadiyah and Rabia, who have lived experience of forced displacement and are both seeking Australia's protection.

Donations are welcomed. All funds will go directly to support the people JRS serves, through specialist casework and employment support, emergency relief payment, life-saving medication and housing support. Hadiyah and Rabia will receive a percentage of the donations for the cards.

To purchase cards visit:

www.aus.jrs.net/en/take-action/christmas-cards-of-action/

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay

Message for BBNeighbourhoods

8 December 2020

Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One hundred and fifty years ago today, Pope Pius IX proclaimed Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. We know Saint Joseph primarily through what we read in the Sacred Scriptures. In Matthew's Gospel we discover that Joseph was from the House of David and can trace his family all the way back to Abraham and Sarah (Matthew 1:1-17). We are told that Joseph lived in Nazareth (Luke 2:4), was betrothed to Mary (Matthew 1:18), and went to Bethlehem to be registered in the census ordered by the Emperor Augustus (Luke 2:1-5).

Joseph is known to be an honourable and righteous man who was sensitive to the needs of Mary and the child Jesus. He was discerning and obedient to the will of God. Joseph offered protection to the Holy Family when they were vulnerable, and he provided for their care. Saint Matthew describes Jesus as the son of the carpenter. The word used by Matthew in Greek is "tekton" which refers to an artisan who works with wood, stone, and iron. Saint Joseph was clearly a man of craft and talent.

For centuries, Saint Joseph has been sought as an intercessor and protector. He is often referred to as the guardian of the family, the patron of unborn children, fathers, immigrants, workers, pilgrims, carpenters, and engineers. In our Catholic tradition, Saint Joseph is called upon for help by those who struggle against doubt and hesitation. His intercession is also sought for a happy death.

As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the universal patronage of Saint Joseph, I would like to announce an initiative for our Diocese beginning today. After much prayer, thought, and consultation, I have decided to initiate a house of discernment for young men which will be called "Joseph House." It will be located at Willoughby not far from the Church of Saint Thomas. Further details will be released in the coming months. It is also my desire to initiate a house of discernment for young women in the Diocese. Please pray for the success of both initiatives.

Last week I announced the transfer of 20 of the clergy within the Diocese. This is no surprise to you, of course, because I have previously requested your prayers as I discerned and prayed for our priests and our parishes. I am delighted to say that when I spoke to each of the priests and deacon, they all responded with generosity and gratitude. I am not surprised by their response, as I have come to know our clergy as good, faithful men who are willing to serve God and you, God's holy people. Please support and pray for these fine men as they conclude their time in various communities and prepare to serve others in the mission.

For the couple of people who have expressed their disappointment at these transfers, please remember that we are ordained for the service of the whole community of the Church, and each of us knows what is expected of us when a need arises. Please remember that each of us made a promise of obedience when we were ordained. We do not need people urging us to be disobedient or to be stingy with our gifts or generosity. That is contrary to the spirit of the Gospel and is not the spirit of our community of the Church. I would ask you to be as generous in your acceptance of these transfers as the clergy themselves have been.

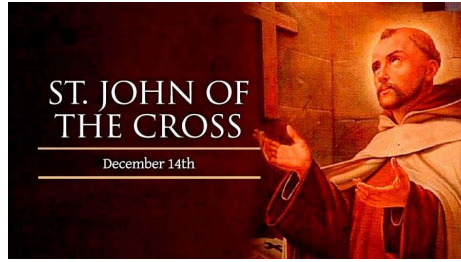
We are fast approaching Christmas, and my thoughts and prayers are very much with those who have been especially burdened by the events and challenges of this year. Might I encourage all of us in Broken Bay to be alert to the particular needs of others at this time. With government restrictions being eased and larger numbers of people being able to attend churches for Mass, worship, and prayer, we need to keep up our vigilance for those who might find it a challenge to return to the church space. Don't be frightened to reach out to others, you may be the face of Christ for them this Christmas.

Thank you for all that you do in our community of the Church. May God bless you and your families abundantly.

+Anthony

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor



1542-1591

Feast Day: December 14

Patron Saint of contemplatives, mystics, and Spanish poets

Saint John was born into poverty and so was no stranger to need. He was raised by his mother and the Church after his father died at a young age. These two mothers imparted to his mind a solid formation in Catholic doctrine and to his soul an ardent love for the Lord Jesus.

John was ordained a priest for the Carmelites in 1567. He loved solitude and contemplation and so considered entering the strictest of Orders, the Carthusians. But holy people cross paths, and a chance meeting with Saint Teresa of Ávila redirected John's vocation. Teresa's combination of charm, intelligence, and drive were difficult to resist, and John fared no better than most. He quickly joined her project to recapture the original purity of the Carmelite Order. Many customs had attached themselves to the Order over time like barnacles on a ship. Now was the moment to scrape off the barnacles. John set out to found new, reformed Carmelite houses and to reinvigorate existing ones.

The reforms John and Teresa implemented were practical. The monks and nuns were to spend more hours chanting the breviary in common, to do more spiritual reading, to spend more hours in silence, to practice contemplative prayer, to abstain completely from meat and to endure longer, more radical fasts. The reformed Carmelites eventually became known after their most noticeable change. They strictly adhered to the Carmelite Rule's original prohibition against wearing shoes. So by the time they were canonically established as their own Order, distinct from the historic Carmelites, they were called the Discalced, or Shoeless, Carmelites.

Saint John spent his life traveling throughout Central and Southern Spain carrying out an intense priestly ministry all while living a recollected life which his own contemporaries recognized as saintly. He was a chaplain to convents, a spiritual director to university colleges, a confessor, a preacher, a founder and a superior of monasteries. And, most distinctively, he was a contemplative who wrote with elegance and artistic flourish about falling in love with God. His *Dark Night of the Soul*, *Spiritual Canticle*, *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, and *Living Flame of Love* are, on their surface, poetic masterpieces of the Spanish language. At a deeper level, they each describe, in surprising detail and through various biblical metaphors, the soul's search for Christ and its joy in finding Him, or its pain in losing Him. For John, being authentic was not a spirituality. Being bonded to Christ was. To see through material forms into God's inner life, to contemplate God in His very nature, was prayer. The soul seeks God like the bride seeks her bridegroom. And the Bridegroom did more than manifest an image, He manifested reality. The Church is both mother and bride, and her faithful learn of Christ, and seek Him, only inside of her life. Saint John of the Cross deepened the word "mystery" to include more than its objective meaning in the Sacraments. For John, every soul had a mysterious union with God that had to be, and only could be, cultivated in silent contemplation.

Saint John of the Cross, your life of prayer was deepened by your life of suffering for the good of your Order. Through your writings on the mystery of God, may we come to love Him, if not understand Him, all the more. AMEN.

Source of content: mycatholic.life

POSITION VACANT - ST AGATHA'S PARISH, PENNANT HILLS

Youth Minister – Pastoral Support Worker, St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills

10 hours per week

Do you have a passion for working with youth and young people? Are you dynamic and enthusiastic about the Catholic faith? Are you willing to help our youth and young people engage with their faith in a fun, caring and supportive environment?

St Agatha's Catholic Parish, Pennant Hills invites you to join our team as a Youth Minister.

Visit bbcatholic.org.au/jobs for the full advertisement.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a pre-employment Working with Children Check and National Police History Check.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December 2020: 7pm & 11.30pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 9am

25th December 2020: 10.30am (Latin Mass)

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th December 2020: 7am



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS

Bookings is still essential or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 2sqms and sanitize your hands at the door. Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

**MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.
IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.**

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.

Office Hours: Mondays 10.30am to 2.30pm

Fridays 10am to 3pm

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Bernard McGrath OSB

After hours: 0416 032 497

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

**Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd,
Arcadia 2159**

Monastery: 9653 1159

Good Samaritan Sisters: 9653 1231

**For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and
Safeguarding Children matters**

Contact: Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 1446 8001