

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



11 & 12 December 2021
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday
Year C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray:

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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.**

FR HILARION WRITES

Dear friends,

Jesus promised to be with us through the Holy Spirit. The church (we are the church) lives by sacraments enacted by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will strengthen Jesus' disciples with Christ's own strength, will lead the disciples into all truth so that they gradually come to a fuller understanding of the implications of the teaching of Jesus and are enabled to put them into practice.

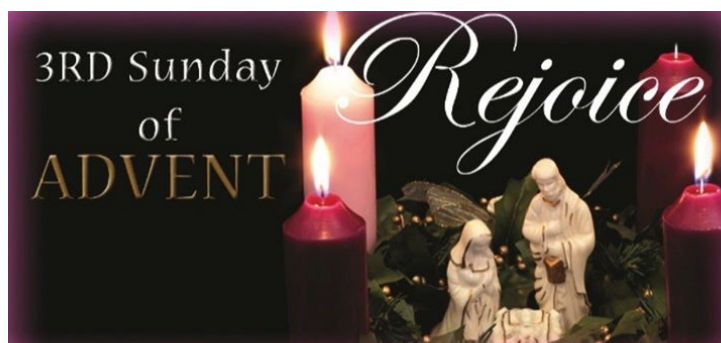
It is the Spirit who prays in every Christian, enlightens and guides our decisions, and enables us to carry out the work of Christ in all its wonder.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of our children and kindle in them the fire of your LOVE!!!

Yours in Jesus,
Fr Hilarion OSB

PARISH REMINDERS

- Sunday 12th December:
Vinnies and Christmas appeal
(take an envelop home and bring it next week please)
- Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th December:
Mini Parish Fete after Confirmation
and weekend Masses.
- Sunday 19th December:



PARISH Masses

Weekend:

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

Weekday:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am
Fridays 6.30pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass & Confession
(Reconciliation)
Saturdays 10am to 11am
Adoration & Confession
(Reconciliation)

MONASTERY CHAPEL Masses

Sundays 7:00am
Daily 7:00am

Please contact Father Hilarion for the following:

BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS

PARISH CONFIRMATION DAY



Saturday 18th December 2021 2pm.

We wish the fullness of the Holy Spirit to our DEAREST CHILDREN!

First Reading**Zephaniah 3:14-18 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

*With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.*Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you,

he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

*The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm:****R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.****Second Reading****Philippians 4:4-7 (JB)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

*The word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation****Alleluia, alleluia!**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.**Alleluia!****GOSPEL****Luke 3:10-18 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you
with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

- Zephaniah 3:17 -



GOSPEL REFLECTION

What does God want for you during this Advent season? What does the Spirit want to do within and for you? What blessings await you? What grace and anointing will be poured out upon you? We don't tend to think in this way, having learnt not to expect or hope for too much so that we won't be disappointed. However, this isn't a Christian way to think because Christians expect great things from God.

Many centuries before Jesus came, the prophet Zephaniah said, "The Lord God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing" (3:17 NIV). This Advent, God wants to renew you in his love. We can anticipate and rely on the truth that this is what God wants for us.

John the Baptist shows us how this renewal occurs: through repentance and turning away from sin. Of course, we can confess our sins to God on our own, but the best way to do this is through the sacrament of reconciliation; truly the sacrament of mercy and forgiveness.

It can be hard to acknowledge our sinfulness and weakness. It takes courage and a willingness to let God's light shine into the deepest and darkest parts of us. This can be a lonely and daunting journey, but God is with us. There is no sin that God cannot forgive. There is no sinner beyond his mercy and forgiveness. There is only grace, mercy and forgiveness as we are renewed in God's love. So don't be afraid; take courage and be assured of his love and mercy.

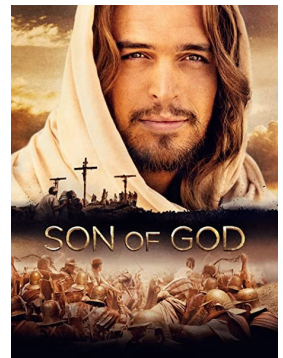
'Our brokenness is the wound through which the full power of God can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God. Loneliness is not something from which we must flee but the place from where we can cry out to God, where God will find us and we can find God...Yes, through our wounds the power of God can penetrate us and become like rivers of living water to irrigate the arid earth within us. Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others, so that hope and love are reborn.' (Jean Vanier)

(Source: Bible Alive UK Dec 2021 Pg 34).

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Monday	December 13, 2021:	St Lucy, virgin, martyr
Tuesday	December 14, 2021:	St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

Source: Ordo 2021



SON OF GOD Jesus the Hidden Son of God

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm not much of a runner, but a few years ago, I ran three days a week with a friend who was preparing to run a twenty-six mile marathon. He had run marathons a number of times before, and I realised he must have run hundreds of miles over the course of a few years. This made me wonder how far Jesus travelled in his lifetime. It's hard to know exactly, but most of that travel happened within only a fifty-mile radius of his home town of Nazareth!

Here's what struck me: during Advent, I normally think of the magnitude of Jesus' coming in the flesh and how this act changed the whole world. I think of how every angel and saint in heaven rejoiced! But for all that he accomplished, Jesus lived in a hidden corner of the earth. Most of his life was quiet, routine, and "normal". He swung a hammer with his dad, St Joseph, and he went to synagogue like his neighbours. Hardly anyone understood that God himself was living among them. Yet in the ordinary and hidden, Jesus lived a life extraordinarily pleasing to his heavenly Father.

This gives me hope! Most days, my life is ordinary; sometimes it's even boring. Yet Jesus' early life tells me that God can do the incredible through the ordinary. You and I, and everyone who seeks to live for the Lord, can live hidden, yet extraordinary, lives of faith every day!

Let's Take a Hidden Journey this Advent.

So this Advent, I invite you to do something that is hidden but extraordinary. Every Sunday from now until Christmas, spend your prayer time—your hidden time with the Lord—preparing the way for the Lord, just as John the Baptist urged us. Read the Gospel for that Sunday, along the related article in the front section of this magazine, and then speak honestly to the Lord about whatever is on your heart.

Brothers and sisters, God hears us when we pray. He also speaks to us when we pray. May your hidden and seemingly ordinary journey of faith this Advent make the angels rejoice!

- Jeff smith

Source: Word Among Us

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT

Chapter 4

Not to render cursing for cursing, but rather blessing.

PARISH FUNDS

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the parish by helping out in the past few months. We really appreciate it.

With the suspension of Liturgies and Masses, our parish income has been severely affected, especially we have not had a fete for two years. Planned Giving, Donations and Electronic Transfers has been keeping us going during that difficult time.

Your support as always is much appreciated. For those wanting to make payments directly to our bank account here are the details:

PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK DETAILS

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 100002141

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

God bless you all!

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Australia enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world, and we're living longer. Getting older should be fun – you have more time to do things you have always wanted to, to socialise with friends and learn new things. However, you may just need a little help to maximise those opportunities, to tackle changes in health, mobility and connecting with others.

At CatholicCare (our dedicated social services agency in the Diocese), help comes in lots of ways to suit your individual needs and circumstances. We can support you to get things done around the home, to get you out and about, and to connect with others. We also offer a range of supports for carers.

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay offers:

- Respite Options
- Home Care Packages
- Commonwealth Home Support Program
- Memory Innovations Centre

Community Visitors Scheme

For more information visit [CatholicCare Broken Bay](#) or call [02 9488 2488](tel:0294882488).

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

St.Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will be held on the 11th & 12th December 2021. Your donation can provide food for a family to get them through a crisis and ensure they don't go hungry.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Last Sunday Jacinta and Amelia Raad received their First Holy Communion at St Benedict's Parish.

As you commemorate the love of Jesus for the World through the sacrament of the Holy Communion, we pray that peace of Christ be always with you and that you will forever be blessed as you continue to trust God and grow in His grace.

Congratulations Jacinta & Amelia!



MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL OFFICE

Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage.

The Broken Bay Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process.

For further information, please phone the Tribunal Office on [02 9307 8309](tel:0293078309) or email tribunal@bbcatholic.org.au

In Our Parish

We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Sr Marie Lane.

We pray for the sick of our Parish,
especially Lyla Abood, Brother Mario, and Theresa Gittany (Lila Bacha's mum).



NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

18/12/21 TO 19/12/21
4th Sunday of Advent Year C

	Saturday 7pm	Sunday 9am
Acolyte		Nigel Morgan
Reader1	Mary Cascun	Rebecca Raad
Reader2	Miriam Brown	Gebran Azzi
Prayers	Ann Lomas	Bernadette Watts
TV		Joshua Azzi
Music		Mark Quirk
Music		Theresa Neely
Music		Marisa Quattrocchi
Music		

ROSTERS

**PLEASE COLLECT THE
DECEMBER 2021 TO FEBRUARY 2022
QUARTER ROSTER FROM THE SACRISTY.**

CHRISTMAS DRAFT ROSTER is available at the Sacristy window for Christmas Masses and New Year's. 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.

A big thank you to Melanie Hume and Liz Wallace for their hard work on the Rosters!

ST BENEDICT'S MINI FETE

On Saturday 18th of December from 3pm and Sunday 19th December after the Masses, we will be holding a couple of stalls and items for fundraising.

NEW ITEMS TO OUR STALL:

If you would like to pre-order **personalised baubles** filled with chocolate or memorial angel wings, please message Mary on 0415 471 810. Collection at the Church Fete (18th and 19th December).

Apart from our cakes and sweets we will also have a new range of Puzzles and Candles available.

If you have anything you would like to donate for selling please bring it along! Lila Bacha Phone: 0418 360 024



CATECHIST NEWS

Thanks to all those who were involved in the Children's Mass last week, it was a beautiful Mass and the readers read very confidently! We were especially blessed to be sharing the Mass with 2 children receiving their First Eucharist as well as celebrating with our Year 6 students!



The CCD has prepared a lovely Advent and Christmas message from the Catholic SRE teachers to all families. Please go to the link or website below to access a variety of craft and cooking activities as well as links to Advent and Christmas songs, family prayers and more. [An Advent & Christmas Message from Catholic SRE Scripture Teachers](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021) (<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/ccd/ccd-christmas-message/catholic-sre-christmas-message-2021>)

If you are planning for next year and have an hour free on Wednesdays or Fridays during school term and are interested in finding out more about sharing your faith with young people, you are very welcome to either email me or call the parish office. There are vacancies for Catechists (Scripture teachers) available for next year.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2021 FOR CATECHISTS

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting held every

Friday nights:

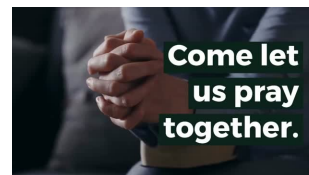
after 7pm Mass

Wednesday mornings:

after 9.30am Mass.

Everyone welcome.

For more details call Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.



ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every Monday 2.00pm. Everyone welcome. For more details call Angela Egiziano. Ph: 9653 2312.



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.

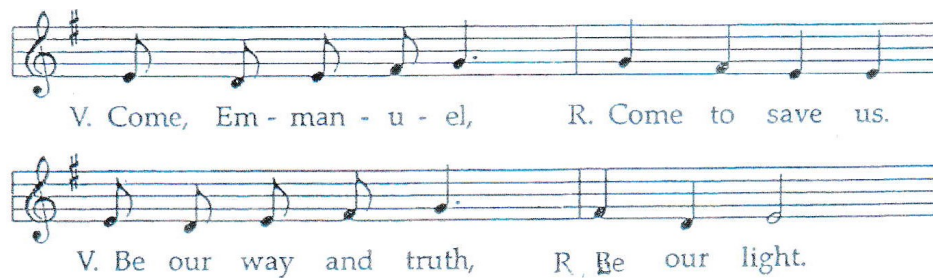
All: Amen

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:

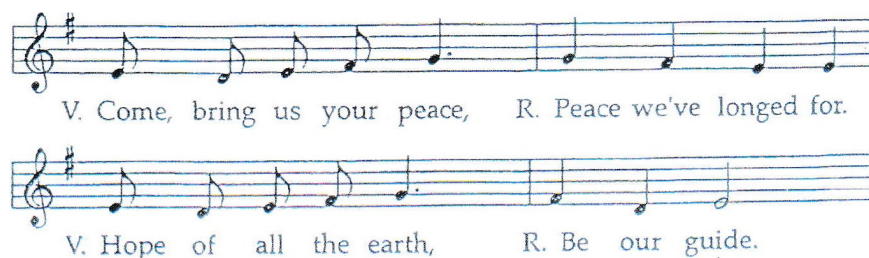
Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd. You know your flock and call each by name.



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.



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

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St Lucy of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr

C. 283—304



Feast Day: December 13

Patron Saint of virgins, the blind, and Syracuse, Sicily
A garden enclosed, no man would lock her in his embrace

Today's saint is one of only eight women (Mary included) commemorated in Eucharistic Prayer I: "Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia, and all the Saints..." It was Pope Saint Gregory the Great (590–604), familiar with the Christian traditions of Sicily through his family, who inserted the names of the Sicilian virgin martyrs, Agatha and Lucy, into the Roman Canon. There is no doubt that an ancient cult to a woman named Lucy is connected with the city of Syracuse, Sicily, and that this devotion spread throughout Europe in the fourth through sixth centuries. Beyond that, however, there is no near-contemporary historical record verifying any facts of Lucy's life or death. It is the preservation of her name in the Mass, more than anything else, which has secured Lucy's place in the Catholic tradition.

Saint Lucy was killed during the Diocletian persecution in the early fourth century. Legends long post-dating her death state that Lucy was doomed to execution after a disgruntled pagan admirer exposed her as a Christian.

It is likely that since Lucy was born to Christian parents, she went on pilgrimage as a child to the shrine of Saint Agatha, a fellow Sicilian, in nearby Catania. Perhaps the witness of the virgin martyr Agatha, who perished about fifty years prior to Lucy's time, inspired little Lucy to be similarly heroic when her own hour came. One legend states that Agatha appeared to Lucy in a dream, telling her that one day she, Lucy, would be the glory of Syracuse. For over a millennium, Lucy's Feast Day of December 13 fell very close to the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. But the Gregorian calendar reform of 1582 corrected a ten day drift between the calendar and scientific reality, leaving December 13 now eight days before the Solstice. Lucy's symbolic resonance as a source of light in a dark season persists, despite the calendar correction distancing her feast day from winter's blackest hour. Somewhat curiously, Sweden's long-dormant Catholic heritage reasserts itself on December 13, a long winter night when Swedes gladly celebrate a saint whose Latin name evokes light and purity.

As the age of martyrdom waned with Christianity's legalization, the untouched body of the virgin, not a bloody death, became the most potent expression of Christian sacrifice. The virgin's body was the untouched desert. It bore the wax seal of the soul's original, untarnished perfection and was a precious gift blessed by Christ. The intact flesh of all celibates, virgins, and continent men and women stood out as oases of freedom in a world otherwise enslaved by carnal desire. Virgins such as Lucy were the pride of the early Church, the unplucked harps whose self-control was a cause of wonder to the broader pagan society. The virgin's uncorrupted body was like a human votive candle, its pure flame burning through the long night of the world until Christ slowly dawned over the horizon at His Second Coming. That such a refined blue flame was so abruptly blown out by the executioner's breath was shocking and memorable. We remember it still today.

Saint Lucy, you died young and innocent, unfamiliar with the world save for its savagery. May your double martyrdom, to the flesh and to life itself, inspire all youth to see Christ and His promises as worth sacrificing to attain. AMEN.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

PARISH:

Christmas Eve Friday 24th Dec 2021: 7pm & 11.30pm (*Midnight Mass*)

Christmas Day Saturday 25th Dec 2021: 9am

25th Dec 2021: 10.30am (*Latin Mass*)

25th Dec 2021: 7pm (*Vigil feast of The Holy Family*)

Sunday 26th Dec 2021: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Holy Family

New Years Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 9.30am Feast Mary Mother of God
7pm Vigil Mass for Epiphany

Sunday 2nd Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast of Epiphany

Sunday 9th Jan 2022: 9am & 10.30am Feast Baptism of the Lord

MONASTERY:

Christmas Day Friday 25th Dec 2021: 7am

New Year Day Saturday 1st Jan 2022: 7am



COVID 19 SAFETY RULES

PLEASE WEAR MASKS. EVERYONE WELCOME!

Please use QR CODE or write your name and phone number on the sheets provided at both entries.

Please adhere to social distancing guidelines of 2sqms and sanitise your hands at the door.

Also wipe seats down afterwards with wipes provided at both entries.

**IF YOU ARE NOT WELL OR EXPERIENCING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS,
PLEASE STAY HOME AND ISOLATE.**

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 Hilarion 0478 909 541, Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882, Office for Safeguarding 83791605.

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.

Office Hours: **Mondays & Fridays**
9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

Email: hilarionfernando@yahoo.com

After hours: 0478 909 541

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia

Address: 2 Fagans Road,
Arcadia NSW 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

Bank Details for ONLINE only donations:

BSB: 062 784

Acct: 100002141 (**NEW BANK DETAILS**)

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.