

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia

To listen gladly to Holy reading.

Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4



**COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS UPDATE:**

**MASSES SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

Please contact Father Hilarion for the following:

**BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS**

Fr Hilarion: 0478 909 541

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

11 & 12 September 2021

FR HILARION'S MESSAGE

Dear friends in Christ,

On the 8th of September was the feast of the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. An inspiration came to me. How can we beautify our church? Immediately I thought of the NATURE STRIP of our church premises. How wonderful if we could beautify the Nature Strip along the Arcadia Road and Fagans Road, to indicate that our parish church is the heart of our community.

So I humbly invite some of you or a few families to undertake this project. I am sure many others will support you.

Thank you!

May God bless you and protect you during the coming week!!

Dom Hilarion OSB

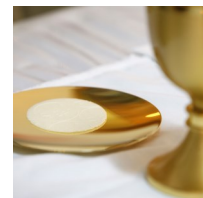
*Thanking You for Your
Service to Our Parish*



A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION BY SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen.



SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Let us pray.

*Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:5-9 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

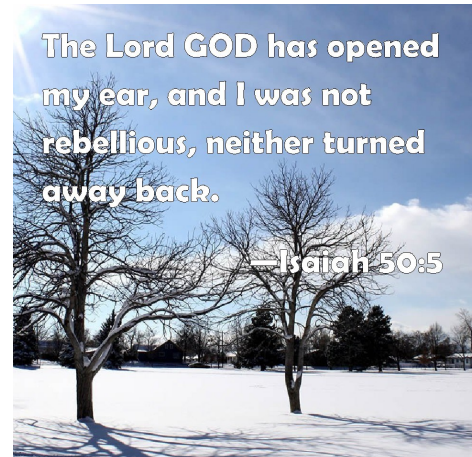
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,

who dare condemn me?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Second Reading

James 2:14-18 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St James

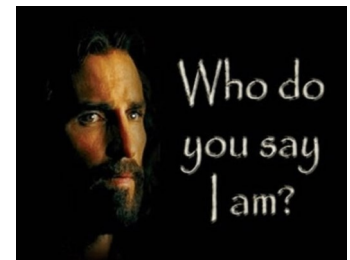
Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-35 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY STORY

STARTER: THE WORLD'S FASCINATION FOR POWER

Power is fascinating. Superhuman power is even more fascinating. No wonder there are so many super hero movies in Hollywood. Super Man to Iron Man, Wonder Woman to Black Widow, men and women infused with superhuman powers, emerge as the saviours of the world against some destructive evil force.

In most Religious traditions too, the fascination for super human power attested to their gods is very evident. In some ancient religious traditions, there are as many gods, as many super powers and natural or supernatural forces as one can list. For example, one for war, one for thunder, one for wealth and one for knowledge and so on. The gods are worshipped and honoured to the extent they can exercise their powers in favour of their devotees in exchange for prayer and sacrifice.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Mark 8:27-35

Peter's Declaration of Faith and Jesus' Reply

This is the turning-point of Mark's Gospel. Till now the stories we have heard have all shown ever-increasing wonder and amazement at Jesus' personality, his goodness and his authority. But even his closest disciples do not seem to have seen what this implies. Then suddenly Peter comes to the realisation that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed of God, for whom everyone was waiting. However, Peter still does not understand what this implies. Jesus is not a conquering political hero, who will simply wipe out all opposition by overwhelming force, and make every path smooth and gentle. Jesus begins to show his disciples that the road to fulfilment is through suffering. Three times Jesus repeats this prophecy, and three times the disciples fail to grasp the lesson, first Peter, then the disciples who are arguing about precedence, then the two sons of Zebedee, who want the best places for themselves. So three times Jesus repeats that if you want to follow Jesus you must follow him to the Cross. Nor are we, later followers of Jesus, any quicker than the first disciples to learn this lesson. We greet with indignation and resistance any suffering that comes our way.

Question: Why does Jesus rebuke Peter so fiercely?

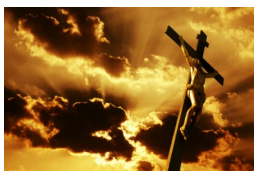
(Source: Henry Wansborough OSB in Companion to the Sunday Gospel 2021 Pg. 99)

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday 13 September 2021: | St John Chrysostom |
| Tuesday 14 September 2021: | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross |
| Wednesday 15 September 2021: | Our Lady of Sorrows |
| Thursday 16 September 2021: | Sts Cornelius, Pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr |
| Friday 17 September 2021: | St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor |

Source: Ordo 2021

THE STORY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS FEAST DAY: 14 SEPTEMBER



Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

Source: www.franciscanmedia.org

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 weeks. We really appreciate it.

With the suspension of Liturgies and Masses, our parish income has been severely affected. Planned Giving, Donations and Electronic Transfers can keep us going during this difficult time. If you are in a position to do so, please consider maintaining your Planned Giving donations.

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!

HOPE OUT OF HORROR

Webinar on Refugees

Thursday 23 Sep 7.00pm to 8.00pm

In the wake of the tremendous difficulties currently being faced by those in Afghanistan and by Afghans currently in Australia on temporary visas.

SJAB (*Social Justice Around the Bay*),

St. Vincent de Paul,

Northern Sydney / Central Coast Regional Social Justice Committee and

Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS) are holding a Webinar titled:

**Hope Out of Horror – Seeking Refuge in Australia
Thursday, 23 September, 7.00pm – 8.00pm**

This is a chance to hear the stories of those seeking Refuge and Asylum in Australia and to join a cry to Canberra to:

1. Offer Permanent Protection to all Refugees
2. Enable access to Family Reunions for Refugees
3. Offer a Safety Net, including Medical and Financial Assistance to those in need of refuge

REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS ESSENTIAL

To register click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/stories-of-hope-and-courage-seeking-refugee-in-australia-tickets-166888717647>

FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY MOVING FULLY ONLINE

At long last, starting 3 October 2021, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council. Due to the current climate the format of the assembly has evolved from a large gathering, to smaller hubs and now to a fully online gathering with one person per device. While not ideal, and not what we had hoped, the national team will continue to assist and support the members and delegates so that they may participate as effectively as possible.

While many may question why we are proceeding with the Plenary Council at this time; the desire to fulfil Christ's mission, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, is part of the thinking in moving ahead. It is precisely the challenges that people are now facing, the isolation and disconnect, that we are hoping the Church will be able to address. Please continue to pray for the Plenary Council, the members and delegates as they prepare to fulfill their role in the coming months.

You can keep abreast of all the latest news, access the Instrumentum Laboris and sign up to the Plenary Council Newsletter by heading to the National website: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

In Our Parish

We remember in our prayers, all our dearly beloved who have died.

We pray for the sick of our Parish,

especially Brother Mario, and Theresa Gittany (Lila Bacha's mum).



CATHOLIC CARE BROKEN BAY

Are you struggling to pay the bills? CatholicCare can help with Coles or Woolworths vouchers.

Times are tough. You might have lost work due to the lockdown, or you might be finding it hard to put food on the table. Please call CatholicCare on (02) **9481 2600** or email them at info@catholiccaredbb.org.au. They are here to help our parish families.

Please note this support is able to be offered due to Government funding so they will require ID and some documentation to access assistance but they can walk you through the requirements.

SHE PONDERED THESE THINGS IN HER HEART

(SEE LK 2:19)

By Sally Read

These times have taken away my ready answers.

As I leave church a lady approaches me, thinking I'm someone else and even when I say I'm not she speaks to me as if she knows me, with an expectant and open smile. I guess she has dementia, but, masked and cautious, I stand a metre away and try to make my eyes do all the talking—to make them show I'd normally place a hand on her arm, would normally lean in to listen as I walked with her to the car park.

My daughter stands, watching us. She knows I place great store on hugging, taking hands. I've spent her life telling her to never stand back from someone in need, not to look away.

Our faith is all touch. Jesus used his spit to heal a blind man's eyes; the bleeding woman fingered his hem; he took the little sick girl by the hand.

I have no ready answers for this world of distance. I think of Christ's *Noli Me Tangere* to Mary Magdalene. If nothing else, those words show us that touch isn't always called for. Through history mankind has endured deprivation – of food, of shelter, of certainty. We've tried, and often succeeded, in mastering all of these. Saint Teresa of Kolkata described loneliness as being the greatest disease of the Western World. Perhaps, like Mary Magdalene, we're being asked to stand at a little distance, bewildered, as we discern how best to protect and care for one another. Our model is the Magdalene whose arms, I imagine, remained agonizingly outstretched. And Christ who never abandons us physically. Touch is what we return to.

Source: Magnificat—September 2021 Vol 11; No.12. Pg 135)



Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities

A Guide to Supporting & Engaging, Listening and Communicating with Children and Young People

This weekend Parish Communities across Australia celebrate Safeguarding Sunday Mass. The Safeguarding Office of the Diocese of Broken Bay in collaboration with the Safeguarding teams of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Diocese of Parramatta are proud to make available a significant resource to support Catholic Communities develop a culture where adults consider, encourage and invite the participation and consultation of children and young people.

The resource is available online. Click here to access www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-month-2021

If you are interested in a hard copy of the guide or would like to learn more about how to implement these principles of participation speak with your Parish Priest, Parish Safeguarding Officer or contact the Office for Safeguarding on

P 8379 1605 or E safeguarding@bbcatholic.org.au



CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE
OF SYDNEY



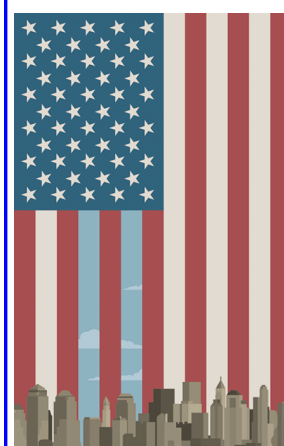
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BROKEN BAY



Supporting & Engaging | Listening | Communicating

MEMORIAL PRAYERS FOR 911

On this 20th anniversary of 911 in New York, we remember all the victims and their families.



May all of us remember with love and compassion this day.

*May we grieve with those who still mourn,
And share memories with those who cannot forget.*

*May we draw strength from those who bravely responded,
And gave their lives to save others.*

*May we stand with strangers who became neighbours that day,
And remember their generosity and hospitality.*

*Above all God may we remember your faithfulness
And learn to trust in your unfailing love.*

Amen.



Virtual Open Day
Tuesday 28 Sep

campion.edu.au/virtual-open-day



PRAYER FOR HEALING DURING THIS PANDEMIC

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Holy Mary, health of the sick,
All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: St Joseph, guardian of us all,
All: **Pray for us.**

(Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane)

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing
our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

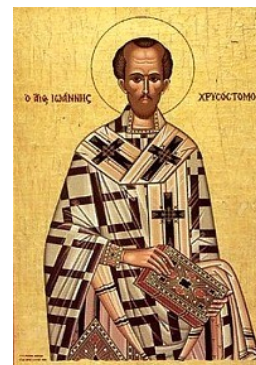
*(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches.
We have been invited to pray this prayer at 7pm each day.)*

SAINT OF THE WEEK

***Saint John Chrysostom,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church
c. 347-407***

Feast Day: September 13

Patron Saint of Preachers and Speakers



A great preacher, writer, and intellectual suffers for the faith he elucidates

Saint John Chrysostom was from Antioch, that “Metropolis of heresy” in Saint John Henry Newman’s words, where Arianism was bred, incubated, thrived, and died in the period between the Council of Nicea in 325 and the Council of Constantinople in 381.

John received an excellent education in the liberal arts and was baptized at the age of eighteen, in keeping with the custom of adult baptism common to his era. He joined a rustic group of hermits in the hills outside of his hometown in his mid-twenties. The conditions were so physically and psychologically brutal, though, that he left after seven years. Living always isolated and mortified would not be his path. He was ordained a priest in 386. His bishop recognized his gifts and put him in charge of the physical and pastoral care of the poor of Antioch, a ministry in which he honed his natural gifts as a preacher. He was so skillful in preaching that, a century after his death, he was given the title of *chrysostom*, or “golden mouth.” John’s theological acumen was no less impressive. His sermons and letters display a refined understanding of the intricacies of the Holy Trinity and of the Gospels. His beautiful theological and spiritual reflections are referenced numerous times in the modern Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In 398 Saint John was consecrated the Archbishop of Constantinople, the New Rome, provoking jealousy among some contemporaries. John did himself no favors by his overaggressive reforms as Archbishop. He bluntly criticized women for wearing make-up, Christians for attending races and games on holy days, the imperial court for its extravagances, and the clergy for their laxity and wealth-seeking. Recriminations soon followed. He was falsely charged with treason and other crimes and was exiled in 402. He was reinstated after an earthquake in Constantinople was interpreted as divine punishment for his banishment. But John was exiled a second time shortly thereafter. Like other saints, his time of exile proved fruitful. He wrote numerous letters, specifically to bishops in the Western Empire, including the pope. But also like other exiled popes and bishops, assertions of support were only as sturdy as the paper on which they were written. Practical help never materialized. John died in exile in 407, a victim of cold, rain, a forced march and lack of food. Within a decade after his death, his reputation was restored by the pope, and his remains were transferred for burial in Constantinople. He was recognized as a Father of the Church at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1568.

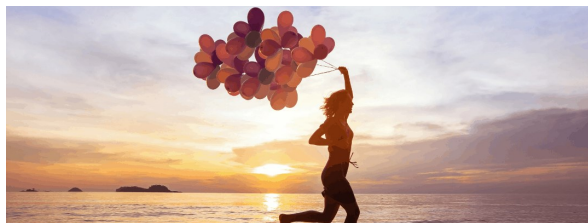
Saint John suffered for his zeal. He was exiled by civil power in an age when correct theology was understood as a form of patriotism, and heresy as treason. He crossed the civil powers of his age, did not back down, and paid a severe price for his fidelity. When Crusaders sacked Constantinople in 1204, they stole John’s relics and carried them back to Rome. In 2004 Pope Saint John Paul II authorized the return of some of John’s remains to the seat of the Orthodox Patriarch in Saint George Church in present-day Istanbul, John’s own episcopal city.

Saint John Chrysostom, the heat of your words burned so hot that you were persecuted for your ardor. Inspire all Christian preachers to light a fire of faith in their congregations, without fear for their own reputations or of recrimination. Amen.

PRAYER FOR HAPPINESS AND JOY

Dear Lord,

Thank you for all your blessings,
For my family, friends and neighbours.
Thank you for all the beauty
In the skies, the lakes and the mountains.
Thank you for all the excitement of celebration,
Birthdays, weddings and christenings.
Thank you for all the variety of animals, birds and insects.
Thank you for all the enrichment of music, art and literature.
Thank you for the amazing jigsaw of life!
What a beautiful picture is made when I place all these pieces together!
Thank you for the promise of eternity,
For the sacrifices you made so that I can be free,
Free to make my life into a glorious patchwork of thanksgiving
That carries me onwards to the promises of new heavenly pieces to add to all that I already hold.
Thank you. **AMEN.**



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.
AMEN.



COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS—ALL MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

PLEASE WEAR MASKS.

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 sanitize 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, ISOLATE AND GET TESTED.

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:
10.30am to 2.30pm (CLOSED)

Parish Office: 9653 2312

Parish Priest: Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

After hours: 0478 909 541

Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: [stbenedictsarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictsarcadia)

Address: Cnr Fagans & Arcadia Rd,
Arcadia 2159

Monastery: 9653 1159

Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

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: 100002141 (NEW BANK DETAILS)
Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund