

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



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



4 bulletins in 1
Christmas
The Holy Family
New Year's Day
Epiphany

Year C

24th December 2024 to 5th of January 2025



Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

On behalf of St Benedict's Parish Arcadia, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a very Merry Christmas!

May the Infant Jesus bless you abundantly and fill your hearts with His boundless love and joy.

We pray that you have a Christmas that is both blessed and safe, surrounded by peace, hope, and happiness.

**With warmest blessings,
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 for the following:

**BAPTISMS
 RECONCILIATION
 FOR THE SICK
 MARRIAGES
 FUNERALS**

**Parish Priest:
 Fr Shansana 0437 884 233**



First Reading *Isaiah 52:7-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

All the ends of the earth shall see the saving power of our God.

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading *Hebrews 1:1-6*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

In our own time, God speaks to us through his Son.

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel *John 1:1-18 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory.

In the beginning was the Word:

the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men,

a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. 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. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from this fullness we have, all of us, received—yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."

- Lk 2:11

First Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 (Year C) (JB)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 (Year C) (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St. John

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:

that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,

to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:41-52 (Year C) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.



Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27 (JB)

A reading from the book of Numbers

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. May God bless us in his mercy.

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:16-21 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib ...When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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

Source: Liturgia.com.au



First Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST - FATHER SHANSANA

A Heartfelt Thank You To:

- All our cherished parishioners.
- Our generous benefactors, donors, and volunteers.
- The dedicated fundraisers, with special thanks to **Lila Bacha** for her incredible work with the Piety Shop, and thank you to all the Fête organisers.
- Parish staff: **Karen Price, Mary Cascun, Joe Gatt, and Paula El-Chaar.**
- Catechists, with a special mention to **Miriam Brown**, co-ordinating the catechists and also helping in the office.
- Members of the Pastoral Parish Council and Parish Finance Committee.
- Our talented musicians and choirs, with special appreciation for **Melanie Hume** for coordinating their efforts and big job with the rosters and helping out in the office.
- Those who supported the Sacramental Program, especially **Gebran Azzi** for teaching the children.
- Our numerous volunteers who help out immensely whenever we need it! Too many to name!

A Special Note of Gratitude:

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Reverend Fathers David, Michael, Bernard, and Eugene** for their unwavering support and dedication to meeting the needs of our parish. Your tireless efforts and commitment to our spiritual community are deeply appreciated. May God bless you always, and may you continue to inspire and lead us in faith.

As we step into 2025, let us continue to come together in faith and unity to build up our parish community spiritually and socially.

May God bless your kindness and generosity!

Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Parish Office will be **closed from Monday, 23rd December 2024**, and will **reopen on Friday, 10th January 2025**. During the month of January, the office will only be open on **Fridays**.

For anything **urgent**, contact Paula at **0423 078 282**.

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday	December 25, 2024:	The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Thursday	December 26, 2024:	St Stephen, the first Martyr
Friday	December 27, 2024:	St John, apostle, evangelist
Saturday	December 28, 2024:	The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Sunday	December 29, 2024:	The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH
Monday	December 30, 2024:	6TH DAY IN THE Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Tuesday	December 31, 2024:	7TH DAY IN THE Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Wednesday	January 1, 2025:	MARY, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD
Thursday	January 2, 2025:	Sts Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops, doctors
Friday	January 3, 2025:	Friday before the Epiphany
Saturday	January 4, 2025:	Saturday before the Epiphany
Sunday	January 5, 2025:	The EPHIPHANY of the LORD

Source: Ordo 2025

In Our Parish

We pray for the sick of our Parish, especially Joseph Guiana, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died,
Especially Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock,
Brother Terry & Colleen Bennett ~ May they rest in eternal Peace.



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

My precious Lord Jesus,

I adore You with all my heart and rejoice in the wondrous celebration of Your birth.

Your love for us is boundless—glorious, transformative, awe-inspiring, and deeply personal.

You chose to humble Yourself, to dwell among us, and to be born into poverty, rejection, and humility. Yet, Your mother, Mary, knew the greatness of the Child she bore. Her heart overflowed with tender love as she gazed upon her Son—her God.

Help me, dear Lord, to love You with the heart of Your mother.

Invite me into the joy of adoration with St. Joseph and the humble shepherds.

Open my eyes to the wondrous glory and power of Your birth,
and transform my life through this perfect gift of Yourself.

I love You, dear Lord Jesus.

I long to love You with all my heart.

Newborn Savior of the World, I trust in You.

Mother Mary and St. Joseph, pray for me and for all.

Amen.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th Dec 2024
7.00pm & 11.30pm
(Midnight Mass commences 11.45pm)

Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th Dec 2024:
9.00am & Latin Mass 10.30am

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY
Saturday Vigil 28th Dec 2024
7.00pm
Sunday 29th Dec 2024
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Feast Mary the Holy Mother of God
Wednesday 1st Jan 2025
9.30am

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Sunday 5th Jan 2025
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Sunday 12th Jan 2025
9.00am & 10.30am
4.30pm Latin Mass

MONASTERY CHAPEL
Daily as usual 7.00am



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.

PARISH OFFICE:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

(Closed from Monday, 23rd December 2024, and will reopen on Friday, 10th January 2025. During the month of January, the office will only be open on Fridays.

If urgent call Paula on 0423 078 282)

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: [stbenedict sarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedict sarcadia)



**PARISH BANK DETAILS for
ONLINE only donations:**

BSB: 062 784 Account: 10002141

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

**MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159**