

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



**EIGHTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C
1 & 2 MARCH 2025**

*Why do you observe
the splinter in your
brother's eye and
never notice the
plank in your own?*



Luke 6:39-45

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



ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SELF REFLECTION: JUDGING OTHERS

Luke 6:39-45 reminds me to focus on my own flaws before criticizing others, urging me to examine my heart and actions. It challenges me to ensure that my words and deeds reflect a good and genuine inner character, fostering kindness and understanding.

- *Am I quick to judge others without addressing my own flaws first?*
- *How do my words and actions reflect the condition of my heart?*
- *What steps can I take to remove the "planks" in my own life?*
- *Are my relationships and interactions guided by compassion and understanding?*
- *What kind of fruit is my life producing, and does it align with the values I want to live by?*

Dear Lord,
Help me to see my own shortcomings and to address them with humility before I point out the flaws in others. Teach me to be gentle with my words and actions, so that they reflect the goodness in my heart. Cleanse me, Lord, and help me bear good fruit in all I do, that my life may honour You and bring light to those around me. May Your love shape my heart and guide me in understanding and compassion. Amen.

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,

since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 6:39-45 (JB)

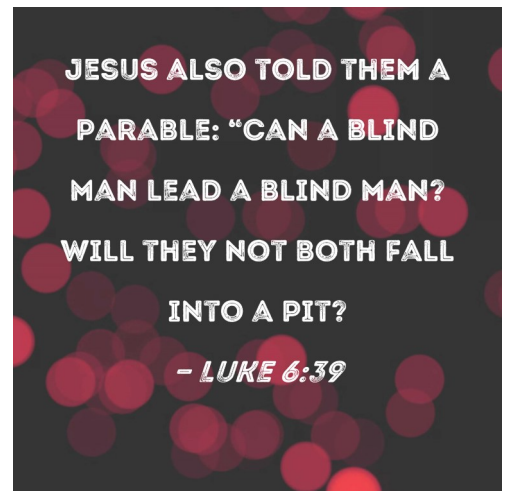
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION
Sunday March 2, 2025
Luke 6:39-45

The 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) invites us to reflect on the power of the choices we make and the depth of our inner lives. In the Gospel (Luke 6:39-45), Jesus teaches that a person's words and actions flow from the heart, highlighting the importance of cultivating a good heart to produce good fruit. We are called to examine ourselves honestly—removing the "plank" in our own eye before judging others. This reflection challenges us to focus on personal growth, to live with integrity, and to let God's love transform our hearts so that we can radiate compassion and kindness in our relationships with others.

On this Sunday, we are reminded that the fruit we bear in life depends on the state of our hearts and that our relationship with God shapes our ability to love and understand those around us. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are encouraged to reflect on how we can align our inner lives with God's will, allowing His grace to work in us and through us.

As we journey through the Lenten season, this Sunday's readings offer us a timely invitation to deeper self-reflection and repentance. Lent is a season of renewal and transformation, a time to open our hearts to God's healing and to seek greater alignment with His will. This is a season to examine our hearts and ask ourselves if they are bearing good fruit. Are we growing in love, kindness, and compassion? Are we allowing God to purify our hearts so that we can reflect His light in the world?

In our prayer and fasting, let us ask God to reveal to us the areas where we need healing, where our hearts need to be transformed. Let us ask for the strength to remove the "planks" in our lives—the attitudes, behaviors, and habits that hinder us from loving as Christ loves. And let us pray for the grace to bear good fruit, not for our own glory, but for the glory of God and the service of others.

Ultimately, the message of this Sunday is one of hope. God is always willing to transform our hearts, no matter how imperfect or flawed we may feel. With His grace, we can bear good fruit and live lives that reflect His love and mercy to the world. Let us open our hearts to this transformation, trusting that God, who sees what is hidden in our hearts, will help us to grow and flourish in His love.

Source: chatgpt

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MARCH

- Monday 3 Readings: Sir 17:24-29. Mk 10:17-27.
R: Let the just exult and rejoice in the Lord.
- Tuesday 4 Readings: sir 35:1-12. Mk 10:28-31.
R: To the upright I will show the saving power of God.
St Casimir.
- Wednesday 5 Readings: Joel 2:12-18. Mt 6:1-6, 16-18.
R: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
ASH WEDNESDAY
- Thursday 6 Readings: Deut 30:15-20. Lk 9:22-25.
R: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
- Friday 7 Readings: Is 58:1-9. Mt 9:14-15.
R: A broken humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.
Collect of Sts Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
AUTUMN EMBER DAY - Special Day of Prayer and Penance.
- Saturday 8 Readings: Is 58:9-14. Lk 5:27-32.
R: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may be faithful in your sight.
Collect of St John of God, religious.



Source: Ordo 2025



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

Sr Wendy Bartlett
2 March 2008 - 17 years

Congratulations, Sister Wendy, on the anniversary of your profession! May God continue to bless you abundantly as you live out your vocation with faith, love, and dedication.

Your commitment and devotion are an inspiration to all, and we pray that you continue to grow in His grace and serve others with joy and compassion. May this special day remind you of the many lives you have touched and the love you share through your faithfulness. God bless you always!

With heartfelt thanks and blessings,

The Community of St Benedict's Parish

PALMS FROM LAST YEAR'S PALM SUNDAY



Could you please bring back the palm leaves from last year's Palm Sunday?

PLEASE BRING THE PALMS BY TUESDAY AT THE LATEST.

Place leaves in bucket next to Sacristy.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES



THIS WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5, 2025

MONASTERY 7.00AM

**PARISH 9.30AM &
7.00PM**

VISITING THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We invite you to join us in a vital mission to visit the sick in our parish.

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are struggling and in need of comfort, companionship, and prayer. This is an opportunity for us to live out our faith and extend love and care.

Additionally, if you know anyone who has not been attending Mass or engaging with the church, please let us know. It's important to reconnect and offer support to those who may feel isolated or disconnected.

Your help is essential. Together, we can bring compassion and care to those in need.

Please contact the parish office.

LENLEN PROGRAM

Benigna Cascun will be hosting a Lenten Program this year in her home:

726a Old Northern Road, Dural.

Every Wednesday night commencing

12th March 2025

Time 7.00pm

The program will be lead by Gebran Azzi.

All are welcome.

If you would like to host a Lenten Program at your place or at the parish Church please contact the parish office or let Fr Shansana know as soon as possible.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM RESUMES

For the children who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2024:

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Classes begin:

WEDNESDAYS 4 sessions:

Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26 March 2025

5.30pm to 6.30pm

Presentation to the Parish - Sunday 6th April 2025

10.30am Mass

First Reconciliation on – Friday 11th April 2025

4.00pm to 6.00pm

Please contact Parish Office for more information.

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

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

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

**We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died,
Especially Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana, Brian Bugden,
Michael Swan (Therese Murphy's brother), Vanessa Papandrea,
Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry & Colleen Bennett
~ May they rest in Peace.**



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

SAKKAL FAMILY

A heartfelt thank you to the Sakkal family for organising the lawn mowing around the Church. We are truly grateful for your efforts in taking on such a big task. Your dedication and support mean so much to our parish, and we deeply appreciate all that you do for our community.

Thank You

If you know someone who deserves to be recognised as next week's volunteer, please send an email to the parish.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

St. Benedict's Youth Group Announcement COMMENCED FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY



- **Fridays SCHOOL TERM**
- Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
- Ages: 8-12 years old

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

All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks.

Thank you,
Gabe & Jules!

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

For our Lenten themed Maker's Table workshop in March we will be creating string art crosses.



Wednesday, March 12th

(pushed back a week due to Ash Wednesday)

7.30-9.30pm in the parish meeting room

Cost: \$10 per participant. Please bring a small hammer with you if possible please.

RSVP by 9th March to

themakerstablesydney@gmail.com

Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425-834-017

CATECHISTS' NEWS

All SRE (Scripture) classes have now resumed. Please continue to keep in prayer our Catechists and students.

Free Ministry Induction training continues for all new Catechists. This week's topic is 'SRE Teacher in the Parish and the School' via Zoom.

This year is a Year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. Pope Francis in his letter of announcement of the Jubilee theme said:

'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...'

Alison Newell from the CCD of Broken Bay Diocese goes on to say 'A Jubilee Year brings many blessings on faith communities, so let's work together so that the Catholic communities we minister to in our public schools will be richly blessed during this time.'

As Catechists we always aim to bring this message of hope to all students.

If you are interested to join this ministry and become a Catechist or helper, please contact myself or Paula at the parish office or any of our priests.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



PIETY SHOP NEWS

Parish Piety Shop Hours



The Parish Piety Shop is open every Sunday. Additionally, it opens on the first Saturday night of every month and the first Sunday of each month, after the 7:00 AM Monastery Mass.

Be sure to stop by and browse our offerings!

Watch this space for updates on what's new in the shop.

Exciting Easter stock are slowly coming in. Please come have a look!

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP

Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Everyone welcome.



For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.

CRAFT GROUP

The quilting and craft group will meet every **4th Tuesday** of the month at 10.30am in the parish meeting room.

Bring your craft and come and join us!

CCC PRAYER GROUP



Prayer meeting held every **Wednesday morning:**
after 9.30am Mass.

Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!

For more details call
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY

1st and 2nd of March 2025



This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



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Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



MOVING BOOKS - HELP NEEDED

Joe Gatt and Paul El-Chaar will be taking the books to Hornsby on Sunday after the 10.30am Mass. If anyone can help after Mass carrying boxes into the truck we would really appreciate it! See Paul after Mass.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD Atrium Caroline Chisholm Centre

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a program for young children in Montessori methodology 3-6yrs and 6-9 yrs. An Atrium has opened in the Caroline Chisholm Centre 2/423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. Weekly sessions run for 90 minutes each.

Our Atrium is authentically Catholic, and helps children to understand the beauty of the Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, the power of scripture, with additional focus on major feast days of the liturgical year.

For all enquiries and bookings, please contact Mary Clare: 0435 496 624 or via email cgs.marymount@gmail.com

THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF LENT: A TIME FOR REFLECTION, REPENTANCE, AND RENEWAL

Lent is a season in the Christian liturgical calendar that lasts for 40 days, leading up to Easter. It is a time of prayer, fasting, and penance, where Christians prepare for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The 40-day period symbolises the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness, resisting temptation.

During Lent, believers reflect on their spiritual lives, seek to grow closer to God, and engage in acts of repentance. It is a time for personal reflection, renewal, and self-discipline. The season often includes practices like giving up certain luxuries or habits (fasting), engaging in prayer, doing acts of charity, and attending special church services. Ultimately, Lent is a time to focus on spiritual growth, self-examination, and preparation for the joy of Easter.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

WEEK 3-9 MARCH 2025

JUBILEE OF THE WORLD OF VOLUNTEERING

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering is an opportunity to thank, affirm and encourage the many lay people who contribute to the world through volunteering.



Broken Bay Pilgrimage Assisi | Rome | October 2025

Broken Bay pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome with Chaplain, Fr Hien Vu on 1-10 October 2025 please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Installation of Relic of St John Vianney at Mary Immaculate Manly | 2 March 2025

Bishop Anthony has designated Mary Immaculate, Manly as the Shrine of Hope for Priests and Vocations for the Holy Year, under the patronage of St John Vianney.

The relic of St John Vianney will be installed at the Shrine at by the Bishop at the evening Mass on Sunday 2 March, 2025.

Jubilee Pilgrim Passports Kicking off on 3 March 2025

With the installation of the relic at the last of the three Shrines of Hope for the Diocese of Broken Bay, we are ready to launch our Jubilee Pilgrim Passport initiative for the Holy Year. The parish will receive Pilgrim Passports and an accompanying Prayer and Resource Journal next week.

Make sure you get a copy when they become available and use it to record your own local Jubilee Pilgrimage to the holy sites in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

THE ART OF CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK | SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2025

For Members of **Parish Liturgy Committees, Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar, Senior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion** are invited to attend this day seminar, which will focus on the different Holy Week – Easter Triduum liturgies: Palm Sunday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday 9:30am - 3pm in the Caroline Chisholm Centre, 2/423 Pennant Hills Rd Pennant Hills Morning tea and lunch provided.

- Saturday 10 May – Back to Basics
- Saturday 16 August – RCIA – Practical Foundations | Liturgical Fundamentals | Ongoing Formation
- Saturday, 25 October – Rekindle Our Wonder

For more information or to register your interest, please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Roster

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS**

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**8/3/2025 to 9/3/2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	George A
Reader1	Natasha S	Kath M	Lorna B
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Judy H	Leanne A
Prayers	Miriam B	Gabrielle W	John family
TV		Nigel M	Theresa G
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		John T	Jack F
Music		Noelle T	Martina J
Music			
Morning Tea		Tania T	
FLOWERS	<i>No flowers</i>	<i>during lent</i>	



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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

SAFEGUARDING MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St Benedict's Parish are committed to fostering a community of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

If you have a concern for the safety and wellbeing of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, tell someone who can help. These people in our parish can help: Fr Shansana 0437 884 233 - Lorraine Dailey 0416 081 882 - Office for Safeguarding 8379 1605.

**For all parish OH&S and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm
(School holidays only open Fridays)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159
Email: arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au
Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233

Facebook: stbenedictsarcadia



MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours

"Seven times a day I will praise you" Psalm
119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings
6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds
12.45pm Midday prayer
6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers
8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

ALL are welcome to attend any time.

EASTER 2025

Ash Wednesday – 5th March

Monastery – 7.00am
Parish Church – 9.30am & 7.00pm

Palm Sunday – 13th April

Monastery - 7.00am
Parish Church - 9.00am and 10.30am
Latin 4.30pm

Holy Thursday 17th April

Parish Church only - 7.30pm

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday 18th April

Parish Church - 10.30am

Passion of the Lord - Good Friday 18th April

Parish Church - 3.00pm

Easter Vigil - Holy Saturday 19th April

Parish Church - 7.30pm



Easter Sunday - 20th April

Monastery - 7.00am
Parish Church - 9.00am
Latin 10.30am

DID YOU KNOW...



We receive communion either on our tongue or on the palm of our left hand using our right hand to consume the host.



MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

PARISH BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations:
BSB: 062 784 Account: 10002141
Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:
CBA—Catholic Development Fund