

# St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

30 NOVEMBER & 1 DECEMBER 2024



### 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**



### INTRODUCTORY RITES

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
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: VIGILANCE WITH HOPE

*In this Sunday's Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36, Jesus challenges us to stay alert, living with purpose and faith, and to trust in God's timing. It calls us to pray for strength, so we are ready for whatever lies ahead, with our heart set on His promises.*

- *Am I focused on the things of this world, or am I keeping my eyes on God's promises?*
- *How can I live more intentionally in light of Christ's return?*
- *Do I trust in God's timing and promises, even when the world seems chaotic?*
- *Am I making prayer the central part of my daily life?*

**Lord,**

*I am reminded of the uncertainty and chaos that surrounds me. Help me to stay vigilant and focused on You, not allowing the worries of life to distract or overwhelm my heart. Strengthen my faith, Lord, that I may always look to You as my ultimate hope. Teach me to pray with a heart of readiness, trusting in Your perfect timing and promises. May I live each day with purpose, alert and prepared, anticipating Your return. Keep my spirit awake and anchored in Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved

and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - 4:2 (JB)**

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

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
**Sunday of Advent, December 1**  
**Jeremiah 33:14-16**  
**Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14**  
**1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**  
**Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

*I will raise up for David a just shoot. (Jeremiah 33:15)*

Happy Advent! This season of waiting and preparation is just what we need to get ready to welcome the Lord at Christmas. Yet Advent can so quickly become filled with parties, gift-buying, and card-writing, as well as apprehension or fears concerning difficult family situations. So how can we better embrace this season and the grace God has in store for us? Today's first reading gives us a beautiful image that can help us: "a just shoot" rising up to give us new life (Jeremiah 33:15).

Jesus, the true "just shoot," wants to help us embrace a sense of peaceful waiting and joyful expectation in the midst of all the busyness and crowds. As we set aside time to be with him, he can help us lift our eyes to the heavens and ponder the star that is approaching Bethlehem and the empty manger that is waiting for the Savior. He can also help us "prepare the way of the Lord" in our hearts (Luke 4:1) as we consider the ways in which our lives have become cluttered with self-centeredness or anger or pride. Jesus, the "just shoot," can give us the grace to see our sin and our anxieties more clearly and to bring them to him for forgiveness and healing.

If you're feeling the weight of the expectations and perhaps the tensions of the coming weeks, you're not alone. Say yes to God's invitation—to the disarming, gentle, "just shoot" that can bring you new life. Say yes to the One who longs to give you rest in the midst of the pressures in your life.

This Advent, commit yourself to trusting in Jesus, the "just shoot." Let him meet you where you are, lead you to deeper surrender, and make you ready to receive his presence at Christmas!

***“Lord, your ways are so different from my ways. Help me to receive all the grace you have for me this Advent.”***

*Source: Word Among Us India*

**LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**DECEMBER**

- Monday 2 Readings: Is 2:1-5. Mt 8:5-11.  
**R:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
- Tuesday 3 Readings: Is 11:1-10. Lk 10:21-24.  
**R:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.  
**St Francis Xavier, priest.**
- Wednesday 4 Readings: Is 25:6-10. Mt 15:29-37.  
**R:** I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.  
**St John Damascene, priest, doctor.**
- Thursday 5 Readings: Is 26:1-6. Mt 7:21, 24-27.  
**R:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
- Friday 6 Readings: Is 29:17-24. Mt 9:27-31.  
**R:** The Lord is my light and my salvation.  
**St Nicholas, bishop.**
- Saturday 7 Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26. Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8.  
**R:** Happy are all who long for the coming of the Lord.  
**St Ambrose, bishop, doctor.**

*Prayer to St. Nicholas*



Dear St. Nicholas, patron saint of children, please intercede for us and ask God to bless and protect all the little ones in the world, especially those who are vulnerable and in need of love and care. We ask for your guidance and support as we strive to follow your example of generosity and kindness towards others.

*Source: Ordo 2024*



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024**

**For pilgrims of hope**

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

## ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

JOIN OUR YOUTH GROUP!

Fridays during School Term  
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Ages: 8-12 years old

### LAST DAY FOR THIS YEAR: 6 DECEMBER

All of our youth leaders are accredited with Working With Children Checks.

Thank you, Gabe & Jules!

### YOUTH UPDATE SALT STARTER PACK

St. Benedict's Youth Group is excited to be considering the purchase of a Salt Starter Pack. The SALT Approach is a registered charity dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith through hands-on educational materials, helping children explore deep spiritual truths in an engaging and meaningful way.

The cost of the Starter Pack is \$2,500.00, with a retail value of \$2,825.00. We would greatly appreciate any donations to support this wonderful resource for our Youth Group. Your generosity is truly appreciated, and any contribution will make a difference. Thank you for your support!



This weekend we are starting our St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. We will be collecting donations of money and non-perishable food for the next few weeks, right up to Christmas. We would be appreciative of your support in this appeal. We have always been able to give our Local clients a much better Christmas with your generous giving. Envelopes are available around the church for donations, as well as our big buckets for any food, drinks and toiletries you may like to donate.

Thanking you in anticipation,  
Rita, Lila, Marie & Karen - Arcadia Conference

### NEW ROSTER

**NOW AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY. Please pick up your copy with your name on it as soon as possible.**

## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



**SOURAYA KAZZI**

A heartfelt thank you to Souraya Kazzi for always being there to help whenever we need it. Your dedication, especially with the sacramental program and organising the flowers in our church every month, is truly appreciated. Your kindness and support mean so much to us. Thank you for everything you do!

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

## ST BENEDICT'S BENS-MEN MEET & GREET

### END OF YEAR BARBECUE!

Hi everyone,

You're Invited to: Bens-Men Group End of Year BBQ

Join us for a night of good food, great company, and celebration as we wrap up the year.

**Here are the details:**

**St Benedict's Parish Church**

**Date: This Tuesday, 2nd December**

**Time: 6 pm - 9 pm**

All men are welcome to attend with their sons or mates. This is an informal gathering, and we look forward to catching up.

**To help with catering, please  
RSVP by Monday, 1st  
December on 0408 277 718.**

Looking forward to seeing you in the meeting room.

Best regards,

Bens-Men



## 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 **Joseph Guiana, Charlie Micallef, Brother Mario, Father Alberic.**

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



## THREE YEARS MEMORIAL MASS



In Loving Memory of  
**EMANUELE MONARDO**



**Monday, 16th December at 9:30 AM  
at the Parish Church**

Please join us for a special prayer service in memory of Emanuele Monardo, as we come together to honour and remember him.

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord,  
and let the Perpetual Light shine upon him.  
May he rest in Peace.  
Amen.*



## FLOWERS ROSTER HELP NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR 2025

We are in need of more volunteers for the flower roster. The commitment is just once every 6 to 7 weeks. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please consider lending a hand to help brighten our beautiful Church with flowers. Thank you!

## ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

**Save the date for our final Maker's Table for the  
year at 7.30pm on December 11th**

### CLAY WORKSHOP

*"As the clay is in the potter's hand, so you are in mine." Jeremiah 18:6*

[Christmas Botanical Imprints in Clay Workshop](#)

Cost: \$10 (covers materials, refreshments and donation for room hire)

RSVP by 8/12/24 so we can set a special place at the Table for you!

[themakerstablesydney@gmail.com](mailto:themakerstablesydney@gmail.com)

[www.themakerstable.org](http://www.themakerstable.org)

Martine 0458-533-250 Nerida 0425-834-017

## DELIVERY OF SECOND HAND BOOKS

We have some second-hand books in storage that weren't sold during our Fête. If anyone is available to help by driving them to the LifeLine store, it would be greatly appreciated. The Hornsby Book Depot is located at:

**1/51 Leighton Place, Hornsby**

**Open Tuesday to Thursday, 9:30am – 1:30pm.**

Thank you so much for your help!

## 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.

All Welcome.

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

Our SRE (Scripture) school year finished this week with Christmas plays being held in all schools looking at the coming of Jesus for all people, no matter how lowly and ways we can give to others to show our love for Jesus.

To celebrate the end of the year, we enjoyed a delightful Catechist Christmas dinner at Loreto and Gebran's home on Friday. Thanks to Loreto and Gebran for hosting this evening! We commenced the evening with a Mass and followed on with a beautiful meal shared by all.

A big thanks to all our parish Catechists and helpers, those who were there every week all year, as well as those who were only able to attend for a shorter time. Every minute given was cherished and will be richly rewarded!

Welcome to all families attending the Children's Mass this weekend! Also to all children completing Year 6, we congratulate you and wish all the best for next year in high school!

(Please note: An **alternative date**, next **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30am**, for the presentation of certificates and Bibles for Year 6 children, has been made for those who were not able to attend this weekend's Mass. Please let me know if your child in Year 6 is able to attend next week.)

If you are interested in knowing more about being a Catechist (Scripture teacher) or helper please feel free to talk to me, or Paula in the parish office or our priests, or parish Catechists.

God bless,

Miriam Brown [srearcadia@gmail.com](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)  
Parish Catechist Co-ordinator

## 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.

## CCC PRAYER GROUP

Prayer meeting every **Wednesday morning** after the 9.30am Mass.  
*Come and meet new people and have a cuppa!*



For more details call  
Mary Camilleri on 0403 116 987.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

## Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

Feast Day: December 7

c. 339 - c. 397



**Patron Saint of beekeepers, bishops, candlemakers, domestic animals, geese, honey cake bakers, learning, livestock, police officers, schoolchildren, security personnel, starlings, and wax refiners**

In 1298, Pope Boniface VIII named today's saint as one of the four original Doctors of the Church, along with Saints Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great. Born into a prominent family, Ambrose's father served as prefect of Gaul (France). A legend from his infancy states that a swarm of bees landed on his face and left a drop of honey, a sign of future greatness and eloquence. Ambrose was educated in Rome in rhetoric, law, and literature to prepare him for a political career. Common then, Ambrose was not baptized as an infant but remained a catechumen as an adult.

Around age thirty, Ambrose was appointed governor of the provinces of Emilia and Liguria, which included Milan. While Ambrose served as governor, the Church was suffering from internal division due to the ongoing effects of the Arian heresy. Despite Arianism's condemnation at the Council of Nicaea in 325, many laity and clergy refused to reject the heresy and accept the Nicene Creed.

In 374, the Arian Bishop of Milan died. Ambrose, concerned about turmoil in the city, offered to supervise the election of a new bishop. His eloquence led to respect from both sides—Catholics for his faith and Arians for his honor. As the crowd chanted "Ambrose for bishop," Ambrose fled. But when Emperor Gratian approved his appointment, Ambrose was baptized, ordained a priest, and consecrated as bishop.

After his consecration, Bishop Ambrose began an intense period of theological and scriptural study. His approach to the Scriptures was unique – reading silently, reflecting upon the meaning in his heart. This practice of interiorly reading Scripture is known today as *lectio divina* and has become the standard method of praying with the Scriptures. His preaching drew large crowds to packed churches, and he committed himself to living his faith. He gave away most of his wealth and land, only keeping what was necessary to ensure his sister's and family's well-being. Quickly rejecting Arianism, Ambrose spent much time shepherding the people of his diocese and the rest praying and studying the Word of God.

Bishop Ambrose's reputation caught the attention of Augustine of Hippo, who had resisted all his mother's prayers for his conversion. Bishop Ambrose's preaching, teaching, and qualities of wisdom and understanding led to Augustine's conversion and baptism, setting him on the path of becoming one of the Church's great saints who would have a strong influence on Western culture.

Bishop Ambrose influenced a series of Roman emperors for the good, leading them away from paganism and Arianism and to atone for acts of violence. In addition to being an outstanding pastor and powerful preacher, Saint Ambrose left behind writings that have had a great impact on the Church's theological tradition in which he refuted Arianism and described the true natures of Christ and the Holy Spirit. He also composed hymns, penned commentaries on Sacred Scripture, and wrote on the Blessed Mother, the Sacraments, virginity, ethics, penance, and the duties of the clergy.

*Saint Ambrose, you embraced God's call to become bishop with vigor and unwavering devotion. Through you, many lives were touched and continue to be through your writings and witness. Please pray that I will be more fully open to God's will, surrendering my own preferences to God's. Saint Ambrose of Milan, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

# PIETY SHOP NEWS

## PIETY SHOP SELLING ALL CHRISTMAS ITEMS!

Get ready for the holiday season! Our Piety Christmas Shop will feature:

- **Nativities:** Over 40 different sizes and styles available.
- **Christmas Cards:** Beautiful designs to share the joy of the season.
- **Christmas Candles:** Create a warm and festive atmosphere.
- **Christmas Angels:** Add a touch of elegance to your decorations.
- **Tree Baubles and Ornaments:** Perfect for personalizing your tree.



Front

Back

Every week we have new items in the shop.



### OPENING HOURS for DECEMBER 2024:

Saturdays: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Sundays: 8.00am to 11.30am

Mondays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

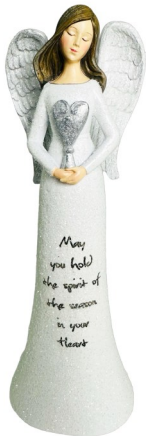
Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PIETY SHOP ROSTER

Contact Lila 0418 360 024



Back - Hang or Stand



# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

7/12/24 TO 8/12/2024  
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	George A
Reader1	Margaret B	Lorraine D	Sandra M
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Leanne A
Prayers	Mary C	Judy H	Teresa G
TV		Jules O	Xavier F
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		John T	Keith W
Music		Noelle T	Don R
Music			
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
FLOWERS	Mona M		



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

(During school holidays, the office will be open on Fridays only and closed on Mondays.)

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia 2159

Email: [arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:arcadia.parish@bbcatholic.org.au)

Website: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia)

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB

Email: [sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com)

After hours: 0437 884 233

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



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



### CHRISTMAS

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

Christmas Day 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

Tuesday 7th Jan 2025:  
9.30am

### FEAST BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Wednesday 8th Jan 2025  
9.30am

MONASTERY  
Daily as usual  
7.00am



## LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability. Please help provide families with food, water, and medical care.

DONATE NOW

[caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://caritas.org.au/lebanon)  
1800 024 413



PARISH BANK DETAILS for  
ONLINE only donations:  
BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141  
Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank:  
CBA—Catholic Development Fund

MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159  
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159