

St Benedict's Parish

Arcadia



**SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C
22 & 23 FEBRUARY 2025**



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

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, always pondering spiritual things,
we may carry out in both word and deed
that which is pleasing to you.
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: LOVE & FORGIVENESS

In Luke 6:27-38, I'm reminded to love even those who wrong me, forgiving without expecting anything in return. It challenges me to live with generosity and mercy, reflecting God's love. I'm called to trust that kindness and grace are always the better way.

- Am I willing to love and forgive those who hurt me, just as Jesus teaches in this passage?
- How can I show kindness and generosity without expecting anything in return?
- Do I practice mercy in my relationships, even when it's difficult?
- How can I reflect God's love in my actions toward others today?
- What areas of my life need more grace and less judgment?



Lord, help me to love those who may be difficult to love, and to forgive as freely as You forgive me. Teach me to show mercy, kindness, and generosity without expecting anything in return. Fill my heart with Your grace so that I can reflect Your love in all that I do. Amen.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 (JB)

A reading the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (JB)

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38 (JB)

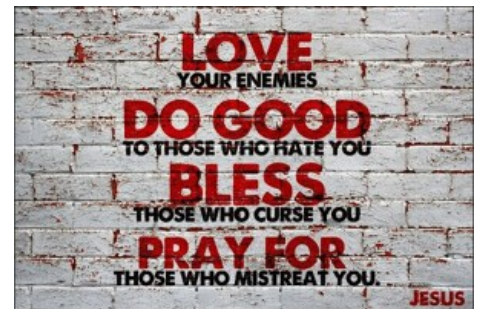
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION
Sunday February 23, 2025
Luke 6:36-38

We have the power to make choices. The power to make choices is called "free will." We use free will when we choose between good and evil. If we choose to do good things, we will grow closer to God and closer to others. We will strengthen our character, since we will be able to turn away from selfishness. We will put the good of others alongside our good. In this way, our enemies can become our friends, simply because we treat them well.

No matter how we choose, we must take responsibility for our actions. While there might be factors that limit responsibility for a certain choice, the choices we make have consequences. And we must take responsibility for those consequences.

Every person on the face of the earth has a God-given right to choose and must have that right respected. The right to choose is part of their dignity as a human being.

How can you choose when good and evil are present? Use your conscience. Conscience judges the morality of an action, how it is performed, and its consequences. Because it is so important in life, every person is obliged to obey his or her conscience.

Using conscience requires you to stop and think before acting. It also requires you to form a conscience. In other words, learn about moral issues, discuss choices with trustworthy people, practice virtue, and ask God for help. If you choose what God wants, you will always choose according to your conscience.

There are some rules that apply in every moral choice. First, never do evil so that good can result. Secondly, treat others the way you want to be treated. Last, always think of others when you choose; respect their beliefs. In this way, you can receive God's blessing.

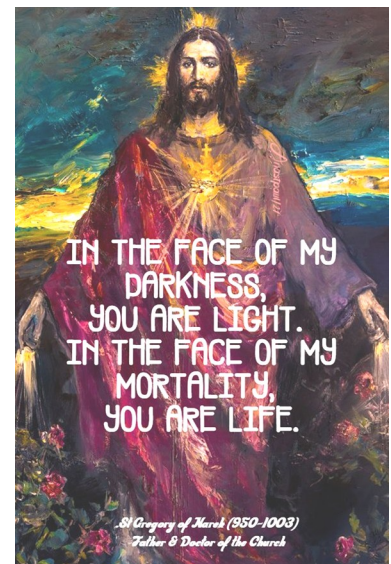
Be kind to everyone, just as God your Father is kind to you. Don't judge others, so God might not judge you. Don't condemn others, so God might not condemn you. Forgive others, so God might forgive you. Give to others freely, and God will do the same for you. What he gives to you will overflow. The way you give is the way you will receive.

Source: <http://www.word-sunday.com/>

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

FEBRUARY

- Monday 24 Readings: Sir 1:1-10. Mk 9:14-29.
R: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.
- Tuesday 25 Readings: Sir 2:1-11. Mk 9:30-37.
R: Commit your life to the Lord, and he will help you.
- Wednesday 26 Readings: Sir 4:11-19. Mk 9:38-40.
R: O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.
- Thursday 27 Readings: Sir 5:1-8. Mk 9:41-50.
R: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.
St Gregory of Narek, abbot, doctor.
- Friday 28 Readings: Sir 6:5-17. Mk 10:1-12.
R: Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.



MARCH

- Saturday 1 Readings: Sir 17:1-15. Mk 10:13-16.
R: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.

Source: Ordo 2025



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

For vocations to priestly and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life.

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

FR MICHAEL KELLY
27 February 1965 - 60 years

Dear Father Michael,

Congratulations on the remarkable milestone of your 60th anniversary of religious profession! We are deeply grateful for your steadfast commitment to God and His people over the years. Your life of service, devotion, and faith has been a true inspiration to all who have been touched by your ministry.

May God continue to bless you with strength, peace, and His abundant grace as you continue your sacred work. Thank you for your example of love and holiness, and we pray that the years ahead are filled with His everlasting presence.

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?

We would like to use them during our upcoming Ash Wednesday service. As is customary in many Christian traditions, the palms from Palm Sunday are traditionally collected and preserved for use the following year. The palms, which once symbolised the joy and celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, are burned to create the ashes used in the Ash Wednesday ritual. By reusing the palms, we honour both tradition and the continuity of our faith.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES



WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5, 2025

MONASTERY 7.00AM

PARISH 9.30AM & 7.00PM

ASH
WEDNESDAY

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!

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 *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:

NATI (ROSES) FAMILY

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed Nati Family for their most generous donation of flowers last week. Your profound act of kindness, given in loving memory of our dearly beloved Antonetta Nati, has touched our hearts deeply. We are truly moved by your thoughtfulness and generosity, which stand as a beautiful tribute to her enduring legacy.

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



DID YOU KNOW



Every time we partake in the Eucharist it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

WEEK 21-23 FEBRUARY 2025

JUBILEE OF DEACONS

The Jubilee of Deacons has a theme: 'Deacons: Joyful Witnesses of Hope', reminding us that Deacons help bring the hope and love of Christ to a world which has lost hope.

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

c. 951 - c.1003

Feast Day: February 27

Widely venerated in the Armenian Church
Declared a Doctor of the Church in 2015



Evangelized by the Apostles Saint Jude Thaddeus and Saint Bartholomew, Armenia became—in 301—the first kingdom to make Christianity its official religion. The Church thrived in Armenia, but in 451, the Armenian Church separated from the Church of Rome over disagreements on doctrine from the Council of Chalcedon. The Armenian Church remained an apostolic Church, its Sacraments and life of prayer continued, but the division remained. Attempts at reunification have intensified in recent decades, and the honoring of Saint Gregory of Narek is the Roman Church's most recent attempt to more fully unite with the Eastern Church of Armenia.

Gregory was born in 951, near Lake Van in modern-day Turkey. His mother died when he was young, leading to his deep devotion to our Blessed Mother. His father was the ruling prince of the Andzevatsiq province and an Armenian bishop and scholar whose support of some of the teachings of the Council of Chalcedon led to his excommunication from the Armenian Church.

After their mother's death, Gregory and his older brother were sent to live at the Monastery of Narek. At about the age of twenty-six, Gregory was ordained a priest for the monastery and remained there for the rest of his life, teaching theology in the monastery's school.

Shortly after his ordination to the priesthood, Gregory wrote a commentary on the Song of Songs. He also wrote commentary on the Book of Job, and numerous chants, homilies, and speeches that sang the praises of holy men. Toward the end of his life, he wrote his most famous work, The Book of Lamentations, or, as it is commonly known today, The Book of Narek.

Gregory's father taught him to remain in continuous dialogue with God, ever attentive to His divine presence. The Book of Narek is a compilation of ninety-five prayers that flow from that dialogue. Each begins with the phrase, "Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart." The prayers express a troubled—even tormented—soul's deepest love of God. The torment is not despair, but an interior expression of hope from a soul in touch with its fallen humanity and sin, while also keenly aware of God's mercy. His prayers reflect the psalms and are similar to Saint Augustine's Confessions. Saint Gregory states that these prayers were written "by the finger of God" (Prayer 34) and that he saw God, as he says, "with my own eyes" (Prayer 27f).

In the centuries after Gregory's death, Armenia suffered greatly under foreign domination, culminating in the Armenian genocide when the Turks murdered an estimated 1–1.8 million Armenians in 1915-16. During their suffering, the Armenian people relied on Saint Gregory's book of prayers. When Pope Francis declared Saint Gregory a Doctor of the Church, the book of prayers became accessible to the whole world. Let us conclude with the ending of Gregory's final prayer.

Prepare the earth for the day of light and let the soil bloom and bring forth fruit, heavenly cup of life-giving blood, ever sacrificed, never running dry all for the salvation and life of the souls in eternal rest. And though my body die in sin, with Your grace and compassion, may I be strengthened in You, cleansed of sin through You, and renewed by You with life everlasting, and at the resurrection of the righteous be deemed worthy of Your Father's blessing. To Him together with You, all glory, and with the Holy Spirit, praise and resounding thanks, now, always and forever, Amen.

Source: mycatholic.life

FIRST FRUITS OFFERING 2025

Our First Fruits Offering will end this coming Sunday, 23rd of February 2025. Parishioners have well received it, and we thank you for your interest, generosity and ongoing support.

This Sunday, February 23rd, 2025, will be the last Sunday of our First Fruits Offering / Planned Giving Renewal Program. Thank you very much to those who have taken the time to read, reflect, pray, and give financially to fulfil our Parish's plans and become planned givers.

Your ongoing support will make a difference in the long term and allow our Parish to thrive and continue proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It's been a joint effort between our Diocese and all Parishes to build a more sustainable future for our Parishes. Your offering, no matter how big or small, will enormously contribute towards renewing our faith and giving our parish a chance to continue with its ministries. You can still give until the end of the month by filling the envelope and handing it over to the Parish office.

St Benedict Parish is grateful for your offering. God Bless you.



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

CATECHIST SUNDAY

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally Catechist Sunday in the Diocese and this year will be held on **Sunday 2 March 2025**.

Catechist Sunday is an annual event in the CCD Calendar. Catechist Sunday originated in 1935 when the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education', which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities.

As catechists begin another year of ministry, parishioners are invited to stop and think about the dedicated work of these volunteers. Let us pause and recognise their selfless service, their sacrifices, and the profound impact they have on shaping the hearts and minds of those they teach. Their work is a labor of love, fostering a deeper connection to the Church, Scripture, and the traditions that bind us as a community. May we support them with our prayers and encouragement as they continue their mission to form disciples of Christ.

World Day of Prayer 2025 Cook Islands

'I made you wonderful'



Date and Time: 7th March 2025 - 10am

Location: Dural Salvation Army - 277 New Line Rd, Dural
(carpark entry via Old Northern Rd)

Contact person: Talitha - 02 9651 3456

JAMBEROO ABBEY RETREAT

Metanoia: A change of heart
(Day Retreat) 8 Mar 2025

Join us this Lent for a day of reflection as we explore what it means to experience a genuine change of heart. "Metanoia" invites us to more than simple repentance – it calls us to transformation, to seeing our lives and our world with new eyes. Retreat Cost: \$50 (Limited space available)
Benedictine Abbey 695 Jamberoo Mountain Road,
Jamberoo NSW 2533, Australia
T: +61 2 4236 0011 webadmin@jamberooabbey.org.au

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

1/3/2025 to 2/3/2025
8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	Paul E
Reader1	Mary C	Teresa G	CHILDREN
Reader2	Miriam B	Ann L	CHILDREN
Prayers	Maria G	Lorraine D	CHILDREN
TV		Volunteer	Jutrisa family
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Jack F
Music		Theresa N	Martina J
Music		Pauline H	Sandra M
Morning Tea		Sophie R	Robin B
FLOWERS	Gabrielle W		



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@bigpond.com
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



YOU ARE CALLED TO BE
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

JUBILEE 2025

IN THIS HOLY YEAR
24 DEC 2024 - 6 JAN 2026



MONASTERY: 02 9653 1159
121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia 2159

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