

# St Benedict's Parish

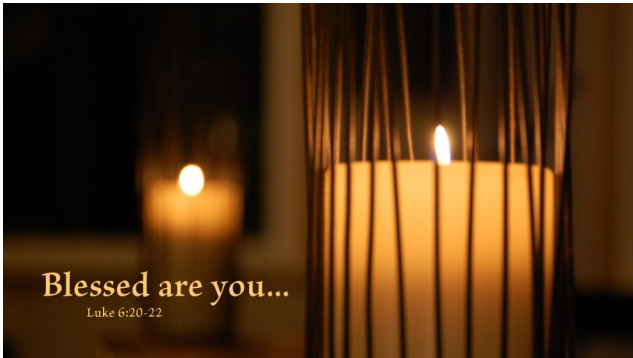
## Arcadia



### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### YEAR C

15 & 16 FEBRUARY 2025



Blessed are you...

Luke 6:20-22

#### 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

Be my protector, O God,  
 a mighty stronghold to save me.  
 For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
 Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

#### SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who teach us that you abide  
 in hearts that are just and true,  
 grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace  
 as to become a dwelling 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: TRUE HAPPINESS

*In Luke 6:17, 20-26, Jesus teaches that true happiness comes from humility, righteousness, and love, not from wealth or status. This passage reminds me to focus on what truly matters—serving others, seeking God, and staying grounded in humility, rather than being distracted by temporary successes or comforts.*

- Am I focused on earthly success, or am I seeking God's kingdom?
- How can I embrace humility and help others in need?
- Do I value kindness and righteousness over wealth and status?
- Am I willing to accept the challenges that come with living according to God's teachings?

#### Key to Happiness



**Lord,**  
**Help me focus on what truly matters—humility, compassion, and seeking Your kingdom. Guide me to live with a heart for others, not chasing worldly success, but trusting in Your love and righteousness. Amen.**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8 (JB)**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*A curse on those who trust in humanity; a blessing on those who trust in the Lord.*

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,  
who relies on things of flesh,  
whose heart turns from the Lord.

He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:  
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,  
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,  
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,  
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside  
that thrusts its roots to the stream:  
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,  
its foliage stays green;  
it has no worries in a year of drought,  
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**R.** Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 (JB)**

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

*If Christ is not raised from the dead, your faith is in vain.*

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad;  
your reward is great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: Luke 6:17, 20-26 (JB)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Happy are the poor. Woe to the rich!*

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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



**GOSPEL REFLECTION**  
**Sunday February 16, 2025**  
**Luke 6:17, 20-26**

Think about the beatitudes for a moment. Have you ever known someone who was humble? Who forgave others? Who made peace? Who was willing to stand up and do the right thing, even if others criticized them for their actions? Does this person show others what God is really like?

As much as we might want to be the kind of people who live out the Beatitudes, we need extra help. Jesus gave us that help in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives us the gift of eternal life with God, the insight to know the right thing to do, and the power to do it.

When Jesus taught the Beatitudes, he challenged his audience to look at God's Kingdom in a new way. In his Kingdom, God would bless the unselfish: the humble, the forgiving, the peacemakers, those who fought for the good of others, those who follow Jesus. Happy are those people who love as God loves.

But Jesus had a warning for the selfish:

Watch out, you rich people! You've already lived a comfortable life.

Watch out, you overeaters! You will soon go hungry.

Watch out, you jokers! You will soon cry and feel miserable.

Watch out when everyone likes you! Their ancestors also liked those who claimed to be prophets.

Obviously, we Christians have different priorities in different areas of life at different times. So the question of selfless (poor) vs. selfish (rich) is not so clear cut. However, a simple reflection over the past week can help you make changes for the next week.

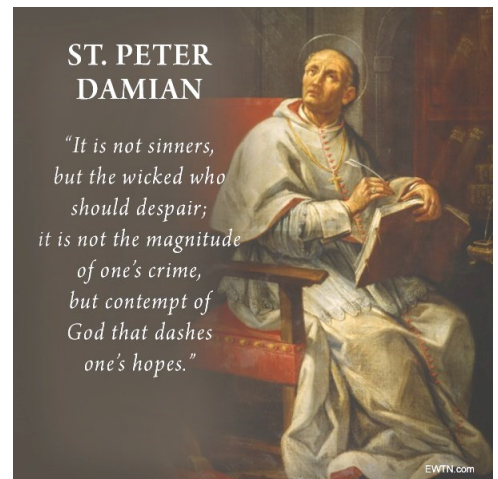
**What can you do to become a little "poorer" and a little more "blessed," this coming week?**

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

**LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**FEBRUARY**

- Monday 17 Readings: Gen 4:1-15, 25. Mk 8:11-13.  
**R:** Offer to God a sacrifice of praise.  
**The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order.**
- Tuesday 18 Readings: Gen 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10. Mk 8:14-21.  
**R:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.
- Wednesday 19 Readings: Gen 8:6-13, 20-22. Mk 8:22-26.  
**R:** To you, Lord, I will offer a sacrifice of praise.
- Thursday 20 Readings: Gen 9:1-13. Mk 8:27-33.  
**R:** From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.
- Friday 21 Readings: Gen 11:1-9. Mk 8:34-9:1.  
**R:** Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.  
**St Peter Damian, bishop, doctor.**
- Saturday 22 Readings: 1 Pet 5:1-4. Mt 16:13-19.  
**R:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.



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 BERNARD MCGRATH**  
22 February 1969 - 56 years

Congratulations and Warmest Wishes on the Anniversary of Your Religious Profession!

On this meaningful anniversary of your religious profession, we, the parish community of St. Benedict's, give thanks to God for the gift of your vocation and your unwavering dedication to His service.

With heartfelt prayers and best wishes,

The Parish of St. Benedict's

## THANK YOU FROM THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MICHAEL SWAN

A sincere thank you to dear Fr. David for your support and for making the arrangements possible in the Christmas, New Year period. We are all very grateful to dear Fr Eugene for the beautiful requiem Mass and burial service. The sermon was very touching, and thank you for all the time you have given to the family. We are sincerely grateful also to dear Fathers Shan, Michael, and Bernard and dear Sister Wendy and to Paula and Paul, for the Masses and prayers. You have all been so comforting, we are all very touched.

With sincere thanks and love.  
You are always in our prayers  
From all of Michael's family and friends.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next event for the Australian Catholic Historical Society will be held in the crypt of Saint Patrick's, Church Hill at 2:00 PM on Sunday 16 February. The Presenter is Jeff Kildea, Barrister and Historian on the topic Tragedy and farce: The Sister Liguori story. Members, their guests, and visitors are most welcome and there is no charge.

Details of the programme of the ACHS as well as resources on church history are on the website [www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au](http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au)

Enquiries may be directed to [secretaryachs@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryachs@gmail.com)

## 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.

## 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 is coming soon!

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Paula El-Chaar who Celebrates 5 years as Arcadia Parish Secretary! Paula, you keep our Parish functioning as it should. Your cheerful manner and thoughtfulness are reflected in all you do as parish secretary and this makes our community feel like a family. Your role entails many tasks, much unseen such as, coordinate candidate preparations and celebrations for First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, flower roster, compiling & printing parish weekly bulletin, maintaining parish website, ordering materials, printing various certificates, maintaining parish records, assisting Fr. Shansana and so much more.

With heartfelt gratitude we thank you Paula for all you do as parish secretary.

May God keep you in his favour and bless you.

Mary Cascun

## 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:

### LETTERI FAMILY

Thank you so much for your kind donation of the pot plants near the Crucifix. They are just beautiful and brighten up our Church. God bless you in all you do for our parish.

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

## GALSTON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

It's been a fantastic start to the week at Galston High.

The students and I are enthusiastic about returning to school, and there's a buzz in the air, although many students understandably looked a bit tired after our first SRE session, too much information to start. Everyone's excited about the year ahead.

I've welcomed back students and have new students in all years including Year 7.

Today marked the restart to JORT, and looking forward to organising engaging activities for our "JORT" sessions held every Tuesday. I plan to invite a guest speaker once a month to share their insights for approximately five minutes, followed by a Q&A session with the students.

One challenge I've faced so far is adapting to teaching in multiple rooms – five different rooms, to be exact. While it's keeping my cardio up, transitioning between rooms within short time frames can be tough. Despite this, I'm grateful to be doing God's work.

On another positive note, our first class with the Hub students has begun, and it's off to a great start.

This is a new initiative, and I'm proud to be a part of it. I appreciate the ongoing support and appreciation from the whole GCEA community. Thank you again for allowing me to do this meaningful work.

Regards

Paul El-Chaar

SRE Galston High School Teacher

## CATECHISTS' NEWS

### SRE (Scripture) starting dates –

Middle Dural – started last week

Arcadia, Galston and Glenorie – this Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Hillside – this Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – note change of date

Please keep our Catechists and students in your prayers as the school year begins and SRE (Scripture) classes start.

A big thanks to Doug Mawhinney and Nigel Morgan for joining this ministry and becoming Catechists!!

Free training is available for all new Catechists – starting this Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February on "Mission and Ministry of the Catechist" via Zoom.

If you are interested to 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](mailto:srearcadia@gmail.com)

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



## 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!

## JUBILEE YEAR 2025

15-18 FEBRUARY 2025

The **Jubilee of Artists** rejoices with gratitude at the creative insights artists bring to human life. The service of beauty is a pathway into the divine and helps us dream of new horizons for the common good.

The Jubilee invites artists to contribute to the work of the Church in bringing about a New Creation where people can live in peace and justice.

## 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

### Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

#### C. Thirteenth Century

Feast Day: February 17

Invoked to aid in the imitation of the charity and patience of  
Our Lady of Sorrows

Canonized January 15, 1888 by Pope Leo XIII



The seven men who founded the Servite Order knew each other as cloth merchants and members of a lay organization dedicated to the Blessed Mother. The Florence, Italy of the Middle Ages where they lived enjoyed a booming economy but also was a city of conflict between the noble rulers and populists.

Around the year 1233, each of the seven devout men experienced an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, calling them to withdraw from the world and its pursuit of money and power to devote themselves to the service of God. They obeyed and on September 8, the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they gave up their careers and property to move into a dilapidated house outside the city wall. They embraced the mendicant life of begging, poverty, and prayer. In modelling wisdom and virtue, they received many requests for spiritual counsel and moral guidance. Believing that their primary call was to a life of prayer, the men moved eleven miles out of Florence to Monte Senario.

Around the year 1240, at Monte Senario, the seven experienced a joint vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary surrounded by angels. She instructed them on their mission, clothed them in their habits, presented them with their rule of life, and personally founded their order.

Central to their mission was to spread devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary and to be her servants. Within a decade, the order received tentative papal approval, and their numbers began to grow, spreading throughout Europe and then east. Today, the Servite order has expanded to all parts of Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Americas.

Our Blessed Mother called these holy men together as they worked and lived in a bustling city. United by their faith, they were set apart and drawn by God to a life of prayer. From that prayer and their commitment to poverty, chastity, and obedience, God drew many others into their companionship. And through those companions, missionaries went forth to the corners of the earth.

Consider the unity the seven founders shared by answering the call to pray and serve together. United as one in Christ, each individual was strengthened and the fruitfulness of their labors grew exponentially.

***Dearest Founders of the Servite Order, you obeyed the call of Our Lady. From that obedience, God raised up an army of servants who have spent centuries sharing His love and mercy with the world. Pray for me, that I may always obey God's will and serve Him alongside those whom God has placed in my life. Seven Holy Founders, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.***

Source: [mycatholic.life](http://mycatholic.life)

## FIRST FRUITS OFFERING 2025

This weekend the Diocese will be starting of our First Fruits Offering. This program aims to ease the financial burden on our Parish through special regular gifts from our Parishioners. Our Pope has been calling on us to be a more missionary church—to renew our faith, become better stewards of what we own, and care deeply for each other.

Please collect the envelope and take copies of the printed material we created for our First Fruits Offering. Pray for God's guidance to help you discern your offering. Once you've read the material and considered your financial position, join our program by considering regular giving and/or leaving a gift in your Will (bequest). What a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution to our Parish. Please speak with Fr Shansana about whether you can contribute this way.

St Benedict's Parish is grateful for your offering.

God Bless you.



### SERVE YOUR PARISH THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

"Our Parish communities, much like our own households, rely on financial resources to operate and to thrive. God fulfills this need through you - **you are the Parish.**"



Share what God has given you by joining our Planned Giving Program today.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION INTRODUCTION AND RENEWAL DAY

Invitation to St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia.  
You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia on Sunday, 16th February.

Arrival from 10am to register for 10:30am start, presentations, introduction to meditation, Middle of the Day Prayer with the monks, 2pm Mass, conclusion around 3pm. Book display and morning tea provided, BYO picnic lunch.

Normal covid precautions advised, hand sanitizer available. Extensive grounds and labyrinth.

General enquiries: Ann Lomas, at  
lomas@bigpond.com / 0437 340 250

Possible accommodation at the monastery  
guesthouse: Michael Kelly,  
mkelly@silvestrini.org / 0455 329 607

Peace, Fr Michael Kelly

## ENGAGED ENCOUNTER RETREATS

22-23 February 2025

Preparing for marriage, Engaged Encounter provides couples with deeper insights into each other and into married life. Engaged Encounter Retreats are opportunities to spend time together, to strengthen and enrich your relationship.

For further information visit:  
[www.engagedencounter.org.au](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au)



**The Shrine of Hope for Priests & Vocations at  
Mary Immaculate, Manly, invites all the faithful  
to the:**

INSTALLATION OF THE RELIC OF  
**ST JOHN VIANNEY**

on  
SUNDAY 2 MARCH AT 6:00PM MASS

Join Bishop Anthony Randazzo and the clergy of Broken Bay for this special celebration, including Mass, veneration of the relic, and a blessing.

All parishioners, families, students, and pilgrims are welcome as we entrust our clergy and future vocations to St John Vianney's intercession.

**6 Raglan St, Manly, 2095, NSW**

**RSVP**

(02) 9977 5822

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

# Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA  
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

## NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

22/2/2025 to 23/2/2025  
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul E	George A
Reader1	Natasha S	Judy H	Leanne A
Reader2	Maria G	Keith W	Lorna B
Prayers	Sr Carol T	Nigel M	Sharon O
TV		Roderick R	Trey O
Music		Rebecca R	Karina S
Music		Marisa Q	John T
Music		Theresa N	Noelle T
Music			
Morning Tea		Mary A	
FLOWERS	Angela S		

## 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



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



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