

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR C
22 & 23 MARCH 2025**



PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends:

Saturday 7:00pm Vigil
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday 10:30am



Weekdays:

Mondays to Thursdays 9:30am

Fridays 6:30pm Stations of the Cross
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

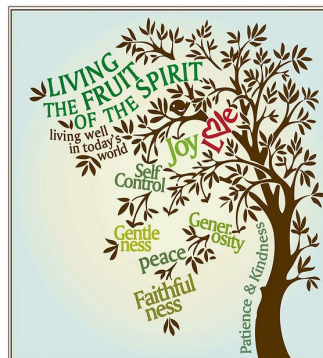
My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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: FRUITFULNESS

In Luke 13:1-9, Jesus reminds me that life is fragile and that I must reflect on my own actions and faith. The passage calls me to examine whether I am bearing good fruit in my life and living in a way that reflects repentance and growth. This passage encourages me to take action and bear fruit before it's too late.



- Am I bearing good fruit through love, kindness, and repentance?
- Have I been complacent in areas where I need to improve spiritually?
- What steps can I take today to align my life more closely with God's will?
- Am I open to God's patience, allowing it to inspire change within me?

Lord,
Help me to reflect on my life and actions, and grant me the grace to bear good fruit. Teach me to live with repentance and humility, using the time you've given me wisely. Guide me to live each day with purpose and love, always striving to honour you. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15 (Year C) (JB)

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 (Year C) (JB)

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

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 (Year C) (JB)

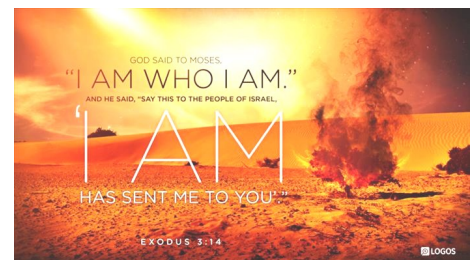
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."' "

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday March 23, 2025

Luke 13:1-9

Catechism Theme: Suffering and the Test of Faith (CCC 163-165)

Faith gives us the first taste of the afterlife. In faith, we have a vision of life with God. An existence in pure justice and, at the same time, pure mercy. We will know ourselves as we truly are, but through the divine eyes of Love.

This time on earth, however, is a time of test. Not just against evil. But for faith. The problem of suffering presents us with such a test. Suffering is more than an intellectual puzzle to be solved. It challenges us to act. Either we reach out in the belief that God will help us on the path. Or, we fade into cynicism.

Others have walked the path of the test before us. Abraham, Mary, and Jesus himself. If we only look to their example, we can find inspiration and real help. Yes, suffering may shake us. But others have suffered and remained faithful. So can we.

What story of suffering and faith has inspired you? Why has it inspired you?

When we suffer, when others suffer, the choice of faith arises. Jesus used two reports of death to show the choice given. We might not know why suffering exists. But we can use suffering as a bridge to change. A chance to get closer to God.

As the parable of the fig tree implies, we not only have a choice. We have a helper. Someone to care for us during our struggles and our suffering. Someone greater than we, who came to serve us.

How do we answer the critic about the problem of suffering? With the choice of faith and the face of Christ. God does not abolish suffering to keep us at a distance. No, he allows suffering to bring us closer. And so his Son may be revealed to all.

So, the next time the problem of suffering raises its head, let us look to the cross. The sign of faith. And the sign of the Savior.

What pain do you suffer from? Place that hurt in God's hands just for a few moments this day. And see what happens.

Source: www.word-sunday.com

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MARCH

Monday 24 Readings: 2 Kg 5:1-15. Lk 4:24-30.
R: My soul is thirsting for the living God: when shall I see him face to face?

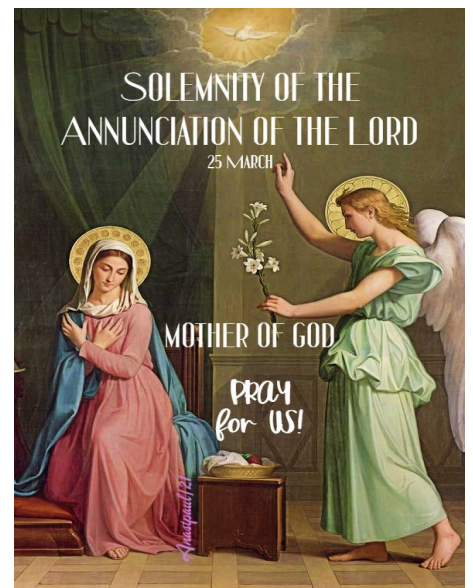
Tuesday 25 Readings: Is 7:10-14, 8:10. Lk 1:26-38.
R: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.
The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD.

Wednesday 26 Readings: Deut 4:1, 5-9. Mt 5:17-19.
R: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Thursday 27 Readings: Jer 7:23-28. Lk 11:14-23.
R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Friday 28 Readings: Hosea 14:2-10. Mk 12:28-34.
R: I am the Lord, your God: hear my voice.

Saturday 29 Readings: Hosea 5:15-6:6. Lk 18:9-14.
R: It is steadfast love, not sacrifice, that God desires.



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.

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!

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

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

The ladies produced some lovely string art crosses at our recent workshop.

All welcome to join us next month (Wednesday 2/4/25 at 7.30pm) when we are working with polymer clay!



themakerstablesydney@gmail.com

Martine 0458 533 250 / Nerida 0425 834 017

SACRED HEART OF JESUS STATUE INSTALLED AT ST BENEDICT'S ARCADIA

We are delighted to announce the installation of a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our parish. This project began with a request from members of our church community, was discussed by the Parish Pastoral Council, and shared with the Diocese.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a powerful symbol of Christ's love and mercy. Its installation is especially meaningful as Pope Francis' latest encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, reflects on the Sacred Heart as a sign of God's love for us all.

We invite everyone to take a moment in prayer before the statue, entrusting their hearts to Jesus and His infinite love.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUNG ADULTS FEEDING THE HOMELESS



Date: Saturday 29th March 2025
Address: 164 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo
Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm

I would like to announce the beginning of a young adults charity group here at St Benedict's. The purpose of this is to enable more young people, like myself, to take up almsgiving this Lent and throughout the rest of the year.

On the 29th of March, there is a need for meals and people to go into the city and feed those in need.

We will need 6 large meals, fit to feed about 30 people each, and around 6 volunteers. Preferably the volunteers will bring a large meal with them but we would also be very appreciative of any donations of food toward the cause.

You need to prepare a meal and donate it or can also help serve it.

I would appreciate it if people who are interested get in touch and let me know if they can donate food, volunteer or both.

Look forward to hearing from you

Sam John
0491031622

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Join us for the Stations of the Cross on:

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM, followed by Mass at 9:30 AM

Fridays: 6:30 PM, followed by Mass at 7:00 PM

We look forward to journeying through this sacred season together in prayer and reflection at the Parish Church.

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 *Najm Azzi, Waffa Moussa, Carmel Russo, Margaret McKinley, Joe Guiana,
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:



SAM JOHN

The Volunteer of the Week is awarded to Sam John. Thank you, Sam, for organising the St. Benedict's Young Adults Feeding the Homeless initiative for the youth of St. Benedict's. Your dedication and service are a beautiful reflection of God's love and glory. What an incredible and inspiring work you are doing!

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

LENTE PROGRAM

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

726a Old Northern Road, Dural.
Every Wednesday night commencing
12th March 2025
Time 7.00pm
Led by Gebran Azzi.

Miriam Brown will be hosting a Lenten Program at the Parish meeting room:

2 Fagans Road, Arcadia.
Every Wednesday afternoon commencing
12th March 2025
Time: 1.00pm
Led by Miriam Brown

Everyone is invited to attend and deepen their faith during this season of Lent.

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

- **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!

CATECHISTS' NEWS

To finish the reflection on the Catechist and the Jubilee Year of Hope by Michael Tebbutt from the CCD – "By reaching out to them (our students in the public schools), we bring the light of Christ to hearts that long for connection and hope, even if they don't yet realise it. This is the heart of our ministry: leaving behind the familiar to walk in faith and trust, sowing seeds of hope and transformation in the lives of young people who might otherwise never hear of God's boundless love."

Free Ministry Induction training continues for all new Catechists. This week's topic is 'Classroom Management' via Zoom.

Please continue to keep our Catechists and the students they teach, in your prayers. There are prayer cards at the church entrances you may wish to take home.

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a Catechist or helper, please contact me or the parish office or one of our priests.

God bless,

Miriam Brown srearcadia@gmail.com

Parish Catechist Co-ordinator



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

You are invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday at:
St Agatha's Pennant Hills on Sunday the 27th of April:

1:00pm Confessions will commence and be available for the whole afternoon.

1:30pm: Welcome, Rosary, Act of Entrustment to Our Lady, Prayers for the Pope.

2:00pm: Mass. Jesus said: "The soul that will go to confession and receive holy communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

3:00pm: Adoration and Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Jesus said: "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death".

3:45pm: Benediction and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. Jesus said: "The soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

Enquiries: Church Office 9484 1427
or Therese 9651 3028.

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 Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Feast Day: March 23

C.1538-1606

Patron Saint of Peru, Latin American bishops, native people's rights

Toribio Alfonso de Mogrovejo (Turibius) was born of noble parents in the town of Mayorga, northwest Spain. Turibius was a devout child with a heart for the poor. As a young man, Turibius' brilliance in his studies led King Philip of Spain to appoint him as the Grand Inquisitor in Granada in 1571, when he was just thirty-three years old.

During this time, the Spanish conquerors of the newly colonized lands of Peru were in dire need of moral reformation. Many generals acted as tyrants and plunderers, cruelly oppressing the indigenous peoples. Aware of the moral chaos, King Phillip II knew he needed to send his best bishop to Lima. He needed a saint knowledgeable in the law, who could bring reform, preach the Gospel with zeal, and establish communion between the settlers and natives. At that time, the King of Spain had the responsibility to appoint bishops whom the pope would approve or reject. King Phillip chose Turibius for the task. Turibius was not even a priest, however; he was a layman. Over the next two years, Turibius prepared for ordination, served as a priest, and then was ordained a bishop. He was installed as archbishop in Lima on May 24, 1581 and served in that office for twenty-five years.

The archdiocese stretched about 400 miles along the coast and included three main cities, many towns and villages, and many more rural homes scattered throughout. The people Turibius shepherded included Spanish settlers, soldiers, and the indigenous population. Within a month of his arrival, Turibius held an archdiocesan synod and later oversaw the Third Provincial Council of Lima. This council addressed various abuses among the clergy and laity, promoted evangelization of the natives, taught that the Spaniards and indigenous were equal in dignity, and commissioned the first book printed in South America, *Doctrina Christiana, y Catecismo para Instrucción de los Indios*, a trilingual catechism written in Spanish, Quechua, and Aymara. Other trilingual works were also commissioned to assist the clergy with confession and preaching in the native tongues. The acts of that council were confirmed by the Holy See in 1588 and later implemented throughout all of South America. In 1590, Archbishop Turibius founded the first seminary in South America, and in 1591 and 1601, he held two more provincial councils, as well as numerous synods within his own archdiocese.

In addition to his administrative efforts, Turibius spent seventeen of his twenty-five years as archbishop journeying on foot to every parish and community on three separate occasions. He traveled through difficult terrain, snow-covered mountains, rain, heat, and cold. He went to confession and offered Mass every day, learned the native languages, got to know his people, and made sure that every parish adhered to Church discipline. He built many churches, baptized and confirmed half a million people, had a passionate zeal for every soul, and cared for the Spaniard and indigenous equally. From his flock would emerge three saints whom he confirmed: Saint Rose of Lima, Saint Martin de Porres, and Saint Juan Masías. He also became good friends with the great Franciscan missionary Saint Francis Solano, who was said to have had the gift of tongues, by which the indigenous understood him in their native languages.

Saint Turibius, you devoted yourself wholeheartedly to the salvation of every soul. Please pray that I may imitate you and become a better instrument of the Gospel, reaching people in ways that will more fully open their hearts to Christ. Saint Turibius, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Source: mycatholic.life



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

24 Hours for the Lord 28 March

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD The "24 Hours for the Lord" was introduced by Pope Francis in 2014 and has been held every year since. It is a Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation. It is celebrated on the eve of the Fourth Sunday of Lent each year. Its intention is to put the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre of the pastoral life of the Church. Parishes and communities can implement this initiative taking care to adapt it according to local needs and customs.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 22nd & 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

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 024 413 413.



24 HOURS FOR THE Lord

A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation.

REGISTER NOW → trybooking.com/CZUBM

9am - 9am
28-29 March 2025
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
23 Yardley Ave, Waitara



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

THE TOUGH QUESTION

Why do people suffer in this life?

The problem of suffering is more than existential. It tests the very core of faith. Why does God allow so much suffering in the world? A loving, merciful God should not rule such a cold, ruthless world. "Something is wrong," critics of religion tell us. "Either God is not loving and merciful. Or, he does not have the power to control what he created."

Of course, we Christians have an answer. But it does not satisfy the critics. Simply, the answer demands change of the listener. God allows suffering to give us sinners time to reflect and change. Jesus gave this answer to those who presumed a different reason.

Source: word-Sunday.com



LITURGICAL FORMATION SERIES

Facilitated by Chris Ohlsen

- The Art of Celebrating Holy Week
Saturday 15 March
- Back to Basics
Saturday 10 May
- RCIA: Practical Implications, Liturgical Fundamentals & Ongoing Formation
Saturday 16 August
- Rekindle Our Wonder
Saturday 25 October

REGISTER NOW

mission@bbcatholic.org.au



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

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.

Parish Roster

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**29/3/2025 to 30/3/2025
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	
Reader1	Margaret B	Ann L	John Family
Reader2	Maria G	Nigel M	John Family
Prayers	Mary C	Paula E	Lorna B
TV		Roderick R	Melanie H
Music		Rebecca R	Melanie H
Music		Keith W	Noelle T
Music		Marisa Q	John T
Music		Teresa G	
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](https://www.facebook.com/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.

HOLY WEEK 2025



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

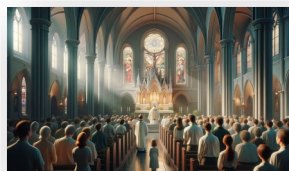
Parish Church - 7.30pm



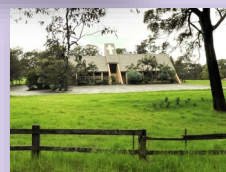
Easter Sunday - 20th April

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

DID YOU KNOW...



There is a mass being celebrated every hour of every day somewhere in the world!



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