

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

14 & 15 DECEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who see how your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
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: TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

In Luke 3:10-18, highlights John the Baptist's call to repentance and preparation for the coming of Christ by examining our own lives with: Generosity, Integrity, Humility and Contentment, Preparation and Hope in Christ. Reflect on these and surrender what holds you back, and trust in Christ's power to transform your heart and life.

1. Am I sharing my resources with those in need?
2. Am I honest in my work and relationships?
3. Do I trust God's provision and live with gratitude?
4. How can I better align my heart with God's will?
5. Am I living in light of His promises and work?



Lord,

Thank You for the gift of this day and for Your constant presence in my life. Help me to live with humility, generosity, and integrity. Teach me to trust in Your provision, to prepare my heart for Your work, and to walk in hope as I rely on Your promises. Cleanse me, Lord, and guide my steps as I seek to honour You in all I do. Amen.



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



First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
 Israel, shout aloud!
 Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
 daughter of Jerusalem!
 The Lord has repealed your sentence;
 he has driven your enemies away.
 The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
 you have no more evil to fear.
 When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
 Zion, have no fear,
 do not let your hands fall limp.
 The Lord your God is in your midst,
 a victorious warrior.
 He will exult with joy over you,
 he will renew you by his love;
 he will dance with shouts of joy for you

as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
 for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
 he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
 Alleluia!

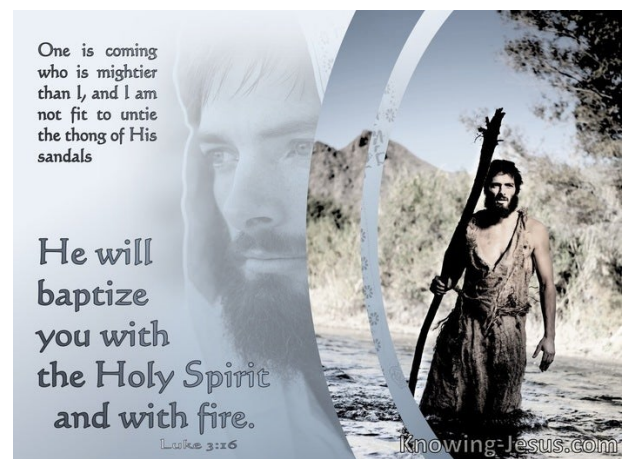
GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION
3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15
Zephaniah 3:14-18
(Psalm) Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

The LORD, your God, is in your midst. (Zephaniah 3:17)

Did you ever rejoice in something that hadn't actually happened yet? Maybe you were looking forward to a dear friend's wedding or a visit from an out-of-town relative. Just the thought of what was to come made you smile! In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah told the Israelites to "be glad and exult" because God was going to remove "the judgment against" them (3:14, 15). They were to rejoice even though they were still suffering the consequences of their rebellion against the Lord. Why? Because God had promised to rescue them, so it would come to pass.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, a day set aside during Advent for rejoicing. Although Christmas is still ten days away, we can still begin rejoicing in Jesus' birth now. We can also look forward to Jesus' Second Coming, when he will establish a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). Like the Israelites, we don't know when that will happen, and yet we are called to rejoice in it. Why? For the same reason: because God keeps his promises.

We live in a fallen world, surrounded by much pain and sorrow. We may be going through a difficult time this Advent, so we may not feel much like rejoicing. But it *is* possible to rejoice in what has been promised to us. One day we will stand before the Lord, and he will wipe every tear from our eyes. On that day, we won't be able to contain our joy!

So try to follow St. Paul's advice from today's second reading to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). Rejoice that the Lord loves you so much that he became man to save you. Rejoice that he is present in the Eucharist and wants you to be with him in the closest way possible. Rejoice in anticipation of life with God forever. *Choose* to rejoice today, no matter how you feel. Why? Because our Lord God always keeps his promises!

"Jesus, I rejoice in you always, now and forever!"

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER

Monday 16 Readings: Num 24:2-7, 15-17. Mt 21:23-27.
R: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Tuesday 17 Readings: Gen 49:2, 8-10. Mt 1:1-17.
R: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Wednesday 18 Readings: Is 40:25-31. Mt 11:28-30.
R: O bless the Lord, my soul.

Thursday 19 Readings: Is 41:13-20. Mt 11:11-15.
R: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Friday 20 Readings: Is 48:17-19. Mt 11:16-19.
R: Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

Saturday 21 Readings: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11. Mt 17:10-13.
R: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
St Canisius, priest, doctor.

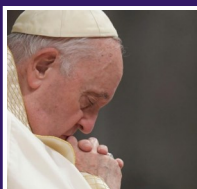


St. Peter Canisius

**Let my eyes take
their sleep, but may
my heart always
keep watch for you.**

December 21

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

Youth Group Wrap-Up!

Thank you to everyone who joined in, supported, and made this year's Youth Group so special! A huge shoutout to **GABE WALL** and **JULES OZOLINS** for their incredible dedication in organising the youth sessions all year. Your hard work, creativity, and leadership made it fun, engaging, and memorable for all the youth and youth leaders.

Here's to another great year ahead!

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!



The St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal has commenced. A big thanks to the people who have already kindly donated items.

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



MIRIAM BROWN

Thank you, Miriam, for everything you do for our parish. From preparing the music and PowerPoints for the Saturday night Vigil Mass to the hard work and dedication you put into coordinating the catechists, we are deeply grateful. We also appreciate your assistance in the office whenever needed. Your efforts mean so much to us, and we are truly thankful for all that you do.

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

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of



VANESSA PAPANDREA



**Beloved daughter of
Rita Papandrea**

Funeral Details:

Thursday 19th December
at 11am at the Parish Church.

*Eternal Rest grant to her O Lord,
And let the Perpetual light shine upon her,
May she Rest in Peace.
Amen*

***Our prayers and thoughts are with
Rita and the Papandrea family and friends.***

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Parish Office will be **closed from Monday, 23rd December 2024**, and will **reopen on Friday, 10th January 2025**. During the month of January, the office will only be open on **Fridays**.

For anything **urgent**, contact Paula at **0423 078 282**.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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 Vanessa Papandrea, 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

Thank you to all the ladies who have joined us for our Maker's Table workshops this year! We've had a lot of fun being creative together and discovered a few hidden talents! Special thanks to Tanya John for sharing her clay expertise with us on Wednesday night. Our monthly workshops will start up again in February next year. Please let us know any suggestions for future workshops or if you're able to share your creative talent with us!

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



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.

(NOT ON IN DECEMBER)

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.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Wishing all Catechists and families a very blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

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 any parish Catechist.

Here are a couple of photos from our year 6 Graduates:



God bless,

Miriam Brown
srearcadia@gmail.com
Parish Catechist
Co-ordinator



NEW ROSTER

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

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

The Christmas roster is now posted on the Sacristy window. Please take a moment to check the dates that work for you and kindly write your name down to help out. Thank you!

FAN CLEANING VOLUNTEER REQUEST

We are looking for a kind volunteer to clean the small side fans in the Church before Christmas. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you in advance.

CRAFT GROUP UPDATE

Please note that there will be no Craft Group meeting in December as it falls on Christmas Eve. We will resume our meetings as usual in January 2025.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas!

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Adelaide

Feast Day: December 16



Patron Saint of:

**Abuse Victims, Brides, Emperors, Exiles, In-Law Problems,
Parenthood, Princesses, Prisoners**

Born in 931, St. Adelaide was born in Switzerland, and was the daughter of Rudolph of Burgundy. Still a child at the age of 15 she was betrothed for political reasons to Lothair of Provence, heir of King Hugh of Italy. Hugh married Adelaide's widowed mother. At the age of sixteen she married Lothair, now King of Italy, and a daughter, Emma, was born of the marriage. It was an unhappy union but a short one, for in 950 Lothair died. His successor, Berengar, imprisoned her when Adelaide refused to marry his son. After four months' confinement she escaped in August 951, and when that same year the German Emperor Otto appeared in Italy and proposed marriage, she accepted. Four children were born to them, the future Otto II and three daughters, two of whom became nuns.

A revolt led by Ludolf, Otto's son by his first marriage, was crushed. It would appear to have been Adelaide's influence which encouraged, if it did not inspire, Otto's policy of close collaboration with the church. During a sojourn of six years in Italy Otto and Adelaide received the imperial crown from John XII.

When her husband was succeeded in 973 by their son Otto II, Adelaide for some years exercised a powerful influence. Later, however, her daughter-in-law, the Byzantine princess Theophano, turned her husband against his mother, and she was driven from court. Finally a reconciliation was effected, and in 983 Otto appointed her his viceroy in Italy.

He died the same year, and the new emperor, Otto III, still a minor, was entrusted to the joint regency of his mother and grandmother. Theophano was able once again to oust Adelaide from power and the court. Her death in 991 restored the regency to Adelaide. She was assisted by St. Willigis, bishop of Mainz. In 995 Otto came of age, and Adelaide was free to devote herself exclusively to pious works, notably the foundation or restoration of religious houses. She had long entertained close relations with Cluny, then the center of the movement for ecclesiastical reform and in particular with its abbots St. Majolus and St. Odilo. On her way to Burgundy to support her nephew Rudolph III against rebellion, she died at a monastery she had founded at Seltz. She had constantly devoted herself to the service of the church and peace, and to the empire as guardian of both; she also interested herself in the conversion of the Slavs. She was thus a principal agent—almost an embodiment—of the work of the Catholic church during the dark ages in the construction of the religion-culture of western Europe. Her feast is kept in many German dioceses.

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Adelaide as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate virtue she showed in living out holiness despite the turmoil and suffering she endured in her familial life.

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.



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



CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Preparing the Way for the Lord

December 16 - 24

Let's Pray Together



The Christmas Novena, beginning on December 16, is a powerful time of prayer and preparation leading up to Christmas Day. It allows individuals to focus on the anticipation of Christ's birth, reflect on the meaning of the Incarnation, and spiritually prepare their hearts for the celebration of Jesus' coming into the world. Praying this novena provides intentional time to grow closer to God, seek guidance, and renew one's faith amidst the busyness of the season. It also connects individuals with the universal Church in a shared journey of prayer, reflection, and hope.

You can find Christmas Novenas online that typically include prayers, Scripture readings, and meditations for each day. They may focus on themes like faith, hope, joy, gratitude, and humility, mirroring the journey leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Praying the novena doesn't have to be rigid—it can be simple and sincere. Whether you pray it alone, with family, or as part of a prayer group, the goal is to allow the time of prayer to draw you closer to God and help you enter the Christmas season with a renewed heart.

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

21/12/24 TO 22/12/2024
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul C	George A
Reader1	Maria G	Melanie H	Tanya J
Reader2	Mary C	Mary C	Tim J
Prayers	Miriam B	Keith W	Sam J
TV		Roderick R	Mirko J
Music		Rebecca R	Karina S
Music		Marisa Q	Noelle T
Music		Pauline H	John T
Music		Theresa N	
Morning Tea		Tania T	
FLOWERS	Rose G		



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
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)



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS

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

Christmas Day
Wednesday 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 CHAPEL

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
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