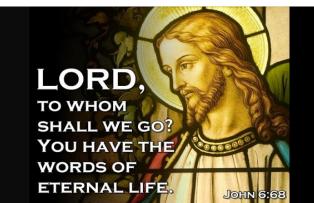
St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



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





TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

24 & 25 AUGUST 2024

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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: ETERNAL LIFE

This Sunday's Gospel, John 6:60-69, Jesus said "*This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.*"

eternal life.

This passage highlights the challenge of accepting deep spiritual truths and the commitment required to follow Jesus.

- How should I handle teachings about my faith that I find hard to understand?
- How can I stay committed to Jesus when His teachings are tough?
- How can I help others who are struggling with their faith?

Dear Lord,

Your teachings often test my understanding and faith. Grant me the strength and grace to stay committed to You, recognising that You are the source of eternal life. Guide me to trust in Your wisdom and to find comfort and purpose in Your presence. Amen.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINRY TIME

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2,15-18 (JB) A reading from the book of Joshua We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

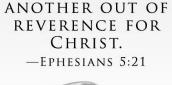
The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Ephesians 5:21-32 (JB)* A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians *This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.*



SUBMIT TO ONE



Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!



GOSPEL: John 6:60-69 (JB) A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the fleeh has pothing to offer

the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. "To make peace with one's adversary before sundown." Rule of St Benedict, Chapter 4.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, August 25 Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18 / Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21 / Ephesians 5:21-32 / John 6:60-69

To whom shall we go? (John 6:68)

This was a decisive moment for Jesus' disciples. They had seen him perform miracles, bring people to conversion, and contend with suspicious Jewish leaders. It seemed as if he could do nothing wrong!

But now they had to make a hard decision: would they keep following Jesus when he said something they didn't understand? How about when they didn't *like* what they heard? He had just told them that he had come down from heaven and that, like God, he had the authority to grant eternal life. Then he said that anyone who wanted to follow him had to eat his body and drink his blood. It was all too much, and most of them "no longer accompanied him" (John 6:66).

But Peter, speaking for himself and the rest of the Twelve, cut through the confusion with one simple question: "Master, to whom shall we go?" (John 6:68). There was no one like Jesus. He truly was "the Holy One of God" (6:69). Peter couldn't let his lack of understanding derail him. He trusted that if he stayed close to Jesus, asked questions, listened carefully, and kept an open heart, he would one day get the answers he sought. Even if it took years, he would still stick with the One whose love and grace had changed his heart so dramatically.

Do some of Jesus' words confuse you or scandalize you? Don't let them cast a shadow over everything else you have heard. Certainly don't let them cause you to doubt his love for you or for others! Instead, draw closer to him. Recall how patient he has been with you, and resolve to be just as patient in waiting for the answers you seek. And remember: you have the gift of faith for just this very purpose. Allow that supernatural grace to help you trust in the Lord, even when you cannot understand.

Jesus truly is the Holy One of God. There's nowhere else you can go to receive all that he has for you.

"Lord, help me to stay close to you, especially when I have questions."

R: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

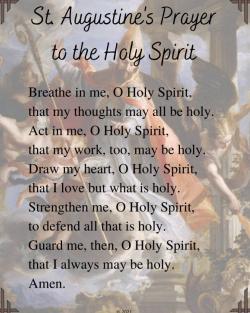
Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK Readings: 2 Thess 1:1-5, 11-12. Mt 23:13-22.

Tuesday 27 Readings: 2 Thess 2:1-3, 14-17. Mt 23:23-26. R: The Lord comes to judge the earth. St Monica

Wednesday 28 Readings: 2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18. Mt 23:27-32. R: Happy are those who fear the Lord. St Augustine, bishop, doctor

- Thursday 29Readings: Jer 1:17-19. Mk 6:17-29.R: I will sing your salvation.The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr
- Friday 30 Readings: 1 Cor 1:17-25. Mt 25:1-13. R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
- Saturday 31 Readings: 1 Cor 1:26-31. Mt 25:14-30. R: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.



Source: Ordo 2024



AUGUST Monday 26

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2024

For Political Leaders Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

DRAFT ROSTER

LAST WEEKEND TO CHECK DATES

ROSTER AT SACRISTY WINDOW

NEW CARPET

Thanks to the finance committee, we now have fresh, new carpet in the large hall—goodbye musty smell! The carpet in the Sacristy and Sacristy office has also been replaced. Thanks to everyone involved!

HELP NEEDED

We need a few volunteers to help move the furniture back into the large hall and the sacristy office as soon as possible. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: THE CHURCH AS HEAVEN'S SACRED SPACE

"For a church is not a barber's shop or a chemist's or a market stall: it is the dwelling of angels and of archangels; it is the kingdom of God; it is heaven itself. If someone gave you entrance into heaven, you would not dare to speak a word, not even if you should see your own brother or father. Likewise in the church, only spiritual things may be spoken, for this is heaven."

St. John Chrysostom (4th-5th centuries, Doctor of the Church)

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM URGENT HELP

We need two volunteers to help on **both** dates:

Confirmation Practice session: Saturday 7th September 8am to 10am

Confirmation Service: Thursday 12th September 6pm to 9pm

If you can help on **both** dates please call or message Paula on 0423 078 282. We would really appreciate it.



PIETY STORE GRAND OPENING

BLESSING AND OPENING AFTER THE 9AM MASS THIS SUNDAY AUGUST 25, 2024



Popcorn and slushy machines for the children! Everyone welcome! Please join us for this wonderful moment we've all been waiting for!

A big thank you to Lila Bacha and her amazing family setting it all up. We really appreciate it!

FLOWER ROSTER



We're looking to add a few more people to the flower roster. It's a commitment of just once every 6 or 7 weeks, so the more volunteers we have, the easier it will be for everyone. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Flowers from your garden would be great.

Please contact the parish office or let Fr Shansana know.

GCEA SPRING DINNER

Saturday 14 September, 2024 6pm—10pm At the Galston Club

It's just 4 weeks to our GCEA Spring Dinner.

We are anticipating it to be a huge event this year so book early.

Here is the link to book your tickets:

https://events.humanitix.com/gcea-spring-dinner-2024

Our focus this year is on SRE teachers and the needs for schools in our local area.

The GCEA is our primary focus with **Paul El-Chaar**, **our teacher at Galston High School**, but we see the importance of SRE in all schools.

There will be a silent auction on the night. Come and support this ministry.

St Benedict's parish will be hosting a table to show our support for Paul El-Chaar. Please contact Paula on 0423 078 282 to reserve your spot and join us for what promises to be another enjoyable event, just like last year!

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, Sam Musumeci, Brother Mario, Father Alberic & Brother Terry.

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially Sandra Hansl. *May they rest in Peace.*



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:



GEBRAN AZZI MIRKO JUTRISA OLIVER JUTRISA PAUL EL-CHAAR TYRONE EL-CHAAR

A huge thank you to the above amazing team for their help with moving all the heavy furniture from the large hall and the sacristy office to prepare for the carpet installation. These guys are real champions as they are always there when we need them! We truly appreciate your hard work!

Who would you like to nominate for next week's volunteer? Email the parish if you know someone who deserves to be mentioned.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY August 25, 2024

On this Social Justice Sunday, Australia's Bishops invite us to reflect on what we, as Christians, are called to do in a world wracked by war and violence. Truth is often the first casualty in war. The Gospel calls us to embrace the fundamental truth that every person on earth has a God-given dignity which cannot be taken away or ignored. From this truth flows the realisation that there is no 'us' or 'them'. Everyone on earth, whatever our race or creed or status, is a sister, a brother. We are all children of God. Keeping this truth before us is the key to overcoming violence and conflict. Armed not with guns and missiles, but with love for our sisters and brothers, we are invited to speak of peace and to take action to promote peace in a violent world. On this Social Justice Sunday, let us re-commit ourselves to cultivating a culture of peace by following Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life and the Prince of Peace.

By ACBC Justice, Ecology and Peace

ST BENEDICT'S YOUTH GROUP

St. Benedict's Youth Group for 8-12 year olds meets every Friday during the school term from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM.

To register your child, you can either attend the session or email the parish at: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com.

If you're a **volunteer aged 14-16** and would like to help, please email the parish office. All our youth leaders have Working With Children Checks.

Thank you, Gabe & Jules!



CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training -

- For all Catechists, family or friends Level 3 "A Reflective Study of the Psalms" continues Friday 30th August at 10am-12.15pm via Zoom on 'Royal Psalms"
- For new Catechists CCD Ministry Induction on Thursday evenings 6:15-8:30pm, this week's unit 'Lesson Planning – Teaching the Authorised Curriculum'

RSVP:

registrations@bbcatholic.org.au or 8379 1643

Helpers and part time Catechists are always welcome. If you are interested to learn more about the ministry of being a Catechist, please talk to one of our priests or contact me.

God bless,

Miriam Brown <u>srearcadia@gmail.com</u> Parish Catechist Co-Ordinator

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! Everyone welcome!

ST BENEDICT'S MAKER'S TABLE

Botanical Imprints on Clay Workshop - 4/9/24 and 11/9/24 (7.30-9.30pm in the meeting room) "*As the clay is in the potter's hand, so you are in mine.*" Jeremiah 18:6

Mrs Tanya John will be leading our next workshop where we will be creating a beautiful plaque out of clay with imprints of flowers and leaves (and a personalised inscription if you wish). We will design and create our plaques and then wait for them to dry before painting them the following week after which they will be kiln fired. Yes, this workshop will run over two weeks so please commit to both weeks if possible so you can complete your plaque.

If time permits, there may be an opportunity to have a go on the pottery wheel too!!

Cost: \$15 which covers all materials, refreshments and donation for room hire. No prior clay experience necessary!

RSVP by Sunday 1st September to let us know if we can set a special place at the Table for you!

themakerstablesydney@gmail.com 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.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

SAINT MONICA (MOTHER OF ST AUGUSTINE)

Feast Day: August 27 c. 332-387

Patron Saint of homemakers, married women, mothers, abuse victims, alcoholics, and widows Invoked against difficult marriages and difficult children



Saint Monica was the mother of one of the Church's greatest saints: Saint Augustine. Monica was most likely born in Thagaste, present-day Souk Ahras, Algeria, North Africa, a member of the Berber tribe. Raised in a Christian home, Monica became quite devout. She married Patricius (Patrick), a pagan, said to have had a violent temper and an immoral lifestyle. Patricius' mother, who had the same violent temperament, lived with the couple. Monica and Patricius had three children: sons Augustine and Navigius and a daughter whose name is unknown.

Early in her life, Monica had overcome addiction to alcohol. Her husband opposed her Christian faith and prayer life but also saw in her something that made him respect her. His refusal to grant her permission to baptize their children broke her heart. Monica's only recourse was prayer. She prayed fervently for her family's conversion, and her prayers began to take hold. Patricius was converted and baptized around 370, one year before he died. Patricius' mother also converted.

Augustine, her oldest child, was around sixteen when his father died. At seventeen, he was sent to Carthage, in modern-day Tunisia, to study rhetoric. There, Augustine searched for truth. After reading Cicero's dialogue *Hortensius*, his thirst for truth grew stronger. He became a Manichaean, believing that the material world was a union of light and darkness, good and evil, and that the goal of life was to release the light trapped within the darkness of the material world. Around this time, Augustine met a woman with whom he lived and had a child, despite his mother's strong warnings.

After teaching in Carthage, Augustine decided to open a school of Rhetoric. Around age thirty-one, he informed his mother that he was going to Rome, and Monica said she was going with him. Augustine, however, sneaked away to Rome without her. Not giving up, Monica followed. By the time she arrived in Rome, Augustine had left for a prestigious teaching position in Milan, and she followed him there.

Over the next four years in Milan, Monica prayed for her son through tears. Impressed with intellectuals, Augustine was drawn to the Catholic Bishop of Milan and future Saint Ambrose. Augustine converted to Christianity at age thirty-three, and Bishop Ambrose baptized him in 387.

Augustine and his mother decided to return to Thagaste, but Monica would not complete the trip. She fell ill and died in Ostia, just outside of Rome. Augustine went on to become one of the most influential theologians in Church history. In his book, *Confessions*, Saint Augustine shares the beautiful story of his mother. He shares her early struggle with alcohol. When Augustine went astray at Carthage, he recalls how she wept for him more than most mothers weep over the death of a child. Augustine recounts how fervently his mother prayed while they were in Milan and sought Bishop Ambrose's counsel. Augustine's tender description of his mother describes his relationship with her after his conversion, their conversations, and her death. She had a profound impact upon him, and he, in turn, has had a profound impact upon the Church.

Saint Monica, you continually turned your difficulties over to God. You prayed, grew in virtue, and had a profound impact on your whole family. Please pray that I will never lose hope for those who have gone astray but will remain faithful in prayer for them, trusting in God's divine mercy. Saint Monica, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

DONATING MEN'S CLOTHING FOR SEAFARERS

Stella Maris Seafarers, a Catholic organisation helping seafarers, would appreciate any donations of second hand men's clothing, as well as any personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste etc.

Please leave the items in the meeting room near the kitchen and they will be picked up weekly and taken to Sr Mary Leahy and I can tell you she will be most excited. She boards every ship that pulls into Botany Bay and checks on the welfare of the sailors, she is also a trained nurse and if she sees sick, injured or suspects abuse she reports it.

Many thanks, Cathy Holling 0403062255

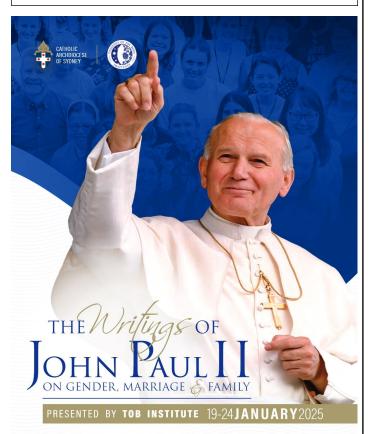
UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE -

THE BIBLE TIMELINE CHART

Presenter:	
Duration:	
Start date:	
Time:	
Location:	
Price:	

Charbel Raish 8 weeks Thursday, 10th October 2024 7pm to 9pm Middle Dural Free

Please message Tania on 0401597278 if you would like to attend or know anyone who will be interested.



SPEAKER : Bill Donaghy, TOB specialist and international speaker LOCATION : Benedict XVI Retreat Centre REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 1 DECEMBER 2024 T O B I . S Y D N E Y C A T H O L I C . O R G

CHILDREN'S MASS

NEXT SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 10.30AM

ON FATHER'S DAY

Followed by morning tea, sweets, coffee & tea!

PIETY STORE WILL BE OPENED!

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY INSTITUTE

The Writings of John Paul II on Gender, Marriage and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In partnership with the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation and the Theology of the Body Institute, the Archdiocese of Sydney is proud to announce that once again we will be hosting another not-to-be-missed 5-day immersion course experience:

'The Writings of John Paul II on Gender, Marriage and Family', from the 19th to the 24th of January, Sunday to Friday, and is now OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS! –

https://www.trybooking.com/CTJWO.

Amid the ongoing cultural attacks on sexual identity, marriage, and family, after much prayer it was decided that this would be the best course to help inspire, form, and equip us to protect the dignity of the human person in today's age.

Originally, local students of the Theology of the Body Institute travelled to Philadelphia to take courses with the institute. But now, this wonderful opportunity exists where any student in Australia can participate in person here in Sydney.

The TOB Institute is sending an esteemed international TOB theologian and close friend of Dr Christopher West, Dr Bill Donaghy, to whom Christopher has entrusted the instruction of this core unit for a number of years. Bill is renowned for his gift of speaking the beauty of God's creation into his formation.

> Date: 19-24 January 2025 Location: Benedict XVI Centre Cost: \$1900 AUD

Inclusion: Immersion Course with all materials, 5 nights' accommodation (*twin-shared*) and all meals

Learn more and find out how to register your spot by clicking on the social media tile below or visit <u>https://tobi.sydneycatholic.org/</u>.

Share this incredible opportunity with your friends, family, school and parish communities using the social media tile and the attached course prospectus!

Feel free to contact the TOBI representative of Australia at <u>tobi@sydneycatholic.org</u> if you have any queries regarding the immersion course.

Parish Roster PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

31/8/2024 TO 1/9/2024 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am		
Acolyte		Nigel M	Paul E		
Reader1	Mary C	Ann L	CHILDREN'S		
Reader2	Miriam B	Lorraine D	CHILDREN'S		
Prayers	Margaret B	Kath M	CHILDREN'S		
TV		Jules O	Azzi family		
Music		Karina S	Melanie H		
Music		John T	Adam F		
Music		Noelle T	Martina J		
Music					
Morning Tea		Sophie R	Robin B		
FLOWERS	Angela S				

SUPPORT ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

ARE YOU CONSIDERING SELLING YOUR PROPERTY

We are delighted to introduce Gavan Kohen, Sales Director at **Ray White** Dural, a proud member of the Parish of St Benedict's.

Gavan is generously offering to support our parish by donating a portion of his commission from any sale referred by our parishioners. Thank you Gavan, we appreciate your kind gesture.

For any real estate enquiries, please contact:

Gavan Kohen on 0414 911 070.



St Benedict's Parish, 12:30pm Sunday 13 October 2024

Invitation to children to take part

in the Fatima Play, which will be part of the

Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day.

Please phone 0438 521 421 for further details.

hank

Thank you to all our volunteers, we really appreciate it!

If anyone would like to join our parish roster please contact the parish office.

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.

PARISH OFF Mondays & Fridays:	ICE HOURS: 9.30am to 2.30pm	Website: Facebook:	j	
Parish Office: Email:	02 9653 2312 arcadia.parish@bigpond.com	MONASTERY:	9653 1159	Facebook
Parish Priest: Email: After hours:	Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com 0437 884 233	BANK DETAILS for ONLINE only donations: BSB: 062 784 Account: 100002141 Account Name: Catholic Parish of Arcadia Bank: CBA—Catholic Development Fund		
Address: Postal address:	2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159	and Safeguardi	occupational Health 8 ng Children matters on 0416 081 882.	-