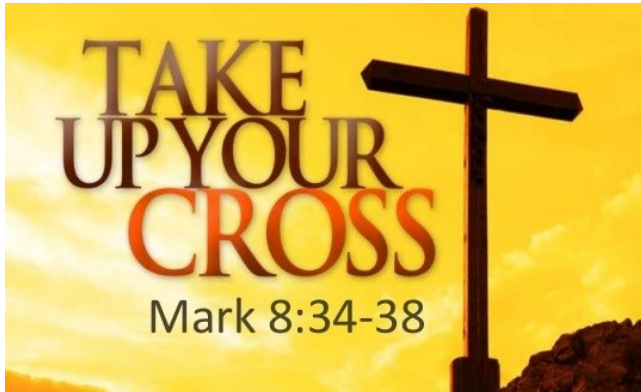


St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B
14 & 15 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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**



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

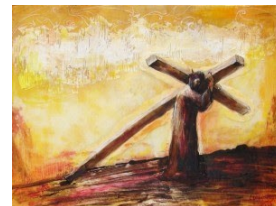
SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
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: CARRYING MY CROSS

This Sunday's Gospel, Mark 8:34-38, Jesus calls us to "deny ourselves," "take up our cross," and follow Him. This path involves self-sacrifice and a willingness to endure hardship for the sake of His mission.

1. *Am I willing to deny myself and put aside my own desires and ambitions for the sake of following Jesus?*
2. *Am I open about my faith, even when it might be unpopular or ridiculed?*
3. *What changes can I make to better align my life with Jesus' call to follow Him fully?*



Lord Jesus,

Help me to follow You by denying myself, taking up my cross, and seeking Your will above all else. Strengthen me to prioritise spiritual values over worldly gains and to stand firm in my faith, even when it's difficult. Guide me to live boldly for You and reflect Your love in all I do. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
 neither did I turn away.
 I offered my back to those who struck me,
 my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
 I did not cover my face
 against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
 so that I am untouched by the insults.
 So, too, I set my face like flint;
 I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.
 Does anyone start proceedings against me?
 Then let us go to court together.
 Who thinks he has a case against me?
 Let him approach me.
 The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 2:14-18 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St James
Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
 Alleluia!

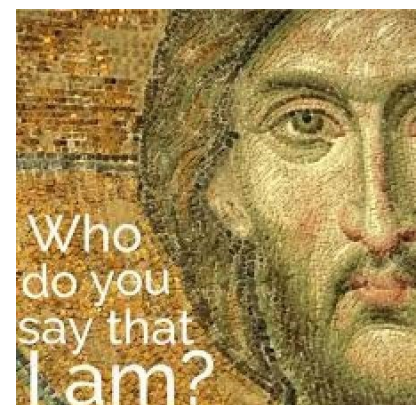
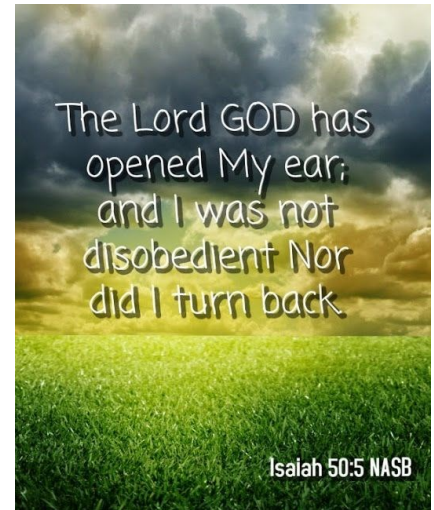
GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-35 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, September 15

Isaiah 50:4-9 / Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9 / James 2:14-18 / Mark 8:27-35

The Son of Man must suffer greatly . . . and be killed. (Mark 8:31)

How did Jesus know that he would die? Was it because, as God, he could see his future? Was it because, as a man, he saw his disciples' weak faith as a hint of what would happen when they faced opposition in Jerusalem? Most likely, it was a combination of both—we won't know the full answer this side of heaven.

But what we do know is that, fully aware of what would happen to him, Jesus kept going. He kept preaching the unlimited mercy of God—a message that somehow provoked many of his listeners to anger and confounded even his closest followers. He kept teaching and forming them—the very people he knew would betray, deny, and abandon him in his hour of need. He knew how it would end, but he didn't turn aside from his mission.

This is the measure of Jesus' love. Even though he knew he would die a lonely and agonizing death, he still chose to walk the path of self-giving love. He knew that if he stayed on that path all the way to the cross, the revelation of that love would ultimately pierce his disciples' hearts and transform them.

And it did. Seeing the risen Jesus on Easter Sunday changed everything for them. After all the ways they had failed him, he still came back and offered them the same love he had shown them all along. He still came back with the assurance of his forgiveness despite their sin. He still came back and entrusted them with the mission of sharing this love with the whole world. He even gave them his own Holy Spirit to empower them for this mission!

Jesus wants to do for you everything he did for his disciples. No matter what you have done or failed to do—no matter what you *will* do or fail to do—his love continues to flow out to you. Gaze at his cross today and receive that love!

“Jesus, I praise you for the victory—and steadfastness—of your love for me!”

Source: *Word Among Us India*

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 16 Readings: 1 Cor 11:17-26. Lk 7:1-10.
R: Proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again.
Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr
- Tuesday 17 Readings: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31. Lk 7:11-17.
R: We are his people: the sheep of his flock.
St Hildegard of Bingen, virgin, doctor
St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor
- Wednesday 18 Readings: 1 Cor 12:31—13:13. Lk 7:31-35.
R: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.
- Thursday 19 Readings: 1 Cor 15:1-11. Lk 7:36-50.
R: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
St Januarius, bishop, martyr
- Friday 20 Readings: 1 Cor 15:12-20. Lk 8:1-3
R: Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.
St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, martyr, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs
- Saturday 21 Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13.
R: Their message goes out through all the earth.
St Matthew, apostle, evangelist



O God, who gave
St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian
to your people
as diligent shepherds and valiant martyrs,
grant that through their intercession
we may be strengthened
in faith and constancy
and spend ourselves without reserve
for the unity of the Church.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FROM THE ROMAN MISSAL

**Sts Cornelius & Cyprian,
Pray for us**

Source: *Ordo 2024*



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

FOR THE CRY OF THE EARTH

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

PARISH FINANCE UPDATE

PARISH MAINTENANCE

We are excited to announce that our next maintenance project will involve painting the hall and the sacristy office. This important update will help enhance the appearance and functionality of these spaces.

We appreciate your support and patience during this process. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our facilities welcoming and well-maintained.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing **SISTER WENDY** a very happy birthday!

SEPTEMBER 19

God bless you on your birthday!



UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE TIMELINE CHART

Presenter: Charbel Raish
Duration: 8 weeks
Start date: Thursday, 10th October 2024
Time: 7pm to 9pm
Location: Middle Dural
Price: Free

Please contact the parish office or Paula if you would like to attend as this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Bible.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



Dear Confirmation Candidates,
Families, and Volunteers,

Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Thursday night with Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

Thank you for making it such a memorable occasion. Your presence and support truly made the event special.

A heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Your dedication and hard work ensured that everything went smoothly and that the evening was a beautiful reflection of our shared faith and community spirit.

Special thanks to the following (in alphabetical order):

Organisers:

- *Mary Cascun.*
- *Jules Ozolins.*
- *Mandah, Daniel and Eden Vella.*
- *Lisa Welsman.*

Others:

- *Gebran Azzi* for holding the classes and Senior serving.
- *John-Paul and Jonah Azzi* for altar serving.
- *Robin Barbara* for organising the kitchen and setting up of tables.
- *Paul El-Chaar* for taking photos.
- *Melanie Hume* for the beautiful music playing and ensuring the everything went smoothly.
- *Rosie Sakkal* for opening the Piety Shop.
- *Gabe Wall* for arranging the beautiful flowers.
- *Keith Wallace* for the beautiful singing.

We are truly grateful for each of you and your commitment to making this celebration extraordinary. Your support and hard work are deeply appreciated.

God bless you all!

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 & Brother Terry.**

We remember in our prayers all our dearly beloved who have died, especially **Father Simon Aloisi. May they rest in Peace.**



PHOTOS OF THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE



THANK YOU FROM THE MICALLEF'S

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude for all your heartfelt prayers and kind thoughts for Charlie's recovery. Your support and encouragement have been a great source of strength and comfort during this challenging time.

*Many thanks,
Charlie, Rosie and family*

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.

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!



YOUTH

GROUP

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Term 3 is rapidly coming to an end. Final day of term is Friday 27th September. Term 4 starts on Monday 14th October.

Free training –

- For all Catechists, family or friends - “**A Reflective Study of the Psalms**” continues Friday 20th September 10am-12.15pm via Zoom on ‘Liturgical/Pilgrim Psalms’
- For new Catechists – **CCD Ministry Induction** on Thursday 19th September 6:15-8:30pm, this week's unit ‘Introduction to the Bible’.
- Available to Catechists with full Authorisation – Level 1 Training “**Music, Stories and Drama in the Classroom**” this Mon 16th Sept 9:30am - 2:30pm at The Entrance.
- The CCD is also offering ongoing training for Catechists in Classroom Management during the Sept/Oct school holidays. While the Zoom sessions are now fully booked, there will be a face-to-face session at Pennant Hills on Wednesday 2nd October 10am-12:30pm.

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, Catechists or contact myself.

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



OUR LADY OF FATIMA MEETING

Tuesday 17 September at 7:15pm
Parish Meeting Room
All committee members please attend.
Visitors are welcome.

CCD ANNUAL MASS Saturday 16 November 11.30am, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

The CCD Annual Mass is our opportunity to recognise and celebrate the devoted SRE catechists in our Diocese. We honour those who have served our ministry for 15 years or more, and this year we are thrilled to present a 60 years of service award. We also recognise catechists who have achieved high levels of training. We invite all clergy to concelebrate the Mass, and all catechists, family, friends and parishioners are welcome to attend.

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.

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!

ITALIAN ROSARY GROUP



Every **Monday 2.00pm.**
Everyone welcome.

For more details call

Angela Egiziano on 9652 1358.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Robert Bellarmine

Bishop and Doctor

Feast Day: September 17

C: 1542-1621

Patron Saint of canon lawyers, catechism writers, catechists, and catechumens

Canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1930

Declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI in 1931

Robert Bellarmine was the third of ten children born into a noble, but poor, family in Montepulciano within Tuscany, modern-day Italy, about 100 miles north of Rome. As a child, Robert was known for his intelligence and photographic memory. At age eighteen, he entered the Jesuit novitiate in Rome where he excelled. When asked to teach Greek, he learned it with his students and quickly mastered it. At age twenty-eight, in 1570, he was ordained a priest. Father Bellarmine was assigned to teach at the University of Louvain, where he had completed his theological studies., followed by an assignment at the Roman College, now the Pontifical Gregorian University, where he became spiritual director and confessor to the future saint, Aloysius Gonzaga.

Father Bellarmine's lectures in Rome became a three-volume book called *De Controversiis*, a defense of the Catholic faith against the Protestant Reformation. He powerfully defended Catholic doctrine against seventeen controversies resulting from the Reformation. His work became the standard for the theological defense of the faith across Europe. Topics included Scripture and Tradition, the psalms, Christ, the pope and Church, the Sacraments, sin, grace, free will, and good works. He presented the Catholic faith well and addressed the errors of Luther, Calvin, and Zwigli.

Popes relied on Father Bellarmine for administrative and diplomatic tasks. In 1592, at age fifty, he became rector of the Roman College. In 1598, he was made a cardinal and given the role of Cardinal Inquisitor, becoming a judge in important matters of the Inquisition, such as trials for heresy. He participated in the trial of the former Dominican turned Calvinist, Giordano Bruno, who was found guilty and turned over to the civil authorities, who put him to death.

Assigned as Archbishop of Capua in 1602, Cardinal Bellarmine agreed to Pope Paul V's request three years later that he remain in Rome as the chief advisor and theologian for the Holy See. Over the next sixteen years, Cardinal Bellarmine helped resolve divisions within the Church, clarified the Church's position on relevant topics, helped implement the Roman Catechism (or Catechism of Trent, which he had helped write), and communicated with and even rebuked kings and secular rulers. In 1616, Cardinal Bellarmine responded to the controversial teachings of Galileo, whom he considered a friend. The cardinal did not condemn him, but he delivered the Church's position that, since Galileo's conclusions could not be substantiated scientifically, the traditional understanding of Scripture must hold. He added that if science were to prove Galileo's view (that the earth revolved around the sun), then the Church had a duty to interpret Scripture in light of those new facts. After Bellarmine's death the Church went further, erroneously condemning Galileo, much to its later humiliation. After one more conclave, Cardinal Bellarmine fell ill and retreated into retirement. During the last years of his life, he wrote beautiful devotional works: "The Mind's Ascent to God by the Ladder of Created Things," "The Seven Words on the Cross," and "On the Art of Dying Well."

Saint Robert Bellarmine, you placed your mind at God's service for His glory and praise. God used you to articulate His truth in a systematic and practical way that strengthened and unified the Church. Please pray that I will place my gifts and talents at God's service so that He will use me to fulfill His perfect will. Saint Robert Bellarmine, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.



27th
Year

OUR
Lady of Fatima
FEAST DAY

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six times to three shepherd children near Fatima, Portugal in 1917. She promised that Heaven would grant peace to the troubled world if Her requests for prayer, reparation and consecration were heard and obeyed.

St Benedict's Parish, Sunday 13 October 2024, 12:30pm
2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2157

Celebrant:

Very Rev David Ranson PP VG

Concelebrant:

Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB



Commences with children's play, Recital of the Rosary in five languages followed by Procession, Holy Mass, afternoon tea and raffle.

Parish Roster

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MORNING TEA
AFTER THE 9AM MASS

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

21/9/24 TO 22/9/2024
25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Lorraine D	George A
Reader1	Mary C	Matt W	Mirko J
Reader2	Margaret B	Gabrielle W	Lorna B
Prayers	Maria G	Gebran A	Michael E
TV		Sebastian W	Trey O'C
Music		Melanie H	Melanie H
Music		Marisa Q	Keith W
Music		Nigel M	Don R
Music		Teresa G	
Morning Tea		Mandah V	
 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.

PARISH E-BULLETIN

The Parish is offering the Parish bulletin electronically in addition to the printed version.

If you would like to receive the bulletin by email, please send your email address to the parish office at:

arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Remember, the bulletin is also available weekly on the Parish website and Facebook page.



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 OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Parish Office: 02 9653 2312
Email: arcadia.parish@bigpond.com

Parish Priest: Fr Shansana Samarasinghe OSB
Email: sanshanasamarasinghe@yahoo.com
After hours: 0437 884 233

Address: 2 Fagans Road, Arcadia NSW 2159
Postal address: 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia NSW 2159

Website: www.bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia

Facebook: [stbenedictarcadia](https://www.facebook.com/stbenedictarcadia)

MONASTERY: 9653 1159



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

For all parish Occupational Health & Safety and Safeguarding Children matters Contact:
Lorraine Dailey on 0416 081 882.