

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B
7 & 8 SEPTEMBER 2024**



**THE HEALING
OF THE DEAF
AND MUTE
MAN**
(MARK 7:31-37)

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

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
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: PERSONAL HEALING

This Sunday's Gospel, Mark 7:31-37: recounts the story of Jesus healing a man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. The passage can be deeply reflective, prompting considerations about faith, healing, and the power of Jesus' touch.

1. *In what areas in my life do I feel "deaf" to hear God's guidance clearly?*
2. *How can I invite Jesus' healing touch to address these issues?*
3. *How do I witness to others about my transformative power of God in my life?*
4. *Am I comfortable sharing my personal experiences of healing and grace?*



Lord Jesus,

Thank You for Your healing touch and boundless compassion. Open my ears to hear Your voice and my heart to embrace Your guidance. Heal any barriers in my life and help me to communicate Your love with clarity and grace. May I always respond with wonder and share Your goodness with others. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,

the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: James 2:1-5 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

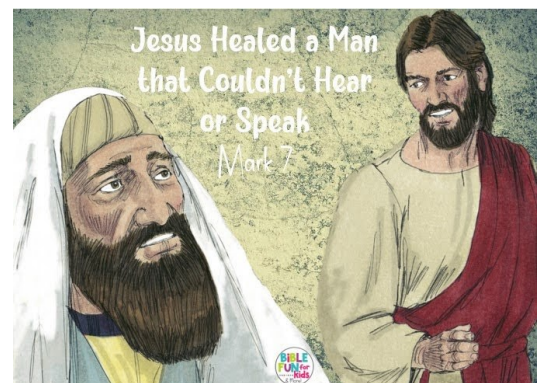
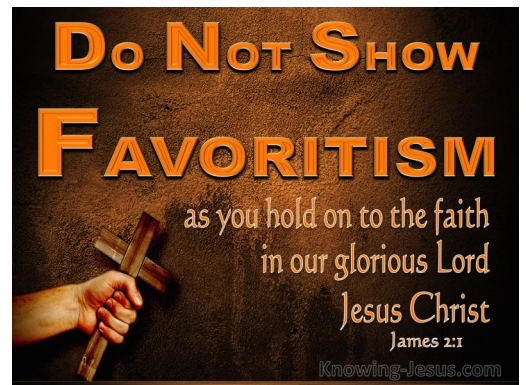
GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, September 8

Nativity of the Bl.V. Mary

Isaiah 35:4-7 / Psalm 146:6-10 / James 2:1-5 / Mark 7:31-37

Then will the . . . ears of the deaf be cleared. (Isaiah 35:5)

Anyone who has ever experienced hearing loss knows how isolating it can be. The deaf man in today’s Gospel must have also struggled with not being able to take part in conversations or understand what was being said. So when Jesus took him off by himself, looked to heaven, and said, “Be opened!” the man’s life changed radically (Mark 7:34).

In today’s first reading, the prophet Isaiah promised that when the Lord came to deliver Israel, he would heal the blind and deaf (35:5). The people who witnessed the deaf man’s healing saw this promise fulfilled in Jesus and even alluded to it when they said, “He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak” (Mark 7:37).

Jesus came to open our ears, too. He doesn’t want us to be isolated from him or others. But we can’t be healed of our “spiritual deafness” if we fail to spend time with him each day. We need to get “away from the crowd” (Mark 7:33)—away from all the clatter and distractions so that we can better listen what Jesus wants to say to us. We also need a heart open to hearing his words, especially if he shows us where we need to change.

We can be deaf, too, to the people around us, most especially our loved ones. We can tune out their concerns and struggles because we’ve heard them one too many times. Or we can listen to their words but not really try to understand what’s going on beneath the surface, in their hearts.

That’s why it’s important to start each day asking the Lord to “clear” your ears (Isaiah 35:5). He wants you to hear him speaking to you, and he wants you to really listen to the people in your life. Just as he opened the ears of the man in today’s Gospel, you can trust that he will open your ears, too. There’s so much he wants you to hear and understand!

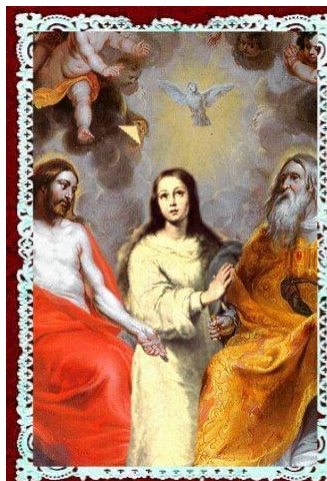
“Jesus, I want to listen. Open my ears today!”

Source: Word Among Us India

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SEPTEMBER

- Monday 9 Readings: 1 Cor 5:1-8. Lk 6:6-11.
R: Lead me in your justice, Lord.
St Peter Claver, priest
- Tuesday 10 Readings: 1 Cor 6:1-11. Lk 6:12-19.
R: The Lord takes delight in his people.
- Wednesday 11 Readings: 1 Cor 7:25-31. Lk 6:20-26.
R: Listen to me daughter;
see and bend your ear.
- Thursday 12 Readings: 1 Cor 8:1-7,11-13. Lk 6:27-38.
R: Guide me, Lord,
along the everlasting way.
The Most Holy Name of Mary
- Friday 13 Readings: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27. Lk 6:39-42.
R: How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God!
St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
- Saturday 14 Readings: Num 21:4-9. Jn 3:13-17.
R: Do not forget the works of the Lord!
Exaltation of the Holy Cross



Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“Lord our God,
when Your Son was dying on the
altar of the cross, He gave us as our
mother the one He had chosen to be
His own mother, the Blessed Virgin
Mary; grant that we who call upon
the holy name of Mary, our mother,
with confidence in her protection
may receive strength and comfort
in all our needs”

Dear Mother Mary,
You always point us to God,
reminding us of God’s infinite
goodness. Helps us to open our
hearts to God’s ways, wherever
those may lead us. Pray for us oh
holy mother of God. Amen.

Feast Day
September 12

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.

ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

FATHER SHANSANA SAMARASINGHE
13 SEPTEMBER 2000 - 24 YEARS



Congratulations and best wishes on the Anniversary of your Religious profession commitment.

The parish of St Benedict's give thanks to the Lord for Father Shansana's vocation and his faithful commitment to the Lord.

May God continue to bless and accompany him to be a wonderful instrument in proclaiming His mercy and love.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM UPDATE

Please pray for the children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday September 12th.

Prayer:

Lord, we ask You to bless them abundantly on this special day. Grant them wisdom, courage, and a deep sense of Your love. May they feel Your presence in their hearts and know that they are surrounded by Your grace.

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit inspire them to be true witnesses of Your love and to serve others with compassion and generosity.

We also pray for their families and sponsors, that they may support and encourage the children as they continue to grow in their faith. Amen.

THANK YOU

Sam and Martine Musumeci would like to thank Fr. Shansana and all our friends at St Benedict's for all their prayers and good wishes while he was ill. Knowing that we were in your thoughts at this time was a great comfort to us.

He is now well on the way to recovery, thanks be to God.

PRAYER REQUEST



Prayers for the repose of
FATHER SIMON ALOISI



25th Anniversary of his death occurs

On Sunday 8th September 2024

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

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.



PRESENTED BY CHARBEL RAISH

NEW ROSTER

IS NOW READY FOR PICK UP

PLEASE COLLECT

FROM SACRISTY WITH YOUR NAME ON IT.

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.*



VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK!

This week volunteer of the week nomination goes to:

PETER KOSCIS

thank you!

A huge thank you to Peter helping us replace all the chairs and items into the hall after the carpet replacement. Really appreciate your help when needed!

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

ST BENEDICT'S MEN'S MEET & GREET

The next **MEN'S MEET AND GREET:**
TUESDAY the 1st October 2024
7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Thank you to all those men who attended last Tuesday night's men's group. Your presence and participation were greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to see the camaraderie and support among us as we gathered to share, reflect, and grow together.

Thank you for making the time to be there, for your openness, and for the genuine connection we shared. We look forward to our future meetings and continuing to build on the fellowship and understanding we have established.

Best regards,
Bens-Men

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!



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.

CATECHISTS' NEWS

Free training –

- For all Catechists, family or friends - "A Reflective Study of the Psalms" continues Friday 13th September 10am-12.15pm via Zoom on 'Historical Psalms'
- For new Catechists – CCD Ministry Induction on Thursday 12th September 6:15-8:30pm, this week's unit 'Classroom Management'.
- Available to Catechists with full Authorisation – Level 1 Training "Music, Stories and Drama in the Classroom" this Mon 9th Sept 9:30am-2:30am at Chatswood OR Mon 16th Sept 9:30am -2:30pm at The Entrance.

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



GCEA SPRING DINNER

The Spring Dinner is next week and we need to give the Galston Club final numbers by Monday 9th September.

St Benedict's already has a table of 20 booked. There's plenty more room to join us for this enjoyable evening.

If you have not already registered please register NOW to support this vital ministry.

Tom Eastlake who is Executive Officer for Inter Church Commission on Religious Education in Schools is our guest speaker for the Dinner and he will bring us up to date with what is happening with Religious Education in schools throughout NSW.

We have some great items as usual for our silent auction.

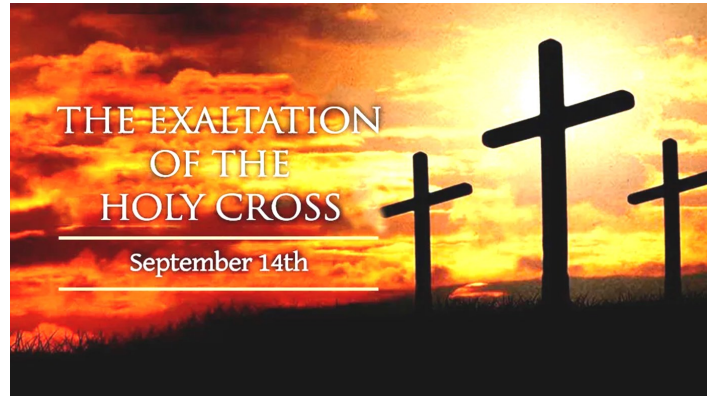
The registration web site has been updated and there is now an option to pay later or on the night plus there is now the option for any dietary requirements.

Please go to the link below to register

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

Otherwise contact Paula on 0423 078 282.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Today, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.

The Edict of Milan, issued in 313, granted religious freedom across the Roman Empire. After the Edict was signed, from 314 to 324, there was continual conflict between Roman Emperors Constantine I in the West and Licinius in the East. Tensions escalated when Constantine accused Licinius of plotting against him. In 324, Constantine defeated Licinius in battle and executed him on charges of conspiracy. Constantine became sole ruler of the Roman Empire, including Jerusalem, which had previously been under Licinius's control.

In 326, Constantine's mother, Saint Helena, a devout Christian, embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to identify significant sites from Christ's life and establish a church at each. In Jerusalem, she hoped to find the True Cross and to build a church over the sites of Mount Calvary and Jesus' tomb, known as the Holy Sepulchre. Upon identifying Mount Calvary and the empty tomb, she discovered three buried crosses. After an investigation, the local bishop confirmed they were the crosses used to crucify Jesus and the two thieves. Since Helena did not know which cross was Christ's, she arranged for a sick woman to touch all three. The woman was immediately healed upon touching one of them, indicating that it was the True Cross.

Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of a church to encompass Mount Calvary and Christ's tomb and to house the True Cross. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was erected and dedicated on September 13, 335. Legend says that the following day—September 14, 335—Christ's Cross was brought outside the church for the faithful to venerate. Over the next three centuries, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated annually in Jerusalem and varied elsewhere.

In 614, the Persians invaded Jerusalem, taking the True Cross as a trophy. The Persians, followers of the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism, were not Christians. Allowing the Holy Cross to remain in their possession was seen as sacrilegious. In 622, Eastern Roman Emperor Heraclius initiated military campaigns to recapture Jerusalem and the True Cross. In 628, he triumphed, and the following year, Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem with the True Cross, restoring it to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After that, the Feast of the Holy Cross became a universal celebration within the Church, starting in Rome and subsequently spreading throughout the empire.

Although we commemorate three historical events today, the celebration's core is not the Cross's wood or the holy sites where Jesus died and was buried. The primary focus is the infinite love shown through the Son of God's selfless and perfect Sacrifice and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result. The Cross, a cruel instrument of torture and death, is now the symbol of God's perfect love, further magnifying that love and showcasing God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon the world.

Most glorious and triumphant Lord, You gave Your life for my soul's salvation, using the most horrific act of cruelty as the means of Your redeeming grace. I open myself to that grace, asking You to bestow it superabundantly. May I have the courage and wisdom to embrace my crosses every day, uniting them to Your Cross, and trusting that You will use my sacrifices to further bestow Your love on the world. Saving Cross of Christ, have mercy on 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

14/9/24 TO 15/9/2024
24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Nigel M	
Reader1	Margaret B	Lorraine D	Azzi family
Reader2	Sr Carol T	Kath M	Azzi family
Prayers	Mary C	Judy H	Teresa G
TV		Mary A	Joshua A
Music		Karina S	Melanie H
Music		John T	Martina J
Music		Noelle T	Keith W
Music			
Morning Tea		Sophie R	
 FLOWERS	Mona M		

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.