

St Benedict's Parish Arcadia



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C

11 & 12 JANUARY 2025



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

Father Shansana will be away from the parish from the 3rd January 2025 and returning on the 22nd of January 2025.

Please contact Father Shansana for the following:

**BAPTISMS
RECONCILIATION
FOR THE SICK
MARRIAGES
FUNERALS**

**Parish Priest:
Fr Shansana 0437 884 233**



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

SUNDAY HOLY MASS PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
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.

SELF REFLECTION: GOD'S PRESENCE

In Luke 3:15-16, 21-22, we see the people's hope for the Messiah and John the Baptist's humble role in preparing the way for Jesus. John points beyond himself, saying that someone greater, Jesus, is coming.

- *How can I practice humility like John the Baptist, pointing others to Jesus rather than seeking attention for myself?*
- *In what ways can I be more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my life?*
- *How am I responding to God's call to live in obedience and faith, as Jesus did?*

**Lord,
Thank You for the example of John the Baptist, who humbly pointed others to Jesus. Help me to live with humility and recognise that true greatness comes from serving You. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and for affirming Jesus as Your beloved Son. May I always remember that I, too, am loved by You. Guide me to live in obedience and trust, following Jesus' example. Fill me with Your peace and help me to walk in Your will each day. Amen.**

First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (Year C) (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them,' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading: *Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (Year C) (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
John said: He who is to come is mightier than I;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (Year C) (JB)*

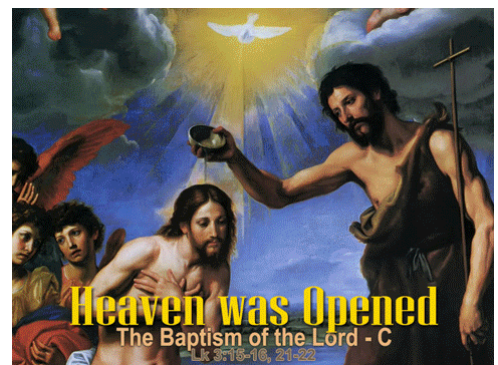
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sunday, January 12

The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10 / Acts 10:34-38 / Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

... and Jesus also had been baptized. (Luke 3:21)

If you haven't already done it, it's time to put away those Christmas decorations. Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and it's traditionally considered the end of the Christmas season. That's because, at his baptism, Jesus leaves behind his "hidden years" and launches into public ministry. And he doesn't do it with a stirring speech or an impressive display of power. Instead, he asks his cousin John to baptize him.

But why is this an important event? Because at his baptism, Jesus publicly embraces our human condition. The One who is without sin humbly accepts being "counted among the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). Of course, in his Incarnation, Jesus became fully man. But in his baptism, he made it clear that he was identifying himself with our full humanity, even our sin.

As Pope Benedict XVI explained in his book *Jesus of Nazareth*, "Jesus inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners." By accepting baptism, Jesus accepted his coming death for the sins of all mankind. He anticipates his submission to his Father's will during the agony in the garden, and he points us toward his suffering and death on the cross. Just as he would in those more painful moments, Jesus began his ministry by saying yes to his mission as the Savior of the world.

And what a Savior he is! He didn't hold himself aloof from us or save us from a position of power and glory. He emptied and humbled himself and submitted to a baptism he didn't need in order to bring us the salvation we did need. And by doing so, he sanctified the waters of our Baptism. Because of his humility, our sins can be washed away, and we can receive the grace to live as children of God.

So don't just put away your Christmas decorations today. Make sure you celebrate your salvation as well!

"Thank you, Jesus, for embracing my humanity!"

Source: Word Among Us India



- **Parish Office** currently only open on Fridays. Mondays will resume February 10th. For anything urgent call Paula on 0423 078 282.
- **Father Shansana** will be away from the parish from the 3rd January 2025 and returning on the 22nd of January 2025.
- **The Piety Shop** will be closed from Monday 23rd December and will reopen early February 2025.

In Our Parish

(please let us know if you would like someone added here)

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. We especially pray for:



MARGARET MCKINLEY, JOE GUIANA, MICHAEL SWAN (Therese Murphy's brother), Vanessa Papandrea, Biagio Abignano, Phil Dailey, Brother Peter Hancock, Brother Terry & Colleen Bennett

May they rest in eternal Peace.

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of:



JOSEPH GUIANA



Loving husband of Jessie Guiana

**Funeral will be held at the parish Church
On Wednesday 15th January at 11am**

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord
And let the Perpetual Light shine upon him
may he rest in peace. Amen.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with
Jessie and the Guiana family.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2025

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

Parish Roster

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

NEXT WEEKEND'S ROSTER

**18/1/25 to 19/1/25
2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C**

	SATURDAY 7.00pm	SUNDAY 9.00am	SUNDAY 10.30am
Acolyte		Paul C	George A
Reader1	Sr Carol T	Ann L	Leanne A
Reader2	Natasha S	Mary C	Martina J
Prayers	Margaret B	Judy H	Lorna B
TV		Mary A	Mirko J
Music		Melanie H	Karina S
Music		Marisa Q	John T
Music		Keith W	Noelle T
Music			
Morning Tea		Teresa G	
FLOWERS	Mona M		



**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
(Office currently only open on Fridays. Mondays will resume February 10th. For anything urgent call Paula on 0423 078 282).
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: stbenedict sarcadia



MONASTERY CHAPEL

Liturgy of the Hours
"Seven times a day I will praise you"
Psalm 119:164

The liturgy of the hours is a set of prayers (psalms, hymns, readings and other prayers). It is recited in the Monastery Chapel daily at the following times:

5.45am Office of Readings
6.30am Morning prayer - Lauds
12.45pm Midday prayer
6.00pm Evening prayer - Vespers
8.00pm Night prayer - Compline

VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK!

This week's volunteer of the week nomination goes to quite a few deserving people:

GLENICE LUI

Thank you, Glenice, for your hard work and dedication in applying for the government grant to help secure our parish with a security system. We know it took a lot of effort and time, and we truly appreciate everything you've done.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Wishing **FATHER ALBERIC** a very happy birthday!

14TH JANUARY

God bless you on your birthday and always!

*"Who I am, O Lord and what is this House of mine that you've led me thus far? Yet, in your sight, O Lord God, this is still not far enough."
(2 Samuel 7:18-19)*



**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**