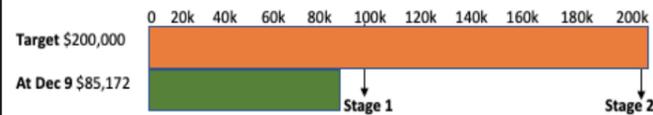


hamper and we thank you for your continued support. Should you be aware of any family that would benefit from a hamper please advise the parish office.

From the Parish Pastoral Council:

Please keep the donations coming in for this appeal. As a Parish we need to care for our Priests but their current living conditions are substandard. If you would like to learn more about why it is important to contribute to this appeal, please do not hesitate to contact me at mtcn52@gmail.com

A further **\$1,840.00** has been donated in the past week bringing the total to **\$85,172.00**: \$56,000 from



the initial donor via the MGLs and \$29,172.00 from parishioners.

We have a **further \$21,000 to go to reach our Parish target** of a contribution of \$50,000 towards the renovation.

If you are able to contribute, please take a donation envelope from the back of the Church or contribute online to:

Account Name	BSB	Acc No
St Benedicts Parish	062.786	000014992

When making a donation please advise under the reference bar that the donation is for **Presbytery**.

Yours in Christ

Moira Najdecki
Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal 2021

As we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, parishes will be conducting the annual Archbishop's Christmas Appeal at their Christmas Masses, **in our parish it will be a retiring collection.** Funds raised will again be used to support the National Council of Churches' Christmas Bowl Appeal and to assist Church communities in Ethiopia, Gaza, Syria Indonesia and Sri Lankans in India. Further support will be given for

projects within the Dioceses of Otuipo, Africa and Thamarassery in India along with projects of the La Salette Martha Province, in India. Continuing assistance will be given for the Bethlehem University as well as contributing to construction of a school hall at Vanga Point within the Diocese of Gizo, PNG.

Generosity in the face of COVID challenges will again be needed to enable us to reach out and assist our neighbours in need this year. **You can use the Qkr! App to make a donation** or send to:

Archbishop's Christmas Appeal
Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell
GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601
Enquiries: Deacon Joe Blackwell Tel. 0407 909 295

Laudato Si Action Platform

The much-anticipated Laudato Si' Action Platform was officially launched last week. The platform offers Catholics and "all people of good will" concrete steps and support towards achieving sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology as described in Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the care of creation. The platform identifies 7 sectors working towards 7 goals over 7 years. Everyone is invited to participate by enrolling in the platform. Further information -

- <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>
- <https://www.care4ourcommonhome.org/home>

Archdiocesan Zoom Advent Groups

Join a Zoom Advent reflection 4pm this Sun 19 or 10am this Tue 21 December. Meeting ID: 961 8683 9540. Be enriched by the reflections or our Archbishop and of lay people from around our Archdiocese on Amoris Laetitia - Pope Francis' document on the family. Videos & handouts freely available at

www.cgatholic.org.au/ADVENT

First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia

The fruits of this the have been gathered together in a new report that contains dozens of proposals to shape the ongoing Plenary Council journey.

Access the document at:
<https://bit.ly/FirstAssembly>

*St Benedict's Catholic Parish acknowledge the **Ngunnawal People**, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.*

St Benedict's Catholic Church



In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55)
Narrabundah ACT 2604
Tel: +61 (02) 6295 7879/ Parish Office
Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772
Email: Narrabundah@cg.org.au
Website: <http://cg.org.au/narrabundah/Home.aspx>

Parish Team:

Fr Rembert Fernando MGL (Administrator)
Fr Baiju Thomas MGL (Mission Centre Director)
Ellen Thomas (Parish Secretary)
Cathy Schneider (Finance Officer, Wednesday 8.00am—12midday)
Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)
Jeremiah Wilkes (Youth Minister)

**Fourth Sunday in Advent Year C
18 & 19 December 2021**



Lighting of the Four Candles

I imagine a lot of love and humour in the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. It's likely that the situations of both women would have fuelled gossip in their little villages and among family and friends, and now we meet Mary seeking solidarity and refuge in the home of her cousin Elizabeth. It's helpful to recall the enthusiasm and excitement of their greeting: the child Jesus in Mary's womb 'leaped' for joy and Elizabeth was 'filled with the Holy Spirit'. Perhaps these two didn't meet all that often, but when they did it was as friends and conversation would have carried on where they had left off at the last visit.

The humour I imagine is in the fact that the man of the house, Zechariah, was silent giving Mary and Elizabeth space to laugh and chat thus making his house their own. All of this during what must have been difficult circumstances for each of them. Their shared humour comes from their confidence that in their unexpected pregnancies God is at work.

And don't miss the Opening Prayer of today's Mass, familiar to us as the concluding prayer of the great Angelus: The word became flesh, and dwells amongst us

Out of lockdown

Dear brothers and sisters, great news! Masses have recommenced at the usual times. **170 people** are able to attend each Mass in person. Please follow social distancing and sanitise before entry. Face mask are no longer mandatory, but encouraged for those 12 years and above. Parishioners are not required to produce evidence of vaccination. **Upon entry please sign in using the CBR app, if you are unable to do so please use the sign in sheets that**

are available. If you are unwell due to immunity issues it is better to stay home.

CBR check in card

A Check In CBR card is now available, designed for those people who do not own a smartphone or who are unable to download or use the Check In CBR app. To apply for this card you can either call access Canberra on **13 22 81** or apply online using the following link: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/check-in-cbr-app/check-in-cbr-app-form>

Adoration roster

Adoration for this year will finish on Saturday 18 December and recommence on Monday 31 January. Thankyou all for your prayerful support and look forward to seeing you again next year.

You can join as an ongoing commitment or an occasional substitute. Hours that are totally vacant and in **urgent need of filling are:**

- Monday 11-12pm, 9-10pm;**
 - Tuesday 7-8am, 8-9am, 3-4pm;**
 - Wednesday 3-4pm; Friday 1-2pm.**
- Please contact **Anne Sutherland 0413203901.**



The St Vincent de Paul Conference

at St Benedict's distributes some 60 food and toy hampers to needy families in Narrabundah for Christmas each year. We rely on donations from the parish, and local schools to furnish the hampers. Please take a tag from the tree to provide toys/ gift cards for the appropriate age child. **Please return the gifts by 19 December so the society can distribute them for Christmas.** Gifts do not need to be wrapped and preferably are not wrapped. Food items including, cakes, biscuits, cordials, soft drinks, canned goods, chips and sweets, Christmas crackers etc are required for the hampers. Traditionally the parish has been very generous and supportive of the Christmas

Sunday 19 December 2021

Advent 4 year C.

First reading Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm 79:2-3,15-16,18-19

*Lord make us turn to you;
Let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. **R/-**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. **R/-**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R/-**

Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will.* He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Lk1:38

*Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will be done for me.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Recently Deceased: Sr M Andre Guthrie, RSJ (Goulburn); Heinrich Frank; Marvel Nobleza; Dorothy Lamb, Ignacio Serrano.

Anniversaries: Verona Auburn; Marino Bufalo; Mary-Ann Davis; Leslie Edmonds; Dorothy Fitzgerald; Sharon Fitzpatrick; James Hogan; Raymond Lilley; Nevio Menis; Olga Moore; Edith Snowdon; Thomas Tonna; Robert Woods.

Other Celebrations:

Our Sick: Jindalee & Mt View residents, Germaphi, Leita Barron, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Frank Smith, Lyn Walker, Louis Pini, Anthony, Helen French, Clem Dick, Flora Arias, Pat Atkins, Carol Rees, Fr Laurie Blake, Mark Ransom,



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tues – Fri 9am - 12pm

(Parish Office closed 23 Dec – 4 Jan)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th 6pm (Family), 8pm (Charismatic), 11.30pm carols, 12am Mass.

Christmas, Saturday 25th 9am Mass

New Years Eve, Friday 31st 11pm Mass

WEEKEND MASS TIMES: WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Saturday (25th cancelled) 6pm (Vigil) Tuesday 5.30pm

Sunday 9am Wednesday 12.30pm

Thursday 5.30pm

Sunday 6pm (Charismatic Mass) Friday 5.30pm (Healing Mass)

Sunday 6pm Youth Mass Saturday 8.00am

RECONCILIATION:

Friday following Healing Mass from. 6:15-7pm

Saturday 5pm — 5.30pm or by appointment (25th cancelled)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Every 3rd Friday Padre Pio 5pm

Every Saturday 7.30am

BAPTISMS: during Weekend Masses or by appointment

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

During the 5.30pm Mass on first Fridays,

10.30am at Jindalee 1st Thursday of the month

10.30am at Mt View 3rd Thursday of the month

Adoration daily hours:

(Closed 18 Dec – 31 Jan)

Monday 6am-10pm Tuesday 6am-10pm

Wednesday 1pm-10pm Thursday 1pm-10pm

Friday 6am to Saturday 8am

Hearing Loop is located in the right Centre rows of the church. Please ensure your hearing aid is tuned to make the best use of this facility.

ST BENEDICT'S WORSHIP GROUP gathers after Thursday evening 5.30pm Mass for an hour of adoration, worship and intercession. All welcome.

Flowers for Christmas

Parishioners are invited to donate flowers for the church on Christmas Eve. If you have agapanthus or hydrangeas that will be in bloom please message Sue on 0407 269 193 before the evening of Thursday (23 December).

Request for volunteers to clean the Church

Recently a few of our wonderful volunteers who clean the Church have had to step back. If any parishioners have the time to volunteer to clean the Church for two hours on a Saturday morning (approximately once every 4 weeks), please contact the Parish office to be placed on the cleaning roster.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND

11 & 12 December 2021

	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Sally Cotsell	Alma Burg
Readers	Robert Booth & Marlene Keir	Philippe & Coline Moncuquet
Presentation of the Gifts	Brian & Leita Barron	N.A.
Eucharistic Ministers	Maria Lunn	Julie Douglas
Flowers, Altar Cleaning	Loretta Thomas, Margie Arvellino, Anne Hobday	
Church Cleaners	Ian Smith & Amir	
Mt View		
Jindalee		

READINGS & ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

25 & 26 December 2021 (Holy Family)

1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28	1 John 3:1-2, 21-24	Lk 2:41-52
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	volunteer	Mel Stratford
Readers	BA Daly & Louise Gaudry	Barry Murphy & Asterie ToNiyonsenge
Presentation of the Gifts	Nick & Maria Marzano	Maralyn Molyneux
Eucharistic Ministers	Robert Booth	
Flowers, Altar Cleaning	Sue Neimanis & Anne Sutherland	
Church Cleaners	Don & Jennifer Nguyen	
Mt View		
Jindalee		

St Benedict's Parish Census forms

Dear parishioners, we are trying to complete our parish database that we want to use for all communications. However, we do not have full details for all parishioners and sometimes we just have a name. If you haven't yet completed and returned a Census form, Father would be very grateful for your help in sending the form to the office as soon as possible. Census forms are in the foyer.

A more complete database helps the parish to function effectively because we can contact you at the right place, provide assistance more efficiently (eg home visits), protect your parish work (eg keeping Working With Vulnerable People cards current) and keeping you in better touch with what's happening in the parish.