

Why go to confession during Lent??

“All too often, we think that Confession is about going to God with dejected looks. Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that he comes to us, to fill us with his grace, to fill us with his joy. Our confession gives the Father the joy of raising us up once more. It is not so much about our sins as about his forgiveness. Our sins are present but the forgiveness of God is always at the heart of our confession.” Pope Francis

The season of Lent provides us with an invitation to deepen our relationships with God and others and to experience healing and restoration. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a privileged way the church gives us to tangibly experience forgiveness and the loving mercy of God. If you haven't been to Confession in a while, perhaps this coming week would be a good time to seek it out and prepare your heart to celebrate Easter.

A reminder that this **Thursday 30th March** we will host a **Mercy Night** from **7-9pm** in the church. The night will include testimony, worship, Adoration, and the opportunity for individual confession.

Confession is also available every week on Friday evenings after the 5:30pm Mass and Saturdays from 5-5:30pm.

Easter Service Times at St Benedict's

Holy Thursday, 6th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm

Good Friday, 7th April

Stations of the Cross, 10:30am
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, 3pm

Holy Saturday, 8th April

Easter Vigil, 7:30pm

Easter Sunday, 9th April

9am Mass
6pm Mass (Charismatic)



ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 25 & 26 March 2023		
	Sat 6 pm Vigil	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Marlene Keir	Barry Murphy
Readers	Helen Bennett, Don Jeffery	Josephus Bumaat, Maria Mendoza
Offertory	Volunteers	Jose family
Eucharistic Ministers	Volunteer	Janice Kelly
Flowers, Altar Clean	Claudine Smith, Louise Gaudry & Margie Avellino	
Church Cleaners	Don & Jennifer Nguyen	
Visitation	Carmel Henry (Mt View), Shruti Ruzario and Prakash Rebello (Jindalee)	

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 1 & 2 April 2023		
1 ST READING Is 50:4-7	2 ND READING Phil 2:6-11	GOSPEL Mt 26:14-27:66
		Sat 6 pm
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Alma Burg
Readers	BA Daly, Louise Gaudry	Grace De Zilva, Linda Henry
Offertory	BA Daly, Helen Bennett	Social group
Eucharistic Ministers	Brian Barron	Julie Douglas
Flowers, Altar Clean	Ann Hill & Anne Sutherland	
Church Cleaners	Santhosh Jose	
Visitation	Julie Douglas (Mt View)	

Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees: Permanent Protection for All The St Vincent de Paul Society supports many refugees and asylum seekers who've been on temporary visas for a decade. So, the Society welcomes the Australian Government's recent announcement of a pathway to permanent residence for 19,000 of these people. However, there are still thousands who [are unable to seek our permanent protection in a fair and timely way](#). So, Vinnies invites Catholics to join us at the Palm Sunday Rally in Garema Place at 1.00 pm on 2 April. There we'll call for "Permanent Protection for All", so that these people can begin to re-build their lives free of fear and uncertainty. Tim McKenna, Vinnies Refugee Support, Canberra-Goulburn

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

Parish Team:

Parish Office Hours: 9am—1pm, Tues, Thurs, Fri
Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55)
Narrabundah ACT 2604

Tel: +61 (02) 6295 7879/ Parish Office

Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772

Website: cg.org.au/Narrabundah

Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest)

Fr Baiju Thomas, MGL (Mission Centre Director)

Fr Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre Co-Director)

Belle Joseph (Secretary, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am—1pm)

Cathy Schneider (Finance Officer Wednesday 8am—12pm)

Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)

5th Sunday of Lent 25th & 26th March 2023

Sunday's Gospel

Extracts from Pope Benedict XVI's Homily on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, 2008
This Gospel passage shows Jesus as true Man and true God. First of all, the Evangelist insists on his friendship with Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. He emphasizes that "Jesus loved" them, and this is why he wanted to accomplish the great wonder. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep", he tells his disciples, expressing God's viewpoint on physical death with the metaphor of sleep. God sees it exactly as sleep, from which he can awaken us. Jesus has shown an absolute power regarding this death, seen when he gives life back to the widow of Nain's young son (cf. Lk 7: 11-17) and to the 12 year-old girl (cf. Mk 5: 35-43).

This lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere "compassion" for the sorrow of detachment. Seeing Martha and Mary and those who had come to console them weeping, Jesus "was deeply moved in spirit and troubled", and lastly, "wept". Christ's heart is divine-human: in him God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. He is the image, or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal and maternal tenderness, of God who is Life. Therefore, he solemnly declared to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never

die". And he adds, "Do you believe this?" (Jn 11: 25-26). It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him as he entrusted himself to the Father. Martha's response is exemplary: "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world". Yes, O Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in you because you have the words of eternal life. We want to believe in you, who give us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your Kingdom of light and peace.

Chrism Mass, Monday 3rd April 2023 at 5pm: St Christopher's Cathedral

Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 3 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the **Holy Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

Morning tea in the Parish Centre

Please join us for morning tea this Sunday in the Parish Centre after the 9am Mass.



26 March 2023

Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.)

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Second reading Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation John 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 11:3-7,17,20-27,33-45

Mary and Martha sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said: ‘I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’ Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you

believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: ‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’ Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Next **Vocations Discernment night** for priestly and religious vocations will be held on Thursday 6th April at St. Brigid’s Presbytery 5:30pm, a paschal lamb dinner, followed by the Holy Thursday 7pm Mass, with quiet time with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Rsvp essential, contact Fr Emil on emil.milat@cg.org.au

PARISH GROUPS

Empower Night is held 7pm till 9pm Tuesday nights. It’s a Charismatic night of Lay preaching and healing in front of the Blessed Sacrament. The night is a chance for those attending training to use their skills and gifts. Everyone is very welcome to come worship and soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Legion of Mary meetings are held every Monday 6:30pm at St Benedict’s Parish Centre. New members are welcome. Please contact Theresa Rees: 0402 271 531, for more details.

Mothers Prayers: Come and pray for your children. Each Monday in the Parish Centre in school term from 9:30am followed by morning tea. Contact Rachael Nano 0412 472 243.

Donating to the parish

Parish expenses continue to rise especially with recent rises in electricity prices. If you are able, we ask that you kindly consider making a regular donation to support the running costs of St Benedict’s parish (Second Collection). An easy way to give is by downloading the Qkr! app. You can also give by Direct Debit or automatic credit card withdrawal; please contact the Parish Office to organise. Alternatively, you can deposit directly into the Parish account:
BSB: 062 786
Account number: 000014992
Please include your Planned Giving (envelope) number in the reference if you have one.

Please pray for the sick and deceased of the parish

Recently deceased: Leita Barron, Frank Smith.
Anniversaries: Henry Bourke, Irene Cosier, Margaret Dojcinoska, Clare Drinkwater, Miguel Gomez, Michael Krauss, James McIntyre, Fr Michael Meagher, Fr John O’Dwyer, Bishop John Barry.
Our Sick: Jindalee & Mt View residents, Julia Brown, Mitchell White, Germaphi, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Lyn Walker, Louis Pini, Anthony, Helen French, Clem Dick, Flora Arias, Pat Atkins, Carol Rees, Mark Ransom, Pamela Brown, Anne Rosewarne; Monica Boyton, Mary Smith, Ben Melbourne, Colin Paley, Janice Paley, Gert Fletcher, Caroline Evans, Anna Pace, Daniel Collins, Barbara Parsons, Edwina Gundelach.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9am - 1pm
WEEKEND MASS TIMES:
Saturday: 6pm (*Vigil*)
Sunday: 9am; 6pm (*Charismatic Mass*);
Fourth Sunday of the Month: 6pm (*Youth Mass*)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:
Tuesday: 5.30pm; Wednesday: 12.30pm; Thursday: 5.30pm; Friday: 5.30pm (*Healing Mass*); Saturday 8.00am

RECONCILIATION:
Friday following Healing Mass from. 6.15pm-7pm
Saturday: 5pm-5.30pm or by appointment

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:
Saturday: 7.30am 3rd Friday Padre Pio:5pm
BAPTISMS: During weekend Masses or by appointment. See parish website for booking information.

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 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:
Monday & Tuesday: 6am-10pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 1pm-10pm
Friday 6am to Saturday 8am
Urgent hours that need to be filled:
Monday 7-8am, 8-9am, Wednesday 6-7pm
Thursday 2-3pm, Friday 12-1pm, 2-3pm
Hearing Loop is located in the right center rows of the church. Please ensure your hearing aid is tuned to make the best use of this facility.