

The Christian's Final Journey: Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria and partner, the ACU Centre for Liturgy, are offering a one-day workshop on Catholic funerals on **13 February 2024**. It has been designed for all those interested in Catholic funerals including parishioners, clergy, Funeral Directors, Bereavement Teams, Pastoral Associates, Parish Secretaries and Family Faith Educators, and all school staff. Catholic practices around burial and cremation will be investigated as well as **preparation of a funeral (for future discussion with the funeral celebrant)** and how to support the grieving. It will be held at Club Ashfield, 1-11 Charlotte Street Ashfield NSW. Time: 9am-5pm (registration from 8.30am). Registration is essential by 7 February. Cost: \$60 (includes lunch and a workbook) (\$120 for Funeral Directors who will receive certification for 5 years.)
Enquiries: CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au or 02 9701 4751. For more information, and to register, go to www.acu.edu.au/centreforliturgy/pastoral-training

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 23rd & 24th December 2023		
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Louise Gaudry	Alma Burg
Readers	Moira Najdecki, Helen Bennet	Shiru Kinyanjui, Josephus Bumaat
Offertory	Emma Milin & Americo Caetano	Linda & Robert Henry
Eucharistic Ministers	Brian Barron	Josephus Bumaat
Flowers, Altar Clean	Claudine Smith & Louise Gaudry	
Church Cleaners	Volunteers	
Visitation	Carmel Henry (Mt View) Prakash & Santhosh (Jindalee)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers		

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 30th & 31st December 2023		
<u>1ST READING</u>	<u>2ND READING</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Marlene Keir	Robert Henry
Readers	BA Daly, Louise Gaudry	Josephus Bumaat, Linda Henry
Offertory	BA Daly, Helen Bennett	Jose family
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Neimanis	Barry Murphy
Flowers, Altar Clean	Loretta Thomas & Anne Hobday	
Church Cleaners	Jeanne Eri	
Visitation	MGL Narrabundah (Mt View) Nimmy & Maria Micas (Jindalee)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers		

REVITALISING OUR PARISH

We are excited to announce that St. Benedict's Parish and Mission Centre is about to set out on a journey of renewal through Divine Renovation.

Divine Renovation is a Catholic ministry dedicated to parish renewal. It helps parishes come alive by providing tools and coaching needed to lead parishes from **maintenance to mission**.

In the Divine Renovation context 'maintenance to mission' means recognising that we don't have to live with decline being normal, and stepping off the treadmill and looking at ways we can improve things at St Benedict's, so that we can begin to see different results.

For more information about Divine Renovation see:

<https://divinerenovation.org>

Fr Rem and Fr Chris

*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: Tues—Friday, 9am—12pm

Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest)

Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55)

Fr Baiju Thomas, MGL (Mission Centre Director)

Narrabundah ACT 2604

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

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

Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)

Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772

Isabel Roberts (Parish Secretary)

Website: cg.org.au/Narrabundah Email: Narrabundah@cg.org.au

4th Sunday of Advent 23rd & 24th December 2023

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Family Mass Vigil : 6 PM (24th of Dec)

Charismatic Mass: 8 PM

Carols & Midnight Mass : 11.30 PM

Christmas Mass: 9 AM (25th of Dec)

Message from Fr Baiju Thomas

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
 I want to inform you that on Christmas Day 2023, I am finishing my term as the Director of St Benedict's Mission Centre after four years of serving at St Benedicts.
 I am moving to our MGL house at Garran next year to take up my new role as one of the Formators for Pre-Novitate and Novitate. St Benedicts community was vital to my growth as a priest in the early years of my priesthood. I always felt at home at St Benedicts because of your love and support, and I want to thank you all for that.

Fr Baiju Thomas MGL

Christmas Celebrations

Thank you to all parishioners who attended the Christmas celebrations. The proceeds raised from the event were around \$3000.

The parish would like to extend it's greatest thanks to all those who contributed towards the event, and any who attended.

Christmas Appeal

Parishioners are advised that giving to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal can be done via the Qkr! app. More information on how to give to the Christmas appeal is found on the back of the bulletin.

Love Always Triumphs

The birth of Jesus, the light of the World, always triumphs over the darkness.

The hope and light of the First Christmas in the Gospels is proclaimed from the darkness of the night. There is a star that guides. There is the joyful light that the shepherds, the Magi, and all creation encounter in the humble stable.

The surrounding "night" is not simply due to the fact of no sun. It is because there is no Son (of God) in the hearts of some. There are those who plot the killing of the Christ Child. Jesus himself is clothed in cloths and placed in a wooden crib—all suggesting a future death on Calvary. There is no hospitality for the "Prince of Peace" here.

This pattern continues even today.

There is the continuing darkness of the wars in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Africa and other places. Let us not forget that war is always a defeat for humanity— here darkness is hosen over the light of love and peace-making. There is also the challenge in Australia of re-imagining our relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after the defeat of the Voice Referendum. Also, with the upward trend of the cost of living, this Christmas will be tough for so many to provide the necessities of table and shelter for their loved ones.

Yet, in the midst of these many darknesses, dawns the triumph of Divine Love found in the birth of the Son of God—Jesus, love itself. Let us in silence and adoration invite the Christmas light, that chases away the long darkness of loneliness and isolation, to triumph in our hearts, our families and our communities! Let Christmas joy have a practical expression in helping others. Please give generously to the Archbishop's Christmas Appeal. It will assist greatly places of need throughout the world. Happy Christmas and New Year to all!

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

First reading

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servants David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Psalm 88: 2-5, 27, 29 R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading

Romans 16: 25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1: 38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her,

'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel,

'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.'

'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

NEEDS OF LAY CATHOLICS TODAY

What do adult lay Catholics need today to help them live a committed Catholic life amid the circumstances of modern society? To find out and to help improve their services to our Archdiocese, the Canberra Circle of The Catenians, an international association of lay Catholics, is conducting an Archdiocesan-wide online survey. Please help by completing this brief, anonymous, tick-box survey via this URL or QR code. Thank you.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLTZGMW> Contact: Phil Murray, President, Canberra Catenians 0419 695 927 or phil13murray@gmail.com

Parish Office Closure

Please be advised that the St Benedicts Parish Office will be closed on the 22nd of December and reopen on the 2nd of January.

Christmas Mass Collection for 2023 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

Help life saving assistance to refugees fleeing violence; including evacuation, food, shelter as well as student assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Communities in India, Africa and the Solomon Islands are also assisted.

Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

Donating to the parish

To deposit directly into the Parish account, please use the following details:

BSB: 062 786

Account number: 000014992

Please include your Planned Giving (envelope) number in the reference if you have one, otherwise your surname and 'Donation'.

Please pray for the sick and deceased of the parish

Anniversaries: Victor & John Martin, Catherine Cleary, Frank Fulop, Ronnie Van Belkom, Tom French, Agnes Calvert, Clare Connell, Pat Connors, Doris Flaherty, Maud Inch, Monica Knight, Mario Krajina, Leonard Legge-Wilkinson, Kenneth Lentell, Lorna Ludwig, Antonia Martin, Fred Martin, Ronald Molyneux, Marie Morgan, Joan Parker, Alice Smith, Stephanie Stoddard, Monica Thomas, Fr Richard Daly, Fr Bill Keating, Fr Francis Hartigan, Fr Thomas Hilly, Fr Joseph Keating.

Our Sick: Jindalee & Mt View residents, Tony Evans, Rose Mason, Clem Dick, Julia Brown, Mitchell White, Germaphi, Pat Atkins, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Lyn Walker, Louis Pini, Anthony, Helen French, Flora Arias, Mark Ransom, Ben Melbourne, Pamela Brown, Anne Rosewarne; Carol Rees, Monica Boyton, Mary Smith, Colin Paley, Janice Paley, Caroline Evans, Gert Fletcher, Anna Pace, Barbara Parsons, Edwina Gundelach, Daniel Collins, Rita Smith, Andrea Bernabey, Gustavo Caceres.

Parish Office Hours

9am–12pm, Tuesday–Friday

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

Vacant hours that urgently need filling:

Monday 12noon-1pm, 5pm-6pm;

Tuesday 3pm-4pm; Friday 11am-12noon

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.