

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

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

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND

30th & 31st December 2023

	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		

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

6th & 7th January 2024

	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
1ST READING		
2ND READING		
GOSPEL		
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Alma Burg
Readers	Marlene Keir, Don Jeffery	Christopher Ruzario, Maria Mendoza
Offertory	Volunteers	Social group
Eucharistic Ministers	Brian Barron	Julie Douglas
Flowers, Altar Clean	Margie Avellino & Sue Neimanis	
Church Cleaners	Brad Hognio	
Visitation		
Sun 6pm Mass Readers		

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 Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre Co-Director)

Narrabundah ACT 2604

Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)

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

Isabel Roberts (Parish Secretary)

Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772

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

The Holy Family Feast Sunday 30th & 31st December 2023

Reflection on Gospel

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

JAN - FEB 2024

INTRODUCTORY CPE COURSE

Are you interested in growing your capacity to be fully present to others by learning how to offer effective pastoral and spiritual care?

An Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course is being offered online using Zoom in January/February 2024. This short 40-hour course will comprise of 6 sessions and run from 9am to 3.30pm, commencing Mon 29, then Tues 30, Wed 31 January, then Mon 5, Tues 6 and Mon 12 Feb.

Applications close on Thursday January 25, 2024. For more information please contact Barbara Hall at barbarahall1909@gmail.com or phone: **0418 413 731**

Palms Australia

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au



The Archbishop's Christmas Appeal is now available within your Parish QkR! App. Please help us make a difference, both locally and globally, by donating to the appeal.



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.

First reading

Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give to me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Psalm 104: 1-6, 8-9 R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Second reading

Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Hebrews 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2: 22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord—observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first born male must be consecrated to the Lord—and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected—and a sword will pierce your own soul too—so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old, and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him.

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: 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.