

Easy Steps to Holiness: A Lenten Journey
The Good Shepherd prayer group invites you to join us each Wednesday evening for talks, sharing groups and worship. Deepen your faith this Lent and draw closer to Jesus. Weds 21 Feb to Weds 27 March, 7pm-9pm, Parish Room, St Peter Chanel, Weston St, Yarralumla. Call/text Neda 0415 266 019, Susanna 0419 902 293, Gabriel 0422 285 491 for more info.

Journey of St Paul
Fr Rembert Fernando will be escorting a pilgrimage to Greece & Turkey to follow in the footsteps of St Paul and his companions. The tour will commence on 9th April and end on 20th April. For more information, see flyers in the church or visit: harvestjourneys.com/sp2401

Stations of the Cross will be occurring on Fridays at 5pm throughout the Lenten season. All parishioners are invited to attend.

First Reconciliation Notice
A reminder to all interested parents and children that the retreat day for First Reconciliation candidates is on **Thursday 7th March**. For any queries regarding First Reconciliation, contact the parish.

Archbishop's Lenten Lighthouses
Join Archbishop Christopher Prowse on a Lenten Retreat through his Sunday homilies. You can find the lighthouse inputs on the Catholic Voice website.

Congratulations to Br Samson
St Benedict's parish is happy to announce that Brother Samson of the MGL brotherhood will be joining us as a deacon in the coming weeks. We wish him all the best on his spiritual journey.
Fr Rem and Fr Chris will be absent from the parish between the 8th & 9th of March to attend Br Samson's ordination in Melbourne. During this time, Fr Bernie will be covering the Friday & Saturday masses. **Please note there will be no confessions on Friday or Saturday next week.**

White Goods & Furniture For Sale
Brand new front load washing machine and dryer (Simpson), ergonomic computer chairs, chest of drawers, bookcases, bedside/dining tables, single beds, gardening tools, etc. Price negotiable. Please email: elitra21@gmail.com

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 9th & 10th March 2024		
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Alma Burg
Readers	Don Jeffery, Marlene Keir	Santhosh Jose, Maria Mendoza
Offertory	Volunteers	Young family
Eucharistic Ministers	Brian Barron	Josephus Bumaat
Flowers, Altar Clean	Claudine Smith & Louise Gaudry	
Church Cleaners	Santhosh Jose	
Visitation	Jonavie & Grace (Jindalee) Carmel Henry (Mt View)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers	John & Monica Murray	
ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 16th & 17th March 2024		
<u>1ST READING</u>	<u>2ND READING</u>	<u>GOSPEL</u>
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Marlene Keir	Alma Burg
Readers	Moira Najdecki, Don Jeffery	Shiru Kinyanjui, Loreena D'Silva
Offertory	BA Daly, Volunteer	Jose family
Eucharistic Ministers	Brian Barron	Julie Douglas
Flowers, Altar Clean	Loretta Thomas & Anne Hobday	
Church Cleaners	Brad Hogno	
Visitation	Santhosh (Jindalee)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers	Maria & Mark Ransom	

St Benedict's Catholic Church

In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

Parish Office Hours: Tues—Friday, 9am—12pm
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

Parish Team:

Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest)
Fr Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre Director)
Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)
Isabel Roberts (Parish Secretary)

Email: Narrabundah@cg.org.au



Fourth Sunday of Lent 9th & 10th March 2024

Reflection on Gospel

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

St Benedict's Lenten Groups:

Afternoon Group (Open to All):
Wednesday After 12.30pm Mass (1pm)
The Parish Centre
Program: The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary Video Series
Coordinator: Carmel Henry

Young Men of God Group:
Tuesday 6.00pm, Dinner included
For those Men 18-35
The MGL Presbytery
Program: My Father's Father Video Series
Coordinator: Br Samson MGL

Women's Group:
Thursday 7pm
The Parish Centre
Program: Wollongong Lenten Books
Coordinator: Mattia Wellspring



2024 Easter Raffle

An Easter Raffle will be held again this year. Tickets will be sold at Masses for 3 weekends starting on March 2. A hamper and bottles of wine have been donated and there will be Easter eggs and goodies as prizes. The Raffle will be drawn in the week leading up to Easter Sunday. Tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. If anyone is willing to take a book of 10 or 20 tickets to sell, or to help sell tickets at any of the weekend Masses, your assistance will be gratefully accepted - contact me on mtcn52@gmail.com

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

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’ And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

Psalm 136 (137): 1-6 R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Second reading

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
So that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
So that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world,
But so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
But whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
Because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
That though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
Because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,
For fear his actions should be exposed;
But the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23

Ephesians 2: 4-10

John 3: 16

John 3: 14-21

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



O God, pour out in your Church a spirit of reverence and courage, to raise up worthy ministers for your people and make them ardent, yet gentle heralds of your Gospel.

Parish Pastoral Council

At the first meeting for 2024 for the Parish Pastoral Council on Tuesday February 20, the following items were discussed:

- A Vision and Mission Statement for the parish
- Closer communication between the different entities in the Parish i.e. MissionCentre, Parish Finance Committee and Parish Pastoral Council combined meeting
- Divine Renovation—commencement of this program
- Community occasions to bring the Parish together

The PPC is in need of new members. If you are interested in finding out what membership entails, please speak with Fr Rem or with me.

- Moira Najdecki, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council

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: Barbara Parsons, Lorna Evans, Noanie Kelly, Leita Barron, Rathesh Fernando, Ray Pasard, 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 & Marilyn 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 Sealy, 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, 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:

Tuesday: 6pm-10pm
Thursday: 7-10pm
Contact: Anne Sutherland (0413203901) or Parish office for more information.

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.