

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council held its second meeting for the year on Wednesday May 1. Topics included:

- A Vision for the Parish in 2024 and beyond: update on Divine Renovation
- Parish finances following the joint meeting with the Parish Finance Council on April 24th
- The Parish Bulletin – all parishioners are invited to contribute names for the section on Anniversaries and Prayers for the Sick
- Celebration of St Benedict's Feast Day: will take place on Sunday 14 July

The PPC noted the success of the Morning Teas that take place every Sunday after 9am Mass. Thankyou and congratulations to all who assist in making these gatherings such a success.

The next meeting of the PPC is Wednesday 3 July . We would welcome enquiries from parishioners wishing to be part of the PPC.

Moira Najdecki

ARCHDIOCESAN ROUNDTABLE

Leading into our Archdiocesan Assembly (2024), the Archdiocese is holding a number of Roundtables which provide a forum for discernment and discussion on the challenges and hopes experienced across our schools, parishes, communities, movements and ministries.

The next in the series is :

Our Common Home: Justice, Outreach and Integral Ecology

Friday 24 May 2024
4:30pm – 6:00pm

At St Christopher's Pastoral Centre , Manuka or by Zoom

For further details:

<https://www.cgevangelisation.org.au/roundtables/>

St Vincent de Paul—Volunteers Needed

Vinnies have supported the poor and needy in Narrabundah for 65 years.

We currently have 2 volunteers who carry out the volunteer work. These volunteers have been involved for 20-25 years. We are seeking additional support from St Benedicts parishioners—to help with home visits.

Volunteering would require 2 hours every 3-4 weeks. There is a requirement to provide a Working with Vulnerable People card and a police clearance.

Should you wish to assist please contact Don Jeffery on 0418 944 731 OR donjeffery424@gmail.com

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND

4th & 5th April 2024

	Sat 5 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Marlene Keir	Robert Henry
Readers	Robert Booth, Moira Najdecki	Barry Murphy, Julie Douglas
Offertory	Volunteers	Social group
Eucharistic Ministers	Nhung Booth	Josephus Bumaat
Flowers, Altar Clean	Anne Sutherland & Anne Hill	
Church Cleaners	Nhung Booth	
Visitation	Julie Douglas (Mt View)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers	MGL Brothers	

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

11th & 12th May 2024

	2ND READING EPHESIANS 1: 17-23 Sat 5 pm	GOSPEL MARK 16: 15-20 Sun 9am
1ST READING ACTS 1: 1-11		
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Alma Burg
Readers	Marlene Keir, Moira Najdecki	Grace De Silva, Josephus Bumaat
Offertory	BA Daly, Volunteer	Young family
Eucharistic Ministers	Sue Neimanis	Barry Murphy
Flowers, Altar Clean	Loretta Thomas & Anne Hobday	
Church Cleaners	Jeanne Eri	
Visitation	MGL Garran (Mt View & Jindalee)	
Sun 6pm Mass Readers		

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 Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre 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

Sixth Sunday of Easter 4th & 5th May 2024

Reflection on Gospel

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

Fr. Rem's Transition

Dear Parishioners, I have been residing at our St. Benedict's Community in Narrabundah for the past six years from 2019 as a Missionary of God's Love priest and have had experienced the love, hospitality, and care of the Parish Community.

I thank you all sincerely for allowing me to serve the Community as an assistant priest, administrator, and Parish Priest. Thanks a lot for your generosity of serving in our community by committing yourself, like in the Parish pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, liturgical teams, Choir, hospitality team, various prayer groups, maintenance team and Altar decoration team, and extraordinary ministers taking Communion to the sick, elders in nursing homes and house bound.

I affirm you that everyone who comes to our Church feel comfortable and welcomed in encountering and worshipping the Lord Jesus in the Sacred celebrations of the Eucharist by your warm gestures of love and hospitality.

I am grateful to the Lord Jesus for bringing me here to experience His Love, mercy, and generosity through the St. Benedict's Community. I really appreciate your valuable prayers of intercession through adoration, rosary, and the Eucharistic celebrations for my family as I had a rough year to lose my brother and my father. I do believe that they are in a better place of resting with the Risen Lord Jesus.

I am pleased to inform you that I am taking a sabbatical break from mid-September to December this year. I am gradually handing over my Parish responsibility to my MGL brother, Fr. Chris Eaton to take charge on July 14, Sunday as we celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict's this year. I am getting transferred to Melbourne next year where I am hoping to do some studies related to healing and counselling. I would appreciate your ongoing prayers for our MGL brothers and sisters as we are called to be disciples of Jesus and be faithful in our vocation of divine Love. I will be available here in the Parish Community until September 15 to continue serving the Parish Community. God bless you all.

First reading

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!' Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Psalm 97 (98): 1-4 R. The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Second reading

1 John 4: 7-10

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.
God's love for us was revealed
when God sent into the world his only Son
so that we could have life through him;
this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14: 23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.
If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love,
Just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.
I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you
And your joy be complete.
This is my commandment:
Love one another, as I have loved you.
A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends,
If you do what I command you.
I shall not call you servants any more,
Because a servant does not know his master's business:
I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.
You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit,
Fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.
What I command you is to love one another.'

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

St Benedict's Catholic Church	
Jan to Mar 2024 Income and Expenditure	
INCOME	
Direct Giving	\$ 18,624.50
Donations/Bequests	\$ 3,222.00
Functions/Ceremonies	\$ 1,925.38
Hire/Rent of Facilities	\$ 75.00
Interest Income	\$ -
Recoupment from Sacramental Programs	\$ 480.00
Total Income	\$ 24,326.88
EXPENSE	
Administration Costs	\$ 5,114.17
Motor Vehicle Expenses	\$ 1,800.00
Education Resources	\$ -
Salaries and Wages	\$ 6,332.02
Insurances	\$ 4,673.49
Remittance to Archdiocese	\$ 913.75
Property Charges	\$ 1,446.58
Presbytery Expenses	\$ 895.41
Total Expenses	\$ 21,175.42
Net Income	\$ 3,151.46
	Jan to Mar 2024
Average Income per parishioner*	\$ 12.48
Average Expense per parishioner	\$ 10.86
Net Income per parishioner	\$ 1.62

*About 150 parishioners attending the 13 weekend masses

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)

Please pray for the sick and deceased of the parish

Our Deceased: Louis Pini, Thomas Fernando, Barbara Parsons, Lorna & Stanley 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, Brian Barron, Jackie Carpenter, Sagar Julie O'Brien, Tony Sealy, Tony Evans, Rose Mason, Clem Dick, Julia Brown, Mitchell White, Germaphi, Pat Atkins, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Lyn Walker, 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.

Parish Office Hours

9am-12pm, Tuesday-Friday

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 5pm (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.