

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

11th & 12th May 2024

	Sat 5 pm	Sun 9am
Welcomers	Carmel & Peter Pistor	Alma Burg
Readers	Marlene Keir, Moira Najdecki	Grace De Zilva, 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		

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND

18th & 19th May 2024

	Sat 5 pm	Sun 9am
1ST READING ACTS 2: 1-11	2ND READING GALATIANS 5: 16-25	GOSPEL JOHN 15: 26-27, 16: 12-15
Welcomers	Louise Gaudry	Robert Henry
Readers	BA Daly, Louise Gaudry	Shiru Kinyanjui, Santhosh Jose
Offertory	Volunteers	Linda & Robert Henry
Eucharistic Ministers	Nhung Booth	Brendan Bergin
Flowers, Altar Clean	Claudine Smith & Louise Gaudry	
Church Cleaners	Jeanne Eri	
Visitation	Jonavie & Grace (Jindalee)	
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 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 Ascension of the Lord
11th & 12th May 2024**

Reflection on Gospel

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark’s Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark’s report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark’s Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark’s Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter’s companions. Scholars believe that this ending is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today’s celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus’ Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke’s Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus’ ascension into heaven. Matthew’s Gospel concludes with Jesus’ promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus’ ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark’s Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark’s Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

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.

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

Acts 1: 1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Psalm 46 (47): 2-3, 6-9 R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second reading

Ephesians 4: 1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would:

When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28: 19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations.

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 16: 15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them :

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

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

Pastoral and Spiritual Care Training

A Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) 5-day course is a great way to get a feel for pastoral and spiritual care and includes topics such as: What is Pastoral/Spiritual Care; empathy, grief and loss, spiritual reflection and self-care. This course is excellent for Eucharistic Ministers visiting homes, volunteers in Aged Care, schools or prisons, or anyone contemplating a career change to Pastoral Care. The course runs Wednesdays, July 10-Aug 7, 9-5pm in Deakin; cost is \$450. It is followed by a longer CPE unit for those interested in more in-depth training in spiritual care. Enrolments by end May. Please contact Susanne Schmidt on 0431 243 486 or at susannecpe@gmail.com

Prayer for Mothers

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of respect.

Congratulations to Nia & Neema Young on their baptism. We welcome them into the Catholic faith, and invite as parishioners to pray for them.

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

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 Bernabeu.

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.