

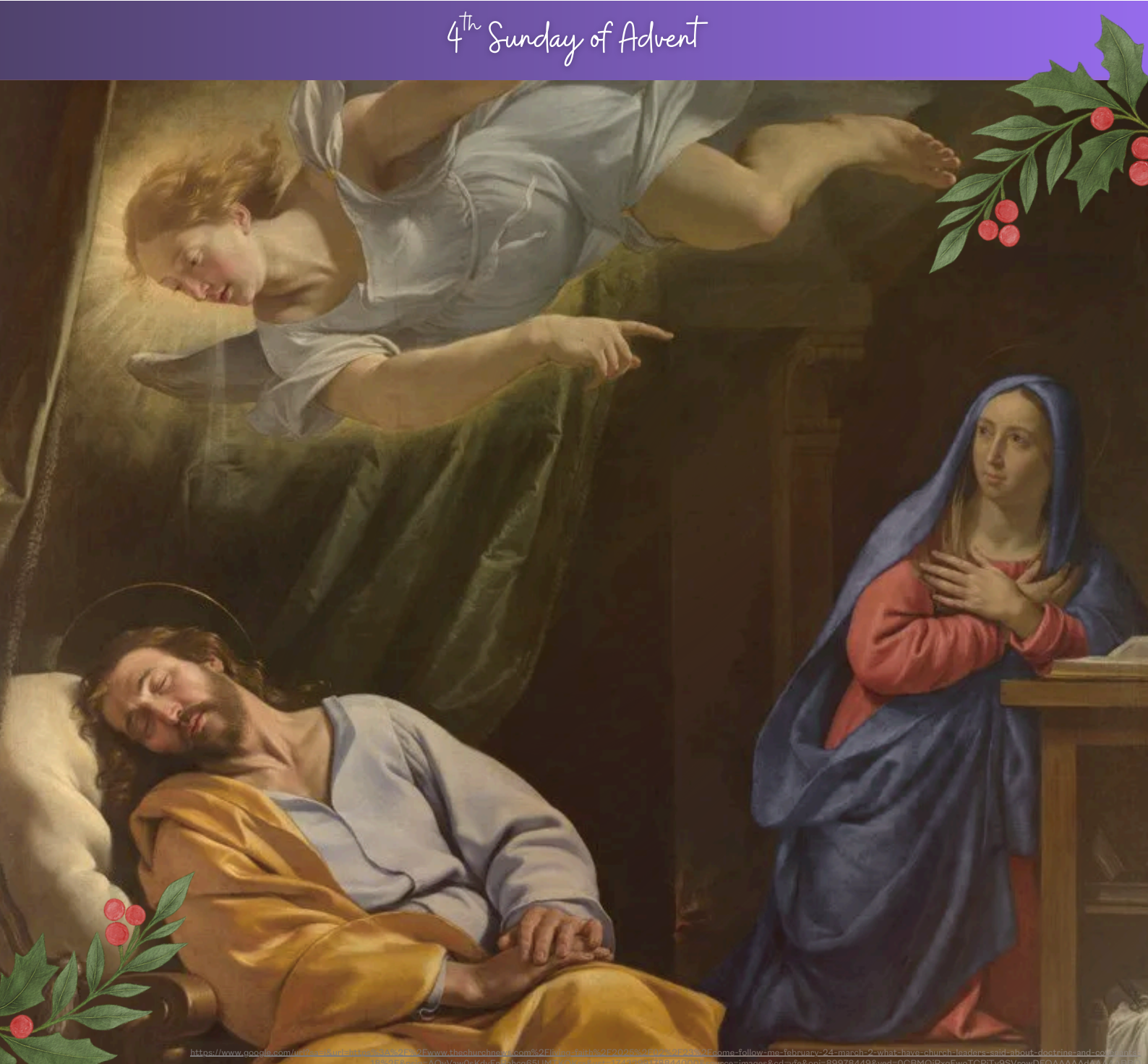
21st December 2025

in the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

St Benedict's

St Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah

4th Sunday of Advent



Coming up:

The Nativity of our Lord
25 Dec

2026 Alpha Course
16 Apr

2026 Parish Assembly
2 May



cg.org.au/narrabundah

Community and Vision



STAGES OF EVANGELISATION

BECOMER EVANGELISERS OURSELVES

What happens when faith has taken root and begun to grow? The natural fruit of discipleship is mission. Having encountered Christ and been formed in His Church, we are not meant to keep the Good News to ourselves—we are sent to share it!

The Church is clear: evangelisation is not the task of a few specialists, but the calling of every baptised person. Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium* that “every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus” (EG 120). Mission flows naturally from relationship. Becoming an evangeliser does not mean having all the answers or preaching on street corners. Most often, it looks like witnessing through daily life—acts of love, words of hope, faith lived with joy and integrity. Our families, workplaces, friendships and neighbourhoods are the primary places where the Gospel is shared. Jesus’ command remains clear: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). Evangelisation comes full circle here—those who were once guests now become hosts; those who received now give. As missionary disciples, we rely not on our own strength, but on the Holy Spirit, trusting that God works through our willingness.

Evangelisation is not an optional extra in Christian life—it is its fulfilment. Having encountered Christ and been formed as disciples, we are now sent, so that others too may come to know the joy of the Gospel.

CALL TO ACTION

*How are you being an evangeliser in your workplaces, families and homes? **Who might you be able to invite to Christmas Mass this week?***

Events and Announcements



Adoration ON BREAK over the Summer

The Adoration roster for 2025 will end on **December 13 (Saturday)**. Adoration will recommence on **February 2 (Monday)**. Thanks to all Adorers who have kept our dear Lord company in 2025. May your Christmas break be blessed. Hope to see you back again in 2026.



Parish Office Closed Over the New Year + Priest Movements

During the Holiday period, the Parish Office will be closed from the 25th of December and will reopen on the 20th of January, 2026.

Fr Chris will be away on break from the 4th of January until the 1st of February (Summer School 4-11th of Jan, then 3-week break).



Christmas Mass Collection for 2025 Archbishops Christmas Appeal Support is Needed!

Help life saving assistance to displaced people or people under threat of displacement whether from war or , climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, female access to education in Pakistan as well as student assistance in the Middle East. Communities in India, Africa and Timor Leste along with local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.



First Reconciliation 2026: SAVE THE DATE!

This is initial key information regarding First Reconciliation 2026. The Reconciliation Information Night will be happening on the **Thursday 19th of February in the Collins Wing from 6pm-7pm**. There will be a sacramental program (more details to come) and the date of the Sacrament itself will be **Wednesday 25th of March at 5pm at St Benedict's Church**. Contact the Parish office for more details and registration.



2026 Alpha Course: SAVE THE DATE!

Curious about life, faith, and meaning? St Benedict's is running the Alpha course next year starting in April 2026 (details to be confirmed). Alpha is an 12-week series that creates a space for honest conversations in a warm, welcoming environment—no pressure, no judgment. Everyone is welcome. Come for the conversation, stay for the community. Interested? Stay tuned for more details to come in the new year!



2026 Parish Assembly: SAVE THE DATE!

All parishioners are invited to our Parish Assembly happening next year on Saturday 2nd of May. This will be a whole day event where we will be sharing the vision of the Parish, you won't want to miss it!



Christmas Mass Times

St Benedict's Christmas Masses are as follows:

Christmas Eve

- 12:30pm Wednesday Usual Weekday Mass.
- 5:30pm- Carols | **6pm- Family Mass.**
- 7:30pm Carols | **8pm- Charismatic Mass.**
- 11:30pm Carols | **Midnight Mass.**

Christmas Day

- 9am Mass (no carols before the Mass)

Notices Outside the Parish

THE 19th ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER VIGIL

31 December | 8:00pm
Hosted by: The Marian Movement of Priests
Where: Mary Help of Christians Parish
Address: 115 Hodgson Crescent PEARCE, South Woden
Date: Wednesday 31st December 2025
Time: 8.00pm | First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries) | Second Cenacle is prayed at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries) | Third Cenacle is prayed at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries) | Fourth Cenacle is prayed at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries)
Exposition from 8.00pm until Benediction just before midnight. For more information – visit the website: mmp-oceania.net

Sacrament Dates 2026

First Reconciliation: 25th of March 2026

First Communion: 21st of June 2026

Confirmation: Not happening next year.

RCIA begins TBD

Marriage and Baptisms by request.

Before each sacrament there is an information evening, a sacramental program, a retreat then the date of the sacrament itself. If you would like your child to receive the sacraments, please contact the parish office for more information.

Regular Parish Groups

REST IN ME MEDITATIONS

Each Wednesday
10am-12pm, Parish Centre
Ayanthi Perera

MOTHERS PRAYERS

Each Monday (school term)
9.30am, Parish Centre
Rachael Nano (Contact Parish Office)

KINGDOM KIDS

Sun 9am Mass (except school holidays & long weekends)
Contact Sherice (Contact Parish Office)

STREET MINISTRY

Friday Nights
After 5:30pm Mass, Civic

FUSION YOUTH GROUP

Friday Nights (Fortnightly)
7-9pm (Contact Axel Healey)

Praying for the sick

Jindalee & Mt View residents; Pamela Brown and family, Tony Evans, Caroline Evans, Jackie Carpenter, Mark Ransom, Gert Fletcher, Anna Pace, Rita Smith, Wendy Fisher-Hudson, Barry Murphy, Helen French, Sagar Julie O'Brien, Peter Robinson and all those sick in our parish.

Recently Deceased: Josephine Jurse

Priests:



Parish:



Giving / Stewardship

Give now using QKR!

1st Collection: supports our parish priests

2nd Collection: helps with the running costs to our parish (wages, utilities).

Donation via Deposit

If you would like to join our planned giving program or make a donation; contact the parish office for account details.

First Reading Is 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel:

God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Joseph could not ignore Mary's pregnancy, but he had an exceptional large-heartedness, so that he preserved a future for Mary even though she had apparently wronged him. If he had gone to sleep in a frame of mind to avenge his honour, he would not have been ready to have the deepest levels of his consciousness stirred in the way God wanted. In the deep sleep of a just and good man, Joseph was enlightened as to the divine dimension of Mary's pregnancy. The old cycle of human history, literally generation after generation, was being broken. Something utterly new had happened. You and I are just as likely to receive an intuition as to God's plan for us in the depths of sleep: who we really are, who we are destined to be, where we fit in to God's plan for transforming the whole of creation. When we get these instructive moments in our sleep, what can we do when we wake up? We can do what Joseph did: get up and do what is needed to fulfil the message. We could pause for a moment to thank Joseph for showing what dreams can be made of. Tonight might be the night!

mtate@bigpond.com

Our Commitment to Safeguarding:

At St Benedict's Parish, we are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. We follow Archdiocesan safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that everyone in our community is protected and respected.

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

5:30pm (Tues, Thurs)
12:30pm (Wed)
5.30pm Friday Healing Mass

Saturday

8am
6pm (Vigil)

Sunday

9am
6pm (Charismatic)



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Come adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Mon - Tue:

7am - 9pm

Wed - Thurs:

1pm - 9pm

Friday

7am - Sat 8am



ROSARY

After each weekday mass except Fridays. After Sat 8am Mass.

RECONCILIATION

Friday

6:15pm - 7pm

Saturday

5pm - 5.30pm



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION & PERSONAL VOCATION

Adrian Wellspring

OUR PRIESTS

Fr Chris Eaton MGL (PP)
Fr Samson Ezemuokwe MGL (APP)
Fr Joseph Nivaskaran MGL (APP)
Fr Tony Schick MGL

PARISH OFFICE

(02) 6295 7879
narrabundah@cg.org.au
Tue/Thurs/Fri: 9am-12pm

MUSIC COORDINATOR

Ariana Strmota (Contact Parish Office)

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Julie Long
Contact: IPSS@cg.org.au