

20th September 2026

in the care of the Missionaries of God's Love

St Benedict's

St Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



<https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/matthew-18-21-35-2023-2/>

Coming up:

St Lorenzo Feast Day
26 Sept

Explosion Youth Conference
30 Sept- 3 Oct

MGL 40th Anniversary
11 Oct



cg.org.au/narrabundah



“ I felt the Holy Spirit gently remind me: “Rhea, come to Me. You are My child. You are free.”



ALPHA: THE BEGINNING OF MY CALLING

RHEA MIA BONGO



I worked in Singapore as a Theatre Nurse for twelve years before moving to Australia. But the journey was not easy. Filled with disappointment, frustration and anger, I slowly drifted away from God. I stopped praying the Rosary, stopped attending Mass and eventually convinced myself that God simply didn't exist. The more I ran from Him, the emptier I became.

When we moved to Canberra, God led us to St Benedict's. One Sunday after Mass, a parishioner named Shiru, whom I fondly call the “fisherman of faith”, invited me to Alpha. I agreed, thinking I would simply watch a video and leave. Instead, I found myself sitting at a table, sharing, listening and opening up.

During my first Alpha session, I realised that although I had been Catholic all my life, I had never truly understood what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus. I began reading Scripture and discovering His Word in a completely new way.

Alpha transformed me. I began serving on the Alpha team, and through serving others, Jesus slowly softened my heart and taught me to love as He loves. Then, during the Alpha weekend, I experienced something I will carry for the rest of my life. While being prayed over, I felt the Holy Spirit gently remind me: “Rhea, come to Me. You are My child. You are free.” I felt deeply loved, and years of heaviness seemed to wash away through tears of healing.

Alpha didn't just bring me back to God; it awakened a calling within me. I now offer my gifts and talents to Him, trusting Him to use them however He desires. Alpha was the beginning. St Benedict's is where my journey continues, and God is still writing the rest.

*Maybe Alpha could be the beginning of something for you, too.
Come as you are, bring your questions, and join us at the table. We'd love to welcome you!*

Events and Announcements

19
SEP

Reviewing the Saturday Vigil Mass Time

In light of daylight savings beginning, we are reviewing the Saturday Mass Time to be 5pm all-year around. This weekend, at the 5pm Mass, we will have a preference sheet available in the foyer.



Adoration Roster - Call to fill **ALL** the hours!

ALL Adoration Hours need at least two people at all times!

In particular, we are looking to fill:

- **Tuesday - 10am-12pm**
- **Wednesday - 2pm-4pm**

If you can fill **one** of these hours, please sign up via the QR-Code!



24
SEP

ALPHA COURSE | Round 2 - Week 4!

Our 2nd round of Alpha is weekly on **Thursdays, 6:30pm in the Collins Wing**. Please come along and bring that person you have in mind who might be curious about faith!

Please register via this link: <https://forms.gle/nWAn56SRjXQx7jbq5>

26
SEP

St. Lorenzo Ruiz Feast Day

Celebrate the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila on 26 September. Join us for 10 a.m. Mass, followed by Filipino cuisine, cultural performances, games, raffles, and delightful prizes. Please wear something red and bring a plate to share as we gather at St. Benedict's School Hall in honour of the first Filipino saint.

28
SEP

Carpark closed on the 28th of September

On Monday the 28th of September, there will be major works on the potholes in the carpark, therefore the carpark will be closed for the full day (weather permitting). Apologies for the inconvenience.

30
SEP

Explosion Youth Conference

Registrations are now open for Explosion 2026, a Catholic youth conference for students in years 7 to 12. Hosted by the DOJ Community, Explosion will be held at St Clare's College, Canberra, from September 30 to October 3, offering inspiring speakers, powerful prayer and worship, and the opportunity to build lasting friendships while growing in faith. For more information and to register, visit explosionyouth.com.

5-14
OCT

MGL Convocation - Please keep in your prayers

Every 4 years, the MGL priests and brothers meet as a community for their MGL Convocation. This is an opportunity for them as an a community to gather and reflect on their life and mission and elect a moderator for the next four years. Please keep the MGL Priests and Brothers in your prayers during this important time.

11
OCT

MGL 40th Anniversary Mass Invitation!

To celebrate 40 years of Missionaries of God's Love Priests and Brothers, there will be an 11am Mass on the 11th of October here at St Benedict's Church followed by lunch in the School Hall. All are welcome, come along and bring a plate!

How to connect with our Parish?

KINGDOM KIDS

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

FUSION YOUTH GROUP

Friday Nights (Fortnightly)
7-9pm Collins Wing
Axel Healey (Contact Parish Office)

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

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

MEN'S SHARING GROUP

Tuesday Nights (Fortnightly)
7:30pm, Parish Centre
John Murray (Contact Parish Office)

REST IN ME MEDITATIONS

Wednesdays (Fortnightly)
10am-12pm, Parish Centre
Ayanthi Perera (Contact Parish Office)

STREET MINISTRY

Friday Nights
After 5:30pm Mass, Civic
(Contact Parish Office)

LEGION OF MARY

Weekly Saturday Mornings
10am-12pm, Outreach Centre
(Contact Parish Office)

Sacrament Dates 2026

First Reconciliation: 25th of March

First Communion: 21st of June

Confirmation: Not happening next year.

RCIA has begun.

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.

Praying for the sick

Jindalee & Mt View residents; Pamela Brown and family, Caroline Evans, Jackie Carpenter, Mark Ransom, Anna Pace, Rita Smith, Wendy Fisher-Hudson, Helen French, Deirdre O'Brien, Sagar Julie O'Brien, Oscar S, Luke S, Michael Reid, Peter Robinson, George Stosic, and all those sick in our parish.

Recently Deceased: Bill McMaster (Bronwyn's father), Maria Soudis, Edward Oriel, Rita Reid, Gert Fletcher

Anniversaries:

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 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

- 1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured (R.)
- 2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
- 3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus’ time. The ‘early birds’ contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius. This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the ‘Gentiles’. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the ‘daily bread’ of the Kingdom of God. Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of their idea that God’s grace could not be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People. We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us ‘the Bread of Life’, given for the salvation of all the world.

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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
5pm (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

4pm - 4.30pm



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

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SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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