

Third Sunday of
Advent, Year C
15th December 2024.



ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

Parish Priest:

Fr Bryan Roe

Email: roeb@bne.catholic.net.au

Place of Worship:

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Hall
22 St Benedict's Close, Mango Hill 4509.

Mass Times:

Friday - 9.00am
Saturday - 4.00pm
Sunday - 8.30am and 5.30pm

Parish Secretary:

Renaë Smyth-Scott

admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office:

Address: Level 2/12 Endeavour Blvd
North Lakes, Qld 4509
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North Lakes, Qld 4509
Phone: 34901768 or 0401550638
admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 2.30pm
Friday Closed.

Parish Safeguarding:

Renaë Smyth-Scott

Ph: 07 34901768

Email: northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550

STOPline: Em - AOB@stoline.com.au

Parish Website:

www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au

Parish Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
StBenedictsCatholicParish/](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictsCatholicParish/)

St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

St Benedict's Justice & Peace Group:

stbenedictsjpe@gmail.com



Rejoice in the Lord Always, Again I say Rejoice!! (Philippians 4:4)

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. For we are called to rejoice in the Lord, for Christmas is drawing near. The word "Gaudete" comes from the Latin for "rejoice," and the Church invites us to take a moment to pause, to celebrate, and to anticipate the joy of Jesus' coming.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, urges us: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). These words remind us that joy is not merely an emotion tied to our circumstances but a deep, abiding choice grounded in the presence of God. Even in the midst of life's challenges, we are called to rejoice because we know that Jesus is very near, and His love for us is constant and unchanging.

This joy, however, is not a selfish joy, but one that overflows into kindness. Paul also reminds us, "Let your kindness be known to all." As we prepare for Jesus' coming, let us extend kindness to those around us. Whether through a kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or a helping hand, our actions are to reflect the love and mercy of Jesus.

Another beautiful invitation in this coming Sunday's readings is to "have no anxiety." In a world where stress and worry often dominate our lives, St. Paul encourages us to bring all our concerns to God in prayer and thanksgiving. Trust that God hears our prayers, and in doing so, we can experience His peace—a peace that surpasses all understanding.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, let us remember the importance of justice, love, and respect in our relationships with others. Treat people with dignity, as beloved children of God, and share generously with those in need. The joy of Christmas is not just about celebrating our own blessings, but it is also about reaching out to others, especially those who are struggling.

So as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday this year, let us rejoice in the Lord's nearness. Let us fill our hearts with gratitude, kindness, and compassion, as we await the birth of our Saviour. May our actions reflect His love, and may our lives be a testimony to His peace and joy.

The Second Rite of Reconciliation – Wednesday December 18 at 7pm

Jesus has given us a beautiful sacrament to assist us in preparing the way of the Lord and making His paths straight through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

We will be having a **Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday December 18 at 7pm in our worship space**. This will be a very good opportunity for us to eliminate any blockages in our lives that are preventing us from receiving Jesus more fully into our lives. Like all our celebrations, especially Sacraments, everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate in this healing sacrament.

Anointing (Healing) Mass – Friday December 13

On Friday December 13, we will be celebrating an Anointing (Healing) Mass at 9am. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, like all our sacraments, was instituted by Jesus and proclaimed by St James. It is administered by anointing with blessed oil accompanied by prayer.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be received by any baptised person who has reached the age of reason and is in need of physical, mental or spiritual healing. This rite is one way in which the Church continues the healing ministry of Jesus. The healing offered by this anointing is forgiveness of sins, hope and inner peace, sometimes physical healing, and an assurance of God's steadfast love and care. All are welcome!

The Season of Advent – Preparing for the Coming of the Lord

This coming Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent, which marks the start of our new liturgical year. Advent is not about parties, shopping, Santa, decorations, cards and stressing out. It is more about preparing ourselves to receive Jesus into our lives more deeply. Advent is the expectant waiting, hopeful anticipating and cheerful preparation of God breaking into our lives in all moments, all places, all times – past, future, and present. Where we commemorate the birth of Jesus, prepare for Jesus' return, and welcome God into our lives every day. Advent prepares us for all these events, reminds us there is a joy in waiting, and it begins the Church year.

To mark this special season, we are making two changes to our Sunday Masses during Advent. Firstly, each week we are going to sing the hymn "Come, Emmanuel" as the Processional hymn, with the refrain being sung again after the Penitential Act. Then secondly, music will be played continuously while the Prayers of the Faithful are read, and after each

Baptism at St Benedict's.



We invite all families wishing to have children Baptised into the Catholic Faith at St Benedict's, to please contact the Parish Office for information and available dates for Baptism Preparation and Baptism in 2024 and 2025.

Readings for this week - 15th December, Third Sunday of Advent.

1st Reading - Zephaniah 3: 14-18.
Psalm - Isaiah 12: 2-6.
Response - Cry out with joy & gladness:
for among you is the great
and Holy One of Israel.
2nd Reading - Philippians 4: 4-7.
Gospel - Luke 3: 10-18.

The Week Ahead...

Wishing all of our Students and Educators,
Happy Holidays!

Thursday 19th December

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter sent out
via email.

Friday 20th December

** **No 9.00am** - St Benedict's Parish Mass

Saturday 21st December

4.00pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 22nd December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Music Ministry - Practice for Children's Choir
at Christmas Eve Carols and Mass

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass

Save the Date...

In December...

15th - Music Ministry Practice after 8.30am
Sunday Mass for Christmas Carols
(for 5.30pm Christmas Eve).

22nd - Music Ministry Practice after 8.30am
Sunday Mass for Christmas Carols
(for 5.30pm Christmas Eve).

24th - 5.30pm Christmas Carols at the Mass
Centre
6pm St Benedict's Parish Family Mass,
9pm St Benedict's Parish Christmas
Eve Mass.

25th - 8.30am, St Benedict's Parish
Christmas Mass.

In January 2025...

**** Parish Office will be Closed for a
Christmas/New Year break, from 12pm
24th December, the office will reopen at
8.30am Monday 3rd February 2025****

1st - 8.30am Mass, for the Solemnity of
Mary Mother of God.

12th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation
Morning.

19th - St Benedict's Parish Morning Tea after
8.30am Mass.

Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 4.

Saturday 21st December, 4pm

Commentator: Hugh Shannon
Reader 1: Andreena Shannon
Reader 2: Evie Shannon
Communion Minister: Oliver Morata

Sunday 22nd December, 8.30am

Commentator: Werner Mascarenhas
Reader 1: Andre Mascarenhas
Reader 2: Erika Mascarenhas
Communion Minister: Joseph and Nancy
D'Souza, Sosefo Nasio

Sunday 22nd December, 5.30pm

Commentator: Chris Molina
Reader 1: Theresa Saad
Reader 2: Ashley Oliver
Communion Minister: Christopher Beck

prayer, there will be a sung call and a sung response. This is a beautiful way of reminding us that we are in the Advent season preparing ourselves to joyfully receive the One we love more deeply into our hearts when He comes.

Advent Prayer Group – Sunday Mornings During Advent

The Nativity of our Lord is one of our most important feasts. To enhance our Christmas experience as people of faith, our Prayer Network will be facilitating an **Advent Prayer Group** on the Sundays of Advent. The sessions will not go any longer than one hour, and you are more than welcome to come and join in any of these sessions in the lead up to Christmas. The session times are held in person after the 8.30am Mass on the following Sunday's:-

* Sunday Dec 15 – 9:30am.

* Sunday Dec 22 – 9:30am

The Children's Choir – Leading our Christmas Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass

We are calling all children in our St Benedict's Parish to join the Children's Choir, who will come together for rehearsals after our Sunday 8:30am Mass on the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent (December 15 and 22).

Our Children's Choir will be leading our Christmas Carols at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve (December 24). They will then continue to lead us in the Christmas hymns sung during our Christmas Vigil Mass at 6pm,

All children in the parish are very welcome, and encourage, to join this beautiful choir.

Upcoming Friday Masses

Our 9am Mass on Friday 13th December, will be an Anointing Mass.

After the 13th December, Friday morning Masses will take a break until the resumption of school in 2025.

New Year's Day Mass – Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

We will be celebrating Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, on Wednesday January 1 2025, at 8:30am. All are Welcome.

Meeting for the Building of Our Church

As I have mentioned previously I met with Father Peter Dillon, the Vicar of Administration for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, and Patrick Lane-Mullins, the Director of Building and Property for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, to discuss the building of our church. There are two immediate actions which need to be taken after this meeting.

Firstly, Father Peter and Patrick will meet with a representative from BCE seeking to swap the 10 000m² block of land owned by the Archdiocese of Brisbane, where the current Kindy and lower College Carpark are located, with a 7 000m² parcel of land located on the right of the main gates as we drive into the St Benedict's precinct.

Secondly, the Parish needs to contribute towards the cost of building, and then look at how we could source the remaining funds needed for the building of the church. This will require an immediate increase in regular Giving contributions into our Building Fund.

So please contribute to our Building Fund if you are not already doing so. We have Direct Debit and Credit Card forms available at our Mass Centre, or please contact the Parish Office for any details you may require.

Parish Newsletters over Christmas and New Year

Our last Newsletter for 2024 will be sent out on Thursday 19th December in preparation for the Christmas Celebrations.

As the Parish Office will be closed while Renae takes a break throughout January, our Parish Newsletter will resume on Thursday 6th February 2025.

Have a great week everyone, rejoicing in the Lord, *Fr Bryan.*

Planning Ahead... St Benedict's Christmas Celebrations

Let us all join together this Christmas, to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

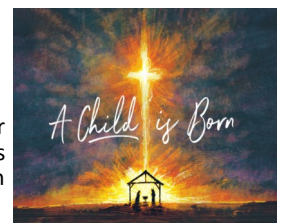
The St Benedict's Catholic Parish and Community, will be joining together to celebrate the following Masses for Christmas 2024.

6pm - Christmas Eve Mass 24/12 (Family Mass)

9pm - Christmas Eve Mass 24/12 (Midnight Mass)

8.30am - Christmas Morning Mass 25/12

Please note: Fr Bryan requests; Families that wish for their children to participate by doing a reading in the Children's Mass, 6pm Christmas Eve, to please attend the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 22nd December for rehearsals. Thank you.



St Benedict's Parish Office, Closure for Christmas & New Year.

The St Benedict's Parish Office will be closed for a Christmas and New Year break from 12pm Tuesday 24th December 2024 & reopen on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 8.30am. Please feel free to email or leave a voicemail for the office with any questions or queries during this time, the emails and calls will be responded to after the 3rd February 2025.



**Parish Fundraising -
\$5 Lucky Numbers—
Thank you!**

Thank you very much to all of the wonderful supporters of the 'Lucky Number' Raffles we have been running over the last few months. Your support is appreciated greatly. All funds raised and donated went directly towards the costs associated with Building our Church. A special thank you to Di and her team of Volunteers for running the Raffles.



St Benedict's Christmas Fundraising Raffle

Please support the Fundraising efforts to Build our St Benedict's Church

Numerous Prizes to be won—Power Tools, Hampers, Gift Bags and more!

\$5.00 per Ticket, available at the Mass Centre

Prizes Drawn at the 8.30am Christmas Day Mass.

Good Luck!



At our Anniversary Celebration the last of our last 2024 \$5 Lucky Number Raffle was drawn.

Congratulations to Ella (#30).

Ella's Family has kindly donated the \$100 prize back to the Parish Building Fund. Thank you to Ella and her Family.



Opportunity to join the Childrens Parish Choir - Christmas Eve 5.30pm Christmas Carols and 6pm Family Mass.

The St Benedict's Parish Music Ministry will hold Christmas Carols from 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, 24th December, just prior to commencement of the 6pm Family Christmas Eve Mass.

Students from St Benedict's Primary School, St Benedict's College and Parish student community are invited to join with them for the Choir Practise on Sunday 15th and 22nd December following the 8.30am Mass. All are welcome, the more the merrier.

We encourage families that have students wishing to participate, by doing a reading at the Family Mass at the 6pm Christmas Eve, to please attend rehearsal on Sunday 22nd December following the 8.30am Mass. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE —Changes to Blue Card Requirements for Safeguarding Parish Ministry Roles.

We've been advised that there've been some updates once again to the Archdiocese Safeguarding Requirement Matrix. Please be advised that Parishioners who may've required a Blue Card previously for their Volunteer Role, no longer require one. If this is the case you may receive an email from 'Blue Card' to say that your details have now been 'parked'. Should you have any questions please contact our Office. Thank you so much. Blue Card and/or Police Checks are to be held by those that are working directly with children or vulnerable adults for our Parish or hold particular roles in accordance with Archdiocese guidelines. If the you are required to hold or renew your Blue Card/Police Check, our Parish Office will contact you directly. Thank you.



Sewing assistance... Could you help??

One of our Parishioners who assists the parish in supplying Baptism Stoles, is seeking some assistance with the cutting and hemming of the Baptism Stoles. If you are in a position to help, please contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch. Thank you very much.

Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

Toiletry Packs for SVDP for Christmas—THANK YOU!

As we reported in last weeks newsletter we received a magnificent response to our collection of toiletry goods for St Vincent de Paul with just short of 60 packs. Well, with the continued overwhelming support given it got even better! We finished up exceeding our package target of 60+ packs. We offer a great deal of thanks to all who were able to support this important initiative. We understand times are tough for many.

SVDP also received an extremely large and generous amount of goods from the St Benedict's Primary school at their end of year assembly on Friday. A great deal of thanks is offered to the St Benedict's schools. Thank you to Mr Andrew Bazzo and Mr Patrick Davis, together with the students and parents.

Your kindness and generosity will help bring so much joy to so many families this Christmas. **God loves a cheerful giver** – 2 Cor 9:7

Your efforts have been noticed in the archdiocese office. Emma Beach, Executive Officer, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission sent the following words to us:

Hi North Lakes Parish

Again, you inspire by your leadership and action. I've put this information into a short article for the CJPC newsletter in January. Can you please keep me informed about your final number and I'll add that information.

We are reporting that we made up 67 packs.

Should you have any questions in regard to any of this information please reach out to the JP&E Group on stbenedictsjpe@gmail.com

Enrolments for Sacramental Programs.

We welcome families wishing to enroll children to receive their Sacraments or seeking to obtain information about our 2025/2026 Sacramental Programs, to please contact the Parish Office via email.

To receive the Sacraments of:-

Confirmation - children in Grade 3 and above having already received the Sacrament of Baptism are eligible. Takes place through out the months of July and August.

First Holy Communion (Eucharist) and Reconciliation - children in Grade 4 and above, having already received the Sacrament of Confirmation are eligible. Takes place through out the months of May and June.



St Benedict's Prayer Network - Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are always welcomed, please fill in your details and email to:

stbenedictsprayernetwork@gmail.com or via the prayer box available at the Welcome Table at Mass.

All requests will be submitted to the team and will be prayed for two weeks. A new request will be needed after 2 weeks.



Please remember in your Prayers:

Those who are Unwell: Gail TARRIER, Joy Gibbs, Thomas Cafferty.

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Our Dear Recently Departed: Rosemary Franzidis, Fernando Prato.



We respectfully acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi and Ningi Ningi people, as the traditional custodians and caretakers of the land in which we gather for the St Benedict's Parish.

We acknowledge the Elders, past, present and emerging. May we, too, be good stewards of this land.

Parish Giving & Donations:- Week ending Sunday 8th December 2024.

Plate Collection & Envelopes:-

Building (Church) - \$1002.00
Parish (Running) - \$1276.90

Direct Deposits, Credit Cards, APP & Tap N Go:-

Building (Church) - \$890.00
Parish (Running) - \$800.00

Totals:-

Building (Church) = \$1892.00
Parish (Running) = \$2076.90

*'For it is in giving that we receive' ...
St Francis of Assisi*

*We offer heartfelt thanks to our Parishioners who have ever so generously donated in support of the life and mission of the St Benedict's Parish.
We thank you for your continued support.*

Help us keep you up to date.

Please feel free to contact the Parish Office if you would like to update or check any contact details we may have on file for you and/or your family. Receiving our weekly Newsletter by email is a great way to see what is happening in and around our Parish.

Our faith sustains us through challenging times.

Now, more than ever, your support is needed to help our Parish to continue valuable pastoral activities and to provide ongoing sustainability. To assist you in supporting the St Benedict's Parish, you can now give via the Planned Giving APP:

<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>



Leaving a Legacy

A simple yet powerful way to impact future generations, is to leave a gift to St Benedict's Parish, North Lakes, Mango Hill, Griffin in your will. After you have taken care of your loved ones, you may consider naming St Benedict's Parish to receive a gift, which will continue to make a meaningful and profound difference to your Parish.



Financially Supporting Our St Benedict's Parish

To everyone who actively contributes financially to the life of our St Benedict's Parish. Thank you! Without you we would not be able to operate as a parish.

We know that the only stable and recurring income that our parish receives is from the **support of our Planned Giving Program**. At present, we are not receiving enough income from our Planned Giving to meet the financial cost of running the parish.

There is a need to increase our collections by \$2000 a week in order to plug the gap when we are no longer eligible to receive the current level of subsidies from the Archdiocese, which will cease in 2024. Also, as I have said, after a church is built there will be additional operating costs such as insurance, maintenance, utility bills etc.

Please, I am asking every parishioner to commit some of your **TREASURE** and help make our dream become a reality. Our Parish Pledge Card is available at the Mass centre; asking everyone to **commit to the Planned Giving Program**. If you are already in the Planned Giving Program, we are asking you to at least continue and if possible increase your financial support. 500 people on average attend Mass each week and we have 83 families that contribute to the Parish through the Parish Planned Giving Program.

If you are not yet part of our Planned Giving Program, then please join and make a commitment to our Parish. There are three (3) options to financially contribute to the running of the parish. These are:

- 1. Direct Debit or**
- 2. Credit Card or**
- 3. Giving Envelopes**

On this Pledge Card we will have an opportunity to support both:

- * **The Parish (Running) Collection**, which supports the expenses incurred for the day-to-day, efficient and effective running of the parish. (Leases, Wages, Supplies)
- * **The Building (Church) Donation**, which supports our purchasing/building of assets, which include our future church, offices, and an adult faith formation/gathering space.

If we want the Archdiocese to contribute significantly to the building of our church, then we need to show that we are financially viable as a parish. So please join our Planned Giving program to help secure our financial future and to give us funds to answer God's call for us to spread the Good News of Jesus through our words, our deeds, and by being vessels of God's hope, love, and peace.

Smoke Free School, A reminder to all Parishioners and Friends that smoking is not permitted within school grounds. The law relating to school land applies at all times - during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.

Where persons are observed smoking on school grounds or near our school, legislation requires that the person to either stop smoking or move to an area where smoking is permitted.

A matter for safety/care and concern, We ask that families please do not allow children to use the playground equipment behind the OSHC building before or after Mass of a weekend as a matter of safety. Thank you

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GET IN TOUCH

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