



ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross **Ordinary Time, Yr C.** **14th September 2025.**

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:

Renae Smyth-Scott
admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office:

Address: Level 2/12 Endeavour Blvd
North Lakes, Qld 4509
Postal: PO Box 1602
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:

Renae Smyth-Scott
Ph: 07 34901768
Email: northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au
STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550
STOPline: <http://bneatholic.stoplينerreport.com/>

Parish Website:

www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au

Parish Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictsCatholicParish/>

St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

St Benedict's Justice & Peace Group:

jpestbenedicts@gmail.com

Readings for this week - 14th Sept 2025, Exaltation of the Holy Cross in OT YRC.

1st Reading - Numbers 21: 4-9.
Psalm - Ps 77: 1-2, 34-38.
Response - Do not forget the works of the Lord!
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Philippians 2: 6-11.
Gospel - John 3: 13-17.

The Cross – The Greatest Sign of God's Love

This coming Sunday we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. A feast that invites us to raise our eyes to look to Jesus lifted up in glory on the Cross. Here Jesus turns suffering into life, and defeat into victory.

In the first reading, from the Book of Numbers, the people of Israel are in the wilderness after being freed from slavery in Egypt. In this journey they complain to God and Moses about this arduous journey. During this journey they are confronted with poisonous snakes where many were bitten and died. The people begged Moses to pray for them, which he did, and God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it up on a pole. Anyone who was bitten by a snake would look at the bronze serpent and live. This healing did not come from the bronze serpent itself, but from God's mercy and the people's act of faith relying on God's saving power. This story shows us that God can transform even pain and death into new life. Putting our faith in God helps us to find healing, hope, and endurance to continue our journey with peace.

In this coming Sunday's second reading from St Paul to the Philippians, we hear a beautiful hymn that presents the mystery of Jesus' humility and exaltation. It reveals to us that Jesus, thought equal with God, did not cling to His divinity, but instead he emptied Himself taking the form of a servant, and becoming obedient to the point of death on the Cross. This is what the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is all about.

The Cross was once a symbol of shame and humiliation, but through Christ, has become the sign of victory and salvation. It is through this extremely humiliating death that Jesus reveals the depth of God's love. The Cross, rather than being the end, becomes the throne of glory. The cross leads to Resurrection, humiliation leads to exaltation, and death leads to eternal life. The Cross shows us that true goodness is found, not in power or pride, but in self-giving love and humility.

In this coming Sunday's Gospel, from John, Jesus explains to Nicodemus that just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up (crucified) for the healing and salvation of all who look to Jesus in faith. We look to Jesus on the Cross to heal us from suffering from the poison of sin and death. The Cross, therefore, is a symbol of hope and healing. The Cross of Jesus is not just a symbol of suffering, but of God's love and victory. Jesus died for all people, even those who crucified Him. The self-giving love of Jesus, who died even for His enemies, empowers us to do the same. But, as Jesus makes abundantly clear in this coming Sunday's Gospel, we need to believe in Jesus and live our lives shaped by Jesus' love. In our relationship with Jesus, we are called to love sacrificially as God loves us. Drawing more and more people in the world to do the same, for our own good, and for the good of the whole world.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Elizabeth Harrington)

At Masses on Sunday 14th September the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, previously called the Triumph of the Cross, will be celebrated in place of the 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time. A feast of the Lord, it celebrates the "lifting up" of the Son of Man on the cross into glory, and the paradox of the cross as a sign of humiliation and death, yet the source of victory and life.

Egeria, the nun who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands between 383 and 384 and whose travel diary tells us so much about the liturgy in Jerusalem at the time, describes a great feast day celebrating "the day on which the cross of the Lord was discovered". The liturgy to which she refers took place on 14 September.

Devotion to the cross of Christ was in evidence long before this however. Constantine had built a church at Rome dedicated to the cross. According to tradition, Constantine's mother St Helena discovered the cross of Christ during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. She brought a piece back to Rome and placed it in the new basilica.

"O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven." (Collect).

My Annual Leave

I will be on annual leave for the next three weeks. This is a much-needed break where I will be resting completely. Therefore, I will not be able to be contacted until Saturday October 4. Please pray for me as I will certainly be praying for you.

Our Next Newsletter will be Sunday October 12

This will be our last newsletter until **Sunday October 12, the Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time C.**

No 5:30pm Masses on the Sundays of September 14, 21, and 28

As I announced at all the Masses last weekend, we will only be celebrating Masses on Saturday at 4pm and Sunday at 8:30am for the next three weekends (September 13-14, 20-21, and 27-28). **There will be no Sunday 5:30pm Masses on these three Sundays.**

The Week Ahead...

Thursday 18th September

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter sent out via email.

Friday 19th September

NO 9am Mass

Saturday 20th September

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 21st September

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Childrens Liturgy of the Word, in 8.30am Mass.

Parish Morning Tea after 8.30am Mass,
All are Welcome.

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass

Save the Date...

In September...

14th - Safeguarding Sunday.

21st - Children's Liturgy of the Word, in 8.30am Mass.

21st - Parish Morning Tea (after 8.30am Mass)

In October...

5th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning

12th - Parish Morning Tea (after 8.30am Mass)

18-19th - World Mission Sunday Appeal

19th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning

In November...

9th - Parish Morning Tea (after 8.30am Mass)

9th, 16th & 30th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation Mornings.

15-16th - St Vinnies Christmas Appeal

29th - All Souls Memorial Mass 9am

In December...

7th - Parish 8th Anniversary Celebration - Morning Tea/Sausage Sizzle, after 8.30am Mass (NB - no 5.30pm Mass)

12th - Seasons Aged Care North Lakes- Bake Stall.

24th - Christmas Eve Masses, 6pm and 9pm

25th - Christmas Mass, 8.30am

Reconciliation - available by appointment.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment prior to the 4pm Saturday Mass and the 5.30pm Sunday Mass. Please contact the Parish Office.

Friday Masses

We will be celebrating Mass at 9am on Friday September 12. We will then have a small break while I am on leave, **our next Friday 9am Mass will be on Friday October 10.**

***** Our Parish Office will be Closed from Thursday September 18 at 3pm, reopening Tuesday October 7 at 8:30am. All Emails and Voicemail will be responded to as soon as possible from October 7th *****

Our Church—update

Exciting news! We are moving closer to the building of our church. Please see below the action items from our recent meeting with Fr Peter Dillon (Vicar General), Patrick Lane-Mullins (Director of Building and Property), Mary Macuga (Director of Fundraising), Kate Andrews (Parishioner and member of our Fundraising Team), and I.

Agenda Item 1: Land Swap:

Actions and Timeframes:

Patrick Lane-Mullins to report to Fr Bryan that the proposal has successfully gone through the relevant committees by the end of August 2025.

Update: The land swap documentation scheduled to take place by September 20.

Agenda Item 2: Architectural Designs:

Actions and Timeframes:

Patrick Lane-Mullins will come back to Fr Bryan at the end of next week regarding the outcome of his discussion with Sarah Rush and Bernard Rush regarding designs and costings.

Update: We are organising a meeting with the architects within the next two weeks.

Agenda Item 3 – Monthly Meetings

Actions and Timeframes:

Patrick Lane-Mullins to set up these monthly meetings once the designs are arranged.

Winter Bugs/Illness Awareness

With the health and wellbeing of our Parishioners and Community in mind; PLEASE may we refrain from coming to Mass if we have any cold or flu symptoms.

Whilst masks are not compulsory, we do ask that if you feel you need to attend Mass while showing symptoms please ensure you wear a mask, and sanitise our hands regularly to help prevent the spreading of the many Colds and Flus in our community.

We unfortunately continue to experience Parishioners and Friends coming down with COVID, RSV and Influenza. We wish them well.

Two Collections at Mass

At our Masses we are back to having two collections that serve two vital purposes.

The **First Collection, taken at the offertory, is for the running of our Parish.** It ensures the daily functioning of the parish, allowing it to serve the community and continue its mission.

This includes Clergy expenses, Presbytery/Utilities expenses, Wages, Parish Office Rent and expenses, Mass Centre expenses and the cost of running various Parish Programs such as Sacramental Program and the RCIA.

The **Second Collection, taken after Holy Communion, is for the building of our Church.** We are very close to securing our land, we now need funds to build a church.

Happy Birthday to Renae!

I cannot thank Renae enough for all the work she does for the parish and for me. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Renae for her incredible dedication, service, and hard-work and wish her a very happy birthday for this Saturday (September 13), asking God to bless her and her family abundantly.

Have a great week everyone, knowing and immersing ourselves into the infinite love of God,

Fr Bryan.

Communion Ministers - Face Mask Reminder

A gentle reminder to our Communion Ministers.

With the current rise in COVID, RSV and Influenza cases, along with the general colds and flus brought on by Winter. We ask if you could kindly remember to bring your face mask with you, when you are rostered on for Communion Ministry Roster please.

Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 3.

Saturday 20th September, 4pm

Commentator: Oliver Morata
Reader 1: Mary Foronda
Reader 2: Sheila Pereira
Communion Minister: Denise Rapkins

Sunday 21st September, 8.30am

Commentator: Charles D'Rosario
Reader 1: Morton Howes
Reader 2: Aviva Coutinho
Communion Minister: Bobette Sindicic,
Pierina Ziebarth and Juvenal

Sunday 21st September, 5.30pm

Commentator: Judith Fernandes
Reader 1: Seema Masih
Reader 2: Zandra Farr
Communion Minister: Theresa Saad,
Michael Fraser, Sheilah Ojuri.

Should you not be able to attend your Ministry Roster, please let the Sacristans know asap, or arrange a swap please. Thank you for your assistance.



Parish Fundraising- \$5 Lucky Numbers.

Support our Parish Fundraising by purchasing a \$5 Lucky Number. Numbers are available from the Mass Centre this weekend. All funds raised will go directly back to our Church.



Children's Liturgy of the Word – 3rd Sunday of the Month

Children's Liturgy of the Word will take place in Sunday 8.30am Mass on the third Sunday of each the Month. Next is:-21st September. Children from the age groups of Prep to Grade 4 are welcome to attend.

Parish Weekly Newsletter via Email.

Receiving our weekly Parish Newsletter via Email is a wonderful way to keep up to date with the varied ministries and events happening in and around our Parish and the Archdiocese. If you are not currently receiving our Newsletter via email and would like to, please contact the Parish Office so we can set you up in our Database to receive them electronically.

The Newsletter is also uploaded to our Parish Website every Thursday.

We do have very limited access to printing a small amount of the Newsletter most weeks, however our preferred method to share information is via email.



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 2025.

Sacramental Programs at St Benedicts Parish.

We encourage families wishing to enroll children to receive their Sacraments or for those seeking further information about our Annual Sacramental Programs, to please contact the Parish Office via email. Eligibility to receive the Sacraments:-



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

First Holy Communion (Eucharist) & Reconciliation - children in Grade 4 and above, having already received their Sacrament of Confirmation are eligible. The Program takes place through out the months of May and June each year.

We continue to keep all of the children and families that have taken part in the Sacramental Programs at St Benedict's Parish in 2025 in our prayers. May Gods love & peace be with you always.

St Benedict's Prayer Network - Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are always welcomed and can be made in three ways to the Prayer Team.

1. Written into the Prayer Request Book located on the timber stand in the Mass Centre entrance.
2. Written and placed into the small wooden prayer box, in front of the Altar.
3. Or via email to ranthony52@hotmail.com.



A new prayer request will be needed after 4 weeks.

Should you wish you have a name placed in the prayer requests in the Parish Newsletter, please email the Parish Office by email.

Please remember in your Prayers:

Those who are Unwell: Gail Tarrier, Joy and Russell Darby, Natalia Humpries, Erin Stillman, Mike and Joy Gibbs

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Our Dear Recently Departed:



St Benedict's Parish Vision Prayer

Father You are great, You are glorious, and You are wonderful in every way.

Praising You O God, brings us great joy.

Fill us with Your grace so that we can embrace Jesus in our lives.

Open the ears of our heart to build up Your Kingdom in the world by participating fully in the life and mission of our parish.

May we treasure our cultural diversity as we live full lives united in You, our Beloved.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, help us to welcome and encourage each other in the incredible life-giving love of Jesus.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**



Extended Offer

Will Campaign Partnership with St Benedict's Parish

Lockett McCullough Lawyers is excited to share our partnership with St. Benedict's Parish in support of building your church. We are proud to launch a Will Campaign commencing 1 June and continuing through to 31 August 2025. Through this campaign, we will offer parishioners wishing to leave a bequest to the parish, discounted pricing of \$440 including GST per Will. In addition to your lasting legacy, our firm will donate an addition \$100 per Will made under this Campaign to St Benedict's Parish.

To take advantage of this offer, you can reach out by calling (07) 3264 7692 or emailing admin@lockettmcullough.com.au.

With offices located at the Gold Coast, Toowong, Hamilton, Albany Creek, and Noosa, the firm provides flexibility by offering to meet you at your location for document signing.

Lockett McCullough Lawyers



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday 27th September 2025
11:30am
Cathedral of St Stephen



Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary or beyond, are invited to attend, together with their family and friends.

Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

2025-2026 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT—SIGNS OF HOPE ON THE EDGE. Please spend just a few minutes looking at the Statement at: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Social-Justice-Statement-2025-2026-FINAL.pdf>

2025 Vinnies Toiletries Gift Packs. We mentioned strengthening our partnerships between parishes, schools and communities in previous weeks. We have been given the perfect pathway to start a dialogue to once again collect toiletries for Vinnies to distribute this Christmas. Mrs O'Hanlon, the Primary school's Acting APRE, has confirmed the support of the Grade 6 cohort once again.

The St Vinnies volunteers from our own parish are right behind the initiative, and this year we will join forces with the St Vincent de Paul Deception Bay Conference where Sonya O'Leary, the President, has confirmed not only their support, but their help with storage and packing to ensure we get the right goods in the right bag for each family.

We are still waiting on the "shopping list" for 2025, and will advise asap, to give you the opportunity to snap up bargains in the next few months if you are in a position to help with a wonderful cause.

Next Meeting. We will hold our next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, 10th September 2025, in the School Hall. All are welcome

JP&E has a new email address - jpestbenedicts@gmail.com.

The old email address is inactive. *Should you have any questions in regard to any of this information please reach out to the JP&E Group.*

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

Safeguarding Sunday, 14 September

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church.

In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025

WE ARE A
SAFE, HOPE-FILLED
AND WELCOMING
CHURCH



Safeguarding for Parish Ministry Roles.

The Archdioceses of Brisbane People & Culture Team, together with the Parish Volunteers Team are trying to assist Parishes by streamlining the Safeguarding lodgment/renewal/training process for all of our Parishioners who are required to maintain Blue Cards, Police Checks & Safeguarding Compliance/Training for their Ministry Roles within the St Benedict's Parish.

Blue Card and/or Police Checks are to be held by those that are working directly with children for our Parish or hold particular roles in accordance with Archdiocese guidelines.

Should you be required to hold/renew your Blue Card/Police Check, the Archdiocese P&C/Volunteers Team (Brent Hunter) will be in contact. Please feel free to contact Renae also if you have questions. Thank you.

Holy Cross Funerals **Supporting Parishes for 25 years**

Contact our experienced and friendly staff to assist with your pre-planning or funeral needs.
Kippa-Ring ~ 3293 0555 Caloundra ~ 5208 9337
www.holycrossfunerals.com



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**. Our Planned Giving is required to meet the financial cost of running the Parish and raising funds to build our Church.

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 at all possible increase your financial support.

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**
2. **Credit Card**
3. **Giving Envelopes**

On our Parish Pledge Card we will have an opportunity to support:

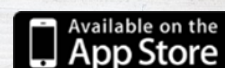
- * **The Parish (Running) Collection**, which supports the expenses incurred for the day-to-day, efficient and effective running of the parish. (Leases, Wages, Supplies)
- * **The Building (Church) Donation**, which supports our purchasing/building of assets, which include our future church, office,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

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>



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 on school land before or after Mass of a weekend as a matter of safety. Thank you