



ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

Third Sunday of Advent, Yr A
14th December 2025.



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

This coming Sunday we celebrate Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday ("Gaudete" being Latin for "Rejoice."). The focus for this Sunday's readings is not only aimed at preparing us for the coming of Christ at Christmas

and the Second Coming, but they clearly emphasise the incredible joy that Jesus gives us when He comes into our lives in the here and now.

How can we not rejoice at the coming of Jesus into our lives? Jesus is our Lord, our God, our everything! Anyone who has a deep and intimate personal relationship with Jesus will attest to this. Jesus gives us life, love, hope, faith, guidance, comfort, strength, support, healing, peace, contentment, joy and all the other good things that we need to live life in abundance. How can we not rejoice??

We are certainly a parish who fully rejoices in the Lord. As is often the case, visitors of our parish come up to me after Mass last say, "I love the great sense of joy and happiness you have in this community." We have no trouble connecting with the readings for today. For we truly "shout for joy...for God is in our midst, a mighty Saviour, rejoicing over us with gladness, renewing us in love" (Zep 3:14-18a). And in turn, "we rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice...for the peace of God, which beyond all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:4-7).

The Meaning of Advent: A Season of Hope, Expectation, and Renewal

As we begin the season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of quiet expectation and joyful preparation. Often described as a "little Lent," Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas but a sacred opportunity to refocus our hearts on Jesus, who came to us in Bethlehem, who comes to us daily in grace, and who will come again in glory.

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Throughout these four weeks, we are called to prepare for three distinct comings of Christ. First, we remember His humble birth in the manger, the moment when God entered human history to redeem us. Second, we open ourselves to His presence in our lives today—through Scripture, the Sacraments, acts of charity, and the quiet whisper of prayer, constantly communicating with Jesus as we live our lives. Finally, we look with hope toward Jesus return at the end of time, when all creation will be renewed.

The Advent wreath, candles, and deep violet colours of the season remind us of both penance and promise. The flickering candles symbolize the growing light of Christ breaking through our darkness. Each week offers a new step forward in faith: hope, peace, joy, and love.

This season encourages us to slow down, to create space in our daily routines for silence and reflection. Amid the noise and rush of December, Advent invites us to pause and listen to the longing within our hearts, longings that only Jesus can fulfill. We are encouraged to strengthen our spiritual connection by attending Mass, spending time in Adoration, praying with Scripture, or performing small acts of kindness for those in need.

May this Advent be a time of renewal for our parish community. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us journey together with open hearts, ready to welcome Jesus anew.

Advent Liturgies

To mark the special season of Advent, we are making two changes to our Sunday Masses. 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 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 lives when He comes.

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

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 Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent (December 7, 14 and 21).

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.

RCIA Catechumens and Candidates

Great news! We have nine adults travelling with us on our St Benedict's RCIA journey this year. These are very impressive people and will be a welcome addition to our Catholic family. Please keep them in your prayers as we journey with them towards becoming fully initiated into our Catholic family at Easter.

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
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:

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

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:

jpestbenedicts@gmail.com

Readings for this week - 14th December, Second Sunday of Advent, Yr A.

1st Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10.
Psalm - Ps 145: 6-10.
Response - Lord, come and save us.
Alleluia.
2nd Reading - St James 5: 7-10
Gospel - Matthew 11: 2-11.

The Week Ahead...

Thursday 18th December

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter sent out via email.

Saturday 20th December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 21st December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Children's Liturgy of the Word to take place in 8.30am Mass

Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal after 8.30am Mass

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Friday 9am Mass, will resume with the start of the school term in 2026.

Call for Assistance, Bake Stall at Season's Aged Care, Friday, Dec 12

We have a great opportunity again to come together and serve the community, while at the same time raising much needed funds for the building of our new church.

We're calling on all parishioners to roll up their sleeves and bake for this wonderful cause, our spiritual home.

Please join us for our **Bake Stall at Season's Aged Care Christmas Market**, as I have said, is a **huge fundraiser** supporting the **building of our new church**. **How to help:**

- **Bake:** Cakes, slices, biscuits, or any of your favourite homemade treats.
- **Drop off:** At the **Parish Office** on **Thursday December 11**, or at **Season's Aged Care** on **Friday morning 12th**.

Let's come together as one to make this fundraiser a success and build a beautiful home for our faith.

Becoming a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission

As I shared in my homily at all Masses last weekend, we have just witnessed a historic moment in the life of the Church. From 2021 to 2024, Pope Francis has led the global Church in the **Synod on Synodality**. This was the journey of prayer, listening, dialogue, and discernment that culminated in two sessions in Rome.

The logo of the Synod, shown above, beautifully captures the spirit of this process. It portrays a diverse group of people walking together - young and old, clergy and laity - all moving forward under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It reminds us that **the Church is not a building or an institution alone, but the People of God, journeying together**.

At the heart of the Synod are three key words:

Communion: We belong to one another in Christ. We are united, not by uniformity, but by a shared faith and love that celebrates our diversity.

Participation: Every baptized person has a voice and a role in the Church. We are each called to actively engage, listen, and contribute to the life of our faith community.

Mission: We are sent into the world to be witnesses of Jesus' love, bringing hope, healing, and the Good News of Jesus to all.

And of course, the foundation of it all is **Jesus Christ**, the Anointed One, who continues to give life to the world through His Body, the Church.

The Synod is not just something that happened in Rome. It is a call for **all of us**, here and now, to become a **more synodal Church**—a Church that listens deeply, includes all, and walks forward together in faith.

* So, let us strive to live this out right here in our parish and community. Let us: Listen to one another with open hearts, especially those who feel unheard or on the margins.

* Let us discern together what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church today.

* And let us work together in love and unity to carry out Jesus's mission of drawing all people into a life-giving and transforming relationship with Him.

May we be a Church where **no one is left out, and no one is left behind**—truly a synodal Church, walking together in the footsteps of Jesus, embraced by God.

Christmas Masses

Wednesday December 24:

- 6pm (Carols 5:30pm Children' Mass).
- 9pm (Midnight Mass).

Thursday December 25

- 8:30am Mass for the Nativity of the Lord.

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

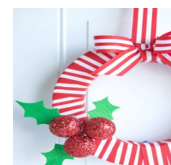
Thursday January 1, 2024 – 8:30am Mass.

***** Parish Office Closure during December & January*****

The Parish Office will be closed from 3pm Thursday 27th November, and will reopen at 8.30am Monday 17th December.

We will be closed for Christmas & New Year from 12pm Wednesday 24th December and reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 27th January.

Have a great week everyone, with excited expectation for the coming of Christ, **Fr Bryan**.



Save the Date...

In December...

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

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

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

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

25th - Christmas Mass, 8.30am

In January...

1st - 9am, New Years Day Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.

11th - Parish Morning Tea after 8.30am Mass

18th - Children's Liturgy of the Word in 8.30am Mass

18th - Baptism Preparation and Celebration Morning.

In February...

1st - Commissioning Mass for St Benedict's Schools Staff in 8.30am Mass.

Communion Ministers - Face Mask Reminder

A gentle reminder to our Communion Ministers: We ask you to kindly remember to bring your face mask with you, when you are rostered on for Communion Ministry Roster please. Thank you.

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.

Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 3.

Saturday 20th December, 4pm

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

Sunday 21st December, 8.30am

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

Sunday 21st December, 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.



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 December.
Children from the age groups of Prep to Grade 4 are welcome to attend.

Call for Assistance- Fundraiser - Seasons Aged Care (Mango Hill) Bake Sale Friday 12th December, 9am to 1.30pm.

We are once again grateful to have an opportunity to help with the fundraising towards our church building project! We are putting out the call for your help!

Please save the date, for the **Season's Aged Care Mango Hill), Bake Sale on Friday, 12th December.**

We would love to hear from you if you are able to **Provide baked goods or other treats.** These items will be sold to raise funds which shall go toward the funds needed to build our St Benedict's Church. I ask that you please get in touch with Renae in the Parish Office. Your assistance, as always, will be greatly appreciated. Once again the Parish Office will be available as a drop off point on Thursday 11th December, 9am—3pm. Thank you for your support!



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.



Advent Program 2025:- As we draw closer to Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Our Saviour Jesus, joining with others for an online Advent Program is another way to prayerfully approach this beautiful season.

St Benedict's Advent Program runs for 4 weeks online, for one hour each Wednesday at 7pm. The Program begins on Wednesday evening the 26th November and continues, on December 3rd, 10th and 17th.

To be part of this Wednesday evening Program use the following zoom link to join in:- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85684103683>

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"Every conversation matters"

Safeguarding Matters



The Sacrament of 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 and 2026.



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

All those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Our Dear Recently Departed: John Kirby, Malcolm Lochlan.



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 uploaded to our Parish Website every Thursday also.

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.

Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

2025 Vinnies Toiletries Gift Packs—THANK YOU. We wish to extend a sincere thank you to all those who were in a position to donate goods to the SVDP 2025 Toiletry initiative.

Working collaboratively with the St Benedict's Primary School. SVDP and our Parish, we were able to put many packs together that will go towards helping many people in need over the Christmas and New Year period.

Next Meeting. We will hold our next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, date TBC, 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.*



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.**

Safeguarding for Parish Ministry Roles.

The Archdioceses of Brisbane People & Culture Team, together with
the Parish Volunteers Team are trying to assist Parishes by stream-
lining 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.

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@lockettmcclough.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

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



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.

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:

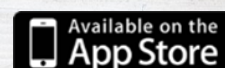
- * **The Parish (Running) Collection**, which supports the expenses
incurred for the day-to-day, efficient and effective running
of the parish. (Leases, Wages, Supplies)
- * **The Building (Church) Donation**, which supports our purchasing/
building of assets, which include our future church, office,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