



# ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

*North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin*

**First Sunday of Advent, Yr A  
30th November 2025.**



## ***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 count-down 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 Gospel of Matthew (Elizabeth Harrington)***

The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year, Year A, and a change in the source of the Gospel readings at Sunday Mass. Gospel readings in Year A are taken from Matthew. Matthew is the first Gospel in the bible because when the New Testament was formed it was believed to be the oldest of the four. It is now accepted that Mark's Gospel was written first. For centuries, it was assumed that the author was Matthew the tax collector who became an apostle but its use of second-hand sources means that this is highly unlikely.

A distinctive feature of Matthew's gospel is the way the writer has arranged the speeches of Jesus into five extended sermons. The first is the most famous - the Sermon on the Mount. The others are: the Mission Sermon, addressed to the apostles as Jesus sends them out to preach; the Sermon in Parables, a collection of parables about the kingdom of heaven; the Sermon on the Church; and Sermon on the End Times. Each of these concludes with a similar phrase: 'When Jesus had finished these words/commands/parables ...'.

The evangelist Matthew is depicted symbolically as the figure of a man because of Matthew's emphasis on the humanity of Christ. Matthew's gospel begins with the reassurance that Jesus has come to be with us and concludes with Christ's promise to remain with us until the end of time.

### ***Come Celebrate Our Parish Anniversary! Sunday, December 7, 2025 — 8:30am Mass***

St Benedict's family, we are excited to invite **every one of you** to join us for the celebration **8th Parish Anniversary Mass on Sunday December 7 at 8:30am!** This special celebration is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as one community to give thanks for the many blessings God has poured out upon our parish over the years.

Our Anniversary Mass is always a highlight of the year, a time filled with gratitude, music, friendship, and a renewed sense of who we are as the Body of Christ at St Benedict's. We would love to see our church brimming with familiar faces, new families, and friends returning home for this joyful occasion.

To allow our whole community to celebrate **together, there will be no 5:30pm Mass on this particular Sunday.** We thank you warmly for your understanding and invite you wholeheartedly to join us in the morning so we can come together as one parish family.

Let's celebrate our past, embrace our present, and look forward with hope to the wonderful things God has in store for us! **We can't wait to celebrate with you!**

#### **Parish Priest:**

**Fr Bryan Roe**

Email: [roeb@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)

STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550

STOPline: <http://bncatholic.stoplilereport.com/>

#### **Parish Website:**

[www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au](http://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](mailto:jpestbenedicts@gmail.com)

#### **Readings for this week - 30th November, First Sunday of Advent, Yr A.**

**1st Reading - Isaiah 2: 1-5.  
Psalm - Ps 121: 1-2, 4-5, 6-9.  
Response - Let us go rejoicing to the  
house of the Lord.  
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Romans  
13: 11-14.  
Gospel - Matthew 24: 37-44.**

## The Week Ahead...

### Wednesday 3rd December

St Benedict's Parish turns 8!

### Thursday 4th December

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter sent out via email.

### Saturday 6th December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

### Sunday 7th December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Rite of Enrolment for RCIA Participants.

St Benedict's Parish 8th Anniversary Celebration, Morning tea to follow 8.30am Mass.

### No 5.30pm Mass

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

## Save the Date...

### In November...

29th - All Souls Memorial Mass 9am

### 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.

### 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.

## **Please Bring a Plate for Our Anniversary Mass Morning Tea Sunday, December 7, 2025 — After the 8:30am Mass**

As part of our joyful Parish Anniversary celebrations, we warmly invite everyone to stay after the **8:30am Mass on Sunday December 7** for a special **Morning Tea**.

To help make this a truly shared celebration, we kindly ask parishioners to **bring a plate to share** - sweet or savoury, homemade or store-bought - anything you'd love to contribute to our Morning Tea.

Your generosity helps create the warm, family spirit that makes St Benedict's so special. We look forward to celebrating together with good food, great company, and grateful hearts.

### **Rite of Acceptance at our Anniversary Mass (Sunday December 7, 8:30am)**

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. We will be introducing these wonderful people to the parish community during our Anniversary Mass on Sunday December 7 at 8:30am. During this Mass we will be having the Rite of Acceptance, where those beginning their RCIA journey are welcomed publicly, declare their intention to embrace Christ, and are signed with the Cross as they enter fully into parish life.

Please keep them in your prayers as we journey with them towards becoming fully initiated into our Catholic family at Easter.

### **Memorial Mass – Saturday, November 29 at 9:00 AM**

We invite you to join us for our **Annual Memorial Mass on Saturday, November 29 at 9am**, as we come together as a parish family to remember and pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us, especially those who have died in the past year.

This Mass is a special opportunity to commend the souls of the departed to God's eternal care and to surround their grieving families with the comfort and support of our prayers. We especially encourage parishioners who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year to attend, as we ask God to embrace them in His eternal love and to bring healing and peace to all who mourn.

**All are welcome.** Whether you're remembering a recent loss or holding in your heart the memory of someone gone before, we hope you will join us in this beautiful and meaningful celebration of hope, remembrance, and prayer.

### **\*\* Important Request - Candles for those passed in the last 12 months\*\***

For those who shall be attending the Memorial Mass on Saturday 29th November at 9am, that have lost a loved one in the past 12 months; if you could please email the Parish office (admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au) prior to 3pm Thursday 27th November and provide the Name and date of the passing of your loved one. This will assist us to be able to provide a candle for you in remembrance of your dearly departed, a family member will then process in with the candle when your loved ones name is called at the beginning of Mass. \*\*Please note that candles are provided for those who have passed within that last 12 months only. Thank you.

### **Call for Assistance, Bake Stall at Season's Aged Care, Christmas Market 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.

### **\*\*\* 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.**

## **Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 1.**

### Saturday 6th December, 4pm

**Commentator:** Jim Kearney  
**Reader 1:** Sharon Hickey  
**Reader 2:** Nancy D'Souza  
**Communion Minister:** Joseph D'Souza

### Sunday 7th December, 8.30am

**Commentator:** Werner Mascarenhas  
**Reader 1:** Andre Mascarenhas  
**Reader 2:** Erika Mascarenhas  
**Communion Minister:** Daisy Kurian, Shaji George, Bobette Sindicic

### Sunday 7th December, 5.30pm

**No 5.30pm Mass**

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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

### 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.

*"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.



### Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

**2025 Vinnies Toiletries Gift Packs.** As you know, Father and the St Vinnie's Conference in Deception Bay, have given this project their great support. The initiative is run collaboratively by the St Benedict's Primary School, our Parish Justice, Peace & Ecology Group, and our St Vincent de Paul Volunteers. This is a wonderful way to share goodwill with those doing it tough.

Thank you to those who have already donated! Donated items are really coming in now, and we'd love to see more if you are able. The Shopping List is shown below.

Our aim is for remaining items to please be dropped off/collected at the Mass Centre this weekend 29/30 Nov, please place any donated items in the large zip poly bags at the Mass Centre Entrance Door. Thank you so much for supporting this amazing initiative.

### 2025 Items for collection:-

Soap	Deodorant	Shampoo and Conditioner
Toothpaste	Body Lotion	Hair Brush and Combs
Lip Balm	Sunscreen	Feminine Products
Face Clothes	Shaving items	Insect Repellent
Mens Talc	Pamper Packs	Make Up Head Bands

*Please do not buy Family Packs as they cannot be broken down to suit the different recipients.*

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

**JP&E has a new email address - [jpestbenedicts@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### 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:

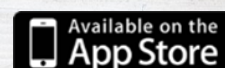
- \* **The Parish (Running) Collection**, which supports the expenses  
incurred for the day-to-day, efficient and effective running  
of the parish. (Leases, Wages, Supplies)
- \* **The Building (Church) Donation**, which supports our purchasing/  
building of assets, which include our future church,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