



ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr A
21st December 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
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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:

Renae 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/>

St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

St Benedict's Justice & Peace Group:

jpestbenedicts@gmail.com

Readings for this week - 21st December,
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Yr A.

1st Reading - Isaiah 7: 10-14.
Psalms - Ps 23: 1-6.
Response - Let the Lord enter; he is King of glory.
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Romans 1:1-7.
Gospel - Matthew 1: 18-24.

Deep Sadness...

In recent days, our hearts have been weighed down by the awful tragedy at Bondi. Like many of you, I have felt a deep sadness, especially for the lives lost, for the families now grieving, and for a community shaken by violence. At times such as these, we can feel helpless, unsure of what to say or do, except to pray.

I have been especially mindful of our Jewish brothers and sisters. As they were preparing to celebrate **Hanukkah**, a festival that speaks so beautifully of light in darkness, their joy was met instead with devastating sorrow. We stand with them in compassion and prayer, united in our shared humanity and grief.

Even so, light has not been absent. The courageous act of the man who disarmed one of the attackers reminds us that goodness and self-sacrifice still rise up, even in the most frightening moments. Such acts quietly proclaim that love is stronger than fear.

As we draw closer to **Christmas**, we remember that the Christ child comes into a broken world. Jesus, the **Prince of Peace**, is born not into comfort, but into vulnerability and uncertainty. He comes to be with us in our suffering, and to bring a light that no darkness can overcome.

Let us continue to pray for those who have died, for those who mourn, for those who are injured, for all who are traumatised, and for peace in our world. May the Lord grant us gentle hearts, steadfast hope, and the courage to be bearers of His light.

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas – A Message of Peace, Love, and Hope

As we come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent and prepare for Christmas, I invite you to pause with me for a moment. Advent has been a quiet journey, encouraging us to make room for Jesus in our lives. We have been striving to be more aware of His presence with us, rejoicing in His presence, and giving glory to God in the everyday moments we so often overlook.

Throughout these weeks, we have been reminded to listen carefully with the ear of our hearts to the way God speaks to us - through the Scriptures, through prayer, and through the people and events of our lives. As our relationship with Jesus has been strengthened during Advent, may we now celebrate Christmas with deeper meaning and significance.

This Christmas comes at a time when our nation, and indeed the whole world, is hurting. Many carry grief, fear, or uncertainty. It is into this very reality that Christ is born. The child laid in the manger comes as the **Prince of Peace**, offering hope, healing, and love to a wounded world.

May we welcome Him into our hearts and homes, and may His light help us to be people of compassion, kindness, and peace for one another, especially for those who are struggling.

Please know that you and your families are in my prayers during this holy season.

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

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 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.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

As a parish community, we have much to be thankful for, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation in several ways.

Anniversary Celebration—Thank you to everyone who helped make our recent **8th Anniversary Celebration** such a joyful and memorable occasion. Your planning, generosity, and presence truly made it a wonderful celebration for our parish.

Bake Sale—A heartfelt thank you to all who baked, donated, and setup and served at the bake sale at Seasons Aged Care Facility. Your enthusiasm and hard work helped raise almost **\$900** towards the building of our church. What a terrific result, and a real testament to our community spirit.

Surprise Celebration of My Anniversary of Ordination—Thank you for the lovely surprise celebration marking my 15th anniversary as a priest. I am deeply grateful for your kindness and for the generous gifts, which are very much appreciated. Your thoughtfulness touched my heart deeply.

Thank You to Our Parish Community—Finally, thank you to everyone who has participated in the life of the parish throughout 2025. We are clearly growing—both in numbers and in faith—thanks to the beautiful way so many contribute their time, talents, and presence. May God bless you all abundantly.

The Week Ahead...

Wednesday 24th December

St Benedict's Parish will close at 12pm.

5.30pm - Parish Christmas Carols, in the Mass Centre

6pm - Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Eve Mass.

9pm - Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Evening Mass.

Thursday 25th December

8.30am - Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day Mass.

Saturday 27th December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 28th December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

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

***** Parish Newsletters will resume, Thursday 29th January 2026.**

Save the Date...

In December 2025...

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 2026...

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.

1st - Baptism Preparation and Celebration Morning.

15th - Children's Liturgy of the Word, in 8.30am Sunday Mass.

15th - Parish Morning Tea after 8.30am Mass

18th - Parish Ash Wednesday Mass, 7am and 7pm.

18th - Caritas, Project Compassion to begin.

20th - St Benedict's Parish Stations of the Cross, 6pm.

A Reflection on Our Church Space and Our Life of Faith

Over the past few weeks, many have spoken to me about Fr Tom Elich's visit and his preaching on church design. I've heard some parishioners kindly refer to what he spoke about as "Fr Tom's design." I just want to gently clarify that what Fr Tom shared with us is not his own idea or preference. What he helped us reflect on is the vision of the **Catholic Church**, born from the prayer and wisdom of the bishops of the world at the **Second Vatican Council**.

At the heart of this vision is a simple but very important truth: **the liturgy belongs to all of us**. The Altar, in particular, is not the priest's table alone. It is the table around which all the baptised are gathered. Vatican II reminds us that the liturgy is "the summit and source" of the Church's life (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10), and through our baptism we all share in Christ's priesthood and are called to participate fully in what takes place there (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 14).

Fr Tom also spoke about the importance of the **Ambo** and the **Baptismal Font** being permanent and prominent within the church. This is not about aesthetics, but about faith. When the Scriptures are proclaimed from the Ambo, it is Christ Himself who speaks to us (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7). The Word of God is living and active, and it deserves a place that reflects its dignity.

The Baptismal Font, too, holds a special place in our church. Each time we pass it, we are reminded of who we are and where our journey with Christ began. Through baptism, we are joined to Christ's life, death, and resurrection (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 6). Our whole Christian life flows from that moment.

At every Mass, Christ is truly present in four ways: in the Eucharist, in the Word, in the priest who presides, and in the gathered community (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7). Our church space is meant to help us become more aware of that presence and to draw us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with Jesus.

This way of understanding worship also connects closely with the call of the **Synod on Synodality**, which invites us to grow as a Church marked by **Communion, Participation, and Mission**. We are not spectators, but a people walking together, listening together, and sent together to bring Christ to the world.

My hope in sharing all of this is very simple: that each of us might come to know Jesus more deeply, to encounter Him more personally, and to allow Him to shape our lives. If our church space helps us pray better, listen more attentively, and love more generously, then it is serving its true purpose.

Please know that I continue to hold you and your families in my prayers as we journey together in faith.

Christmas Masses

Please come along and invite as many people as you can to our Christmas celebrations. Our **Christmas Vigil on Wednesday December 24** will commence with **Carols led by the children at 5:30pm followed by our Christmas Mass at 6pm**. We will also be celebrating a beautiful **Mass at 9pm and on Christmas day at the usual time 8:30am**. Come one, come all, and celebrate the birth of our greatest gift ever, Jesus!

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

We will be celebrating Mass for The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on Thursday 1st January 2026, at **9.00am** in our Mass centre. All are welcome!

Parish Office Closure during December & January

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas & New Year from 12pm Wednesday 24th December 2025 and reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 27th January 2026.

All calls, messages and emails will be returned at the first opportunity after the 27th January 2026.

Please note:- Our Next Parish Newsletter will be Published on Thursday January 29, 2026.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May Christ, the Prince of Peace, dwell in your hearts.

And may the Holy Spirit guide you in hope and love,

this Christmas and always.

Merry Christmas everyone! Fr Bryan.

Communion Ministers - Face Mask Reminder

A gentle reminder to our Communion Ministers: We ask you to kindly remember to bring and wear 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 to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 4.

Saturday 27th December, 4pm

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

Sunday 28th December, 8.30am

Commentator: Thessa Ikitau
Reader 1: Andrea Thomas
Reader 2: Chrislyn Shaji
Communion Minister: Joseph and Nancy D'Souza, Tissy Mathew

Sunday 28th December, 5.30pm

Commentator: Chris Molina
Reader 1: Theresa Saad
Reader 2: Liana Sadumiano
Communion Minister: Laisa Samoa, Raj Boobal, Isabel Alphonse.

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.

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

**** Parish Office, Christmas & New Year Closure**
- the Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Wednesday 24th December and shall reopen at 8.30am Tuesday 27th January.
All calls, messages and emails will be returned after the 27th January.
**** No Parish Newsletters in coming weeks - -**
Our next Parish Newsletter will be sent out on Thursday 29th January 2026.



Parish Fundraising—Christmas Raffle.
Support our Parish Fundraising by purchasing a \$5 Ticket in the Christmas Raffles.
Tickets are available from the Mass Centre this weekend.
All funds raised will go directly toward the costs of Building our Church.
Lucky Winners will be drawn on Christmas Eve.
Good Luck!



**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.

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 a rehearsal after our Sunday 8:30am Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 21).
Our Children's Choir will be leading our Christmas Carols at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve (Wednesday 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 encouraged, to join this beautiful choir.

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
CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS**

**We're looking for:
kids that LOVE to SING!**

WHEN?

Every Sunday morning at 9:40AM (after morning mass) until Christmas Eve

WHERE?

The music room near the entrance of the church

"Every conversation matters"
Safeguarding Matters





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:

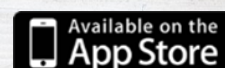
- * **The Parish (Running) Collection**, which supports the expenses
incurred for the day-to-day, efficient and effective running
of the parish. (Leases, Wages, Supplies)
- * **The Building (Church) Donation**, which supports our purchasing/
building of assets, which include our future church, office,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

The Church's Preliminary Design

Great news! Our architects have completed a preliminary schematic design for our church. This design is attached to this newsletter for your review.

We encourage you to study it carefully and share your feedback. Our hope is to finalise the design by **mid-February**, enabling us to obtain costings and present a business case to Archbishop Shane Mackinlay by **the end of February**.

Please keep this important project, and the future life of our parish, in your prayers.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
scale 1:100