



# ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

*North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin*

**First Sunday of Lent,  
Year A.  
22nd February 2026.**

**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:**

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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:**

Jody Gearon  
Ph: 07 34901768  
Email: [northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)  
STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550  
STOPline: <http://bncatholic.stopinereport.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 - 22nd February,  
First Sunday of Lent, Yr A.**

**1st Reading - Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7.  
Psalm - Ps 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17  
Response - Be merciful, O Lord, for we  
have sinned.  
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Romans  
5: 12-19.  
Gospel - Matthew 4: 1-11.**

**God is...**

When I was a priest in the Caloundra Parish, I visited a Year 2 class. I was talking with them about God, as I do, and I said to them, "You know God is our best friend ever. And we can always turn to God in prayer to help us because God is...?" And every little student in the class enthusiastically put up their hand to finish my sentence, and I chose a little girl who said with great expression, "Because God is God!" I thought her answer was hilarious, but at the same time, I thought it was a great answer. We do always turn to God for help because God is God! And completing the answer for the children I said, "Yes, we always turn to God for help because God is God, and we are not God. We're creations of God, God's wonderful creatures. And God loves us and looks after us. God always helps us to make good healthy choices."

This is the main point our readings in this coming Sunday's Gospel. As much as the Serpent or Satan (or the Devil) try to deceive us into believing that we can be God, it will never be the case, because God is God, and we're God's creatures. God is our Creator and Sustainer, who knows everything, especially everything about us. God knows every hair that each of us have on our heads.

In the first reading from the Book of Genesis, the serpent promises Eve two things: that her eyes will be opened to know good from evil, and that this will make her like God. Such a temptation for a human being is hard to resist, but as Adam and Eve found out, the Serpent's promises were empty promises. These empty promises, which we are often tempted with, is something Jesus is fully aware of in this coming Sunday's Gospel.

As we see in the Gospel, Jesus rejects Satan's empty promises three times. Each time countering these temptations with the Word of God, God's will. Brushing off each temptation by saying, "scripture says, scripture says, scripture says." In other words, "God says, God says, God says." Jesus overcomes the temptations of Satan by putting God the Father at the centre of His life, and therefore, showing us how to overcome temptation too. In Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome.

May we, at the beginning of Lent, acknowledge honestly and realistically that we cannot live our lives without God, for we are utterly dependent on the love of God to love selflessly like God. And we are always called to join Jesus, Who is our abundant free gift and our perfect Companion, in overcoming the empty promises of Satan, and putting our absolute trust in the power, love, and goodness of God.

***Lent: Our Journey Home to God***

In my mid to late teens, I travelled a lot playing tennis, both interstate and overseas. And while away from home I missed the love, familiarity, and comfort of being at home. I always loved returning home to my beautiful family, the house I grew up in, my bedroom, my bed, my pillow, Mum's cooking etc. I could really relate to the following two sayings, "There is no place like home." I think that comes from Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, and "home is where the heart is."

Both of the above sayings are particularly the case when we come to realise as people of faith that our true home is with God. Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge has really nailed what Lent is all about with title of the Archdiocese's Lenten resource... "The Journey Home."

Through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity, we turn our hearts back to the One who loves us most. We clear away what distracts us. We realign our lives.

We journey closer and closer to God, we experience the perfect love, peace, and contentment, which we all yearn for and desperately need. For when we are with God — we are home, and there truly there is no place like being at home with God.

***Journey Home to God through Prayer, Fasting, and Acts of Charity***

**Prayer** is the foundation of our Lenten journey. It is a time to grow in our connection with God, allowing His presence to guide and strengthen us.

Praying during Lent offers us a chance for deeper connection with God, offering a space to withdraw from daily distractions and encounter God more profoundly. Through prayer, we prepare to enter into the Paschal mystery with a renewed sense of awe and gratitude.

Our Prayer Network has also organised a Lenten Group at 7pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent on zoom, and an exciting Deanery Lenten Retreat. Please see below for more details.

**Fasting** during Lent helps us detach from worldly comforts and refocus on spiritual nourishment. By fasting from food, selfish habits, or distractions, we are reminded of our dependence on God and our commitment to self-discipline. This act of self-denial enables us to open our hearts to God's grace, fostering humility and mindfulness of the suffering Christ endured for our salvation.

**Acts of Charity** invite us to live out the love of Christ by serving others. Lent calls us to a deeper compassion for the poor, the marginalized, and those in need. Through acts of kindness, we follow Jesus' example and prepare our hearts to celebrate His resurrection with joy and gratitude.

Caritas gives us the opportunity to support communities less fortunate than us through

## The Week Ahead...

### Thursday 26th February

St Benedict's Parish Newsletter - distributed via email, and also available on our Parish Website.

### Friday 27th February

9am - St Benedict's Parish Mass together with Grade 6 students for their Leadership Mass.

6pm - St Benedict's Parish Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 28th February

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

### Sunday 1st March

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning after 8.30am Mass.

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Project Compassion. For more details on Project Compassion for this year, please see below.

### RCIA Rite of Election

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane will gather for the beautiful and significant Rite of Election at 3pm in St Stephen's Cathedral. This sacred liturgy marks a pivotal moment in the journey of those preparing to enter the Church at Easter.

During the Rite of Election, our Catechumens—those preparing for Baptism—will be formally chosen, or “elected,” by the Archbishop and the Church community to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Their names will be inscribed in the Book of the Elect, a powerful sign that God has called them by name. Our Candidates, who are already baptised Christians, will also be welcomed as they continue their preparation to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

This year, St Benedict's Parish is richly blessed with three wonderful Catechumens and seven Candidates. Their faith, courage, and openness to the Holy Spirit are a gift to our community. I warmly invite all parishioners to keep them in your prayers throughout Lent. May we support them by our encouragement, example, and love, as together we journey toward the joy of Easter.

### St Benedict's Lenten Groups on Zoom - from Wednesday 25/02/26, 7pm.

Prayer is the foundation of our Lenten journey, and the oxygen for the spiritual life. It is a time to grow in our connection with God, allowing His presence to guide and strengthen us. As always, we have sourced a Lenten resource from Archdiocesan Ministries (formerly Evangelisation Brisbane), 'The Journey Home' written by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge. This resource includes a Scripture reflection, a spiritual writing, reflection questions, and prayer.

Our prayer Network will be leading a Prayer Group on Zoom on all Wednesdays during Lent at 7pm starting on Wednesday February 25. Here is the link for the Wednesday Prayer Group: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83564701456>

I encourage you all to come along. All are welcome!

### A Wonderful Deanery Lenten Retreat - Saturday March 14, 12pm-3:30pm at St Benedict's Parish.

You are warmly invited to a special Deanery Retreat at St Benedict's Parish, 22 St Benedict's Close, Mango Hill, on Saturday March 14, 12:00pm-3:30pm, including afternoon tea.

Our Retreat Director will be Father Kevin Gonsalvos (OFM Cap), a Capuchin priest who has faithfully served God by directing retreats and preaching the Gospel in more than 20 countries around the world. Father Kevin brings with him not only deep insights of God, but the lived experience of a Franciscan whose heart burns with love for Jesus and His Church.

**The theme of our retreat is “St Francis as Alter Christus” — St Francis as ‘Another Christ.’**

St Francis of Assisi so conformed his life to Jesus that people saw Christ reflected in him. Through prayer, humility, poverty of spirit, love for the poor, and joyful obedience, St Francis became a living image of the Gospel.

In his own time, St Francis helped revive Catholicism. His radical trust in God and joyful witness drew countless men and women back to the heart of the Church. So many desired to follow his way of life that he established not only the Franciscan Order for religious men and women, but also a Third Order for lay people, enabling ordinary Christians living in the world to embrace a Franciscan spirituality in their daily lives. **That same call is before us today.**

This retreat aims to equip us spiritually to become the “St Francis” of our own time — women and men so deeply united to Jesus that others are drawn into relationship with God through us. The heart of this renewal begins not with activism, but with contemplation. St Francis spent long hours in prayer before the Crucified Lord. It was there that his heart was transformed. It was there that he received the grace to serve.

True contemplation leads to action. When we encounter Christ deeply, we are moved outward in love — particularly toward the sick, the poor, and the marginalised. The more we gaze upon Jesus, the more we recognise Him in those who suffer.

Our world today longs for authentic witnesses. It longs for Christians whose lives radiate peace, joy, humility, and compassion. Through this retreat, we will be invited to renew our



## Save the Date...

### In February...

18th - Caritas, Project Compassion to begin.

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

25th - St Benedict's Parish Prayer Network Lenten Group - detail to follow.

27th - St Benedict's Parish Stations of the Cross, 6pm.

### In March...

1st - Baptism Preparation and Celebration Morning.

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

13th - St Benedict's Parish Stations of the Cross, 6pm.

14th - Northern Rivers Deanery—Lenten Retreat, St Benedict's Mass Centre, 12—3.30pm.

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

15th - Parish Morning Tea after 8.30am Mass

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

27th - St Benedict's Parish Stations of the Cross, 6pm.

29th - Palm Sunday.

### 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 1.

### Saturday 28th February, 4pm

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

### Sunday 1st March, 8.30am

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

### Sunday 1st March, 5.30pm

**Commentator:** Raymond Anthony  
**Reader 1:** Claire Goss  
**Reader 2:** Angelito Kalaw  
**Communion Minister:** Dorothy Anthony, Emarene Kalaw, Thelma Boobal.

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.

friendship with Jesus and to allow Him to shape us into instruments of His mercy and healing.

Above all, this afternoon will be a time of communio — deep communion with God and with one another. As a deanery community, we gather not simply for a talk, but for shared prayer, reflection, and friendship. In slowing down together before the Lord, we allow Him to strengthen the bonds between us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please mark the date in your calendars and join us for this grace-filled opportunity. Come hungry for God. Come open to renewal. Come ready to be sent forth in perfect peace.

Let us ask the Lord to raise up in our time saints like Francis — and perhaps, through His grace, to begin that work in us.

***The Stations of the Cross each Friday in Lent – from Friday 20/02/26, 6pm.***

To enhance our preparation for our celebration of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter), the church offers us the devotion of **The Stations of the Cross** – a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion and accompanying prayers. We will be praying the Stations of the Cross each **Friday during Lent at 6pm**. Concluding with **praying the Stations on Good Friday at 10am**. Please join us.

***Important—Update on Building Our Church and Finances.***

This week I met with our Architects to do some 3D modelling for our church. We are now going to send these models off to a Quantity Surveyor who will give a high-level costing. This will be added to our Business Plan, and I will organise a meeting with Archbishop Shane and Father Peter Dillon (Vicar General) to request funding.

**Please note**, we (the parishioners) need to contribute financially towards the running of our Parish and the building of our church. At present, our collections are a major concern for the Archdiocese (last weekend Parish Collection: \$700, and Church Building Collection: \$600). This will inhibit acquiring the funding required for the building of our church. Our Business Plan is also sourcing revenue from leasing out our church multi-purpose space during the weekdays.

***Date Claimer – Sunday March 1 After Our 8:30am Mass***

Do you have an interest in St Francis of Assisi? Would you like to know how you can follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis in your everyday life? Deacon Adrain Eldridge of the Secular Franciscan Order will be presenting a talk on St Francis, his life and spirituality in the school hall on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026 following the 8:30am Mass. All are welcome.

Have a great week everyone, journeying home to God,

***Fr Bryan.***



***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:-15th March.***

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

***Children younger than Prep, age are welcome to attend but they are to be accompanied by an adult please.***

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.*



***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.



***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:*** Lyn Kellerher



***Lenten Retreat with Fr Sam Samuel (Divine Retreat Centre)***

***When:-*** Saturday 28th February 9.30am to 3.30pm

***Where:-*** Holy Cross Church, 110 Nottingham St Kippa Ring.

***Notes:-*** Admission is Free, No Registration required, BYO Food.

For enquires please call 0432 833 439

***Northern Rivers Deanery - Lenten Retreat. 12pm - 3.30pm Saturday 14th March.***

***St Benedict's Parish Mass Centre, 22 St Benedict's Close Mango Hill.***

Parishioners and Friends are warmly invited to a special Deanery Retreat at St Benedict's Parish, 22 St Benedict's Close, Mango Hill, on Saturday March 14, 12:00pm–3:30pm, including afternoon tea. Our Retreat Director will be Father Kevin Gonsalvos (OFM Cap), a Capuchin priest who has faithfully served God by directing retreats and preaching the Gospel in more than 20 countries around the world. Father Kevin brings with him not only deep insights of God, but the lived experience of a Franciscan whose heart burns with love for Jesus and His Church.

***The theme of our retreat is "St Francis as Alter Christus" — St Francis as 'Another Christ.'***

This Retreat is a free to attend, so please mark the date in your calendars and join us for this grace-filled opportunity. Come hungry for God. Come open to renewal. Come ready to be sent forth in perfect peace.

For any enquiries please contact St Benedict's Parish Office by email at [northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)





### 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 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.



### Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

Stay tuned for future meeting and initiative details.

**Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be advised in coming newsletters.

**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.*

## 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](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)



**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

*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.



## Project Compassion Donations 2026 How do we donate?

This Lent, like in 2025, there is a single Project Compassion donation envelope – rather than the six weekly envelopes used in previous years. This change was made to reduce waste and support our shared commitment to caring for our common home. You can still give weekly by taking several envelopes at once or simply make your offering when you're ready.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the envelopes, or by calling:- 1800 024 413 or by scanning the QR Code, or by going online at: [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

**UNITE**   
**AGAINST**  
**POVERTY**  
this Lent

