



# ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

*North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin*

**Third Sunday of Lent,  
Year A.  
8th March 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:**

**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:**

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 - 8th March,  
Third Sunday of Lent, Yr A.**

**1st Reading - Exodus 17: 3-7.  
Psalm - Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9.  
Response - If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.  
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Romans  
5: 1-2, 5-8.  
Gospel - John 4: 5-42.**

***Jesus, the Living Water, Gives Us Life in Abundance***

In the fourth chapter of Gospel of John, we meet the Samaritan woman at the well — a woman who goes to draw ordinary water and leaves having encountered extraordinary grace. In her conversation with Jesus, she discovers that he is more than a weary traveller. He is the Messiah, the one who offers “living water,” a spring welling up to eternal life.

At first, she comes with her water jar; she leaves without it. The jar symbolises her old preoccupations, her daily burdens, even her past. Having encountered Christ, she cannot keep the experience to herself. She runs back to her town and says, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done.” She does not preach a sermon or claim theological expertise. She simply shares her encounter. Because of her testimony, many come to believe. This is the heart of being a missionary disciple. We are first summoned — called personally by Jesus into relationship. He meets us in the ordinary places of life: at our “wells” of work, family, parish, and daily routine. He speaks to our thirst — our longing for meaning, forgiveness, belonging and hope. He offers himself as the Living Water who satisfies the deepest desires of the human heart.

But the encounter does not end there. Like the Samaritan woman, we are sent. Mission flows naturally from relationship. When we have truly experienced Christ’s mercy and love, we want others to experience it too.

In our parish community, we are invited to be that bridge for others — to say through our words, welcome, and witness: “Come and see.” May we drink deeply of the Living Water and become channels of that life for the world, so that through us, Christ continues to give life in abundance.

***Together We Can Build a Wonderful Church and Future***

Each week at St Benedict’s, we currently collect between \$1,500 and \$1,800 through the generous giving of our parishioners. I want to sincerely thank every person and family who contributes. Your sacrifice is not unnoticed. It is a real expression of faith, commitment, and love for our parish community.

As I shared in my homily last weekend, however, we need to work together to reach a weekly total of \$5,000 if we are to sustain ourselves as a parish. This figure does not represent expansion or luxury. It simply covers our ordinary expenses — utilities, insurance, maintenance, liturgical needs, staff support, and our responsibilities to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. In other words, \$5,000 per week allows us to stand on our own two feet.

Importantly, our ability to secure a long-term loan at a low interest rate for the building of our parish church depends on demonstrating this sustainability. The Archdiocese quite reasonably needs to see that we can responsibly meet our ongoing commitments before approving such a significant step forward. Without that evidence, the loan simply will not be granted.

This is not about “my parish” — it is about our parish. Together we worship here. Together we baptise, marry, bury, teach, and serve. Together we dream of a permanent church that will stand as a sign of faith for generations to come.

We need to do this together. Not one or two people carrying the weight. Not a small group making up the difference. But all of us prayerfully discerning what sacrifice we can make. If every household increased its giving even modestly, the impact would be extraordinary.

Thank you for your generosity, your faith, and your willingness to build not only a church structure, but a vibrant, sustainable parish community drawing more and more people into the love of God, for our own good, and for the good of the whole world.

***The Sacrament of Reconciliation***

During Lent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation stands at the heart of our journey home to God. Sin distances us from divine life, darkening our hearts, and weakening love. In confession, Jesus meets us with mercy, speaks forgiveness through the Church, and restores us to full life with Him (grace). This sacrament is truly transformative: it carries us from death to life, from guilt to freedom, from isolation to communion. What feels heavy is lifted, and what is broken is healed. Reconciliation renews our baptismal dignity and rekindles hope, enabling us to walk the Lenten path with lighter hearts and deeper joy in God’s life.

***The First Rite of Reconciliation***

The First Rite of Reconciliation involves individual confession and absolution. A penitent meets privately with a priest, confesses sins, expresses contrition, receives a penance, and is given absolution. This personal encounter highlights Christ’s intimate mercy, offering space for honest reflection, spiritual counsel, healing, and renewed commitment.

The First Rite of Reconciliation will be offered during Lent on Saturdays at 3:30pm in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

***Second Rite of Reconciliation—CHANGE OF DATE***

The Second Rite of Reconciliation is a communal celebration with individual confession and absolution. The community gathers for Scripture, reflection, examination of conscience, and

## The Week Ahead...

### Wednesday 11th March

St Benedict's Lenten Prayer Group, via Zoom.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83564701456>

### Thursday 12th March

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

### Friday 13th March

**9am** - St Benedict's Parish Mass together with  
Grade 11 students.

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

### Saturday 14th March

**4pm** - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

### Sunday 15th March

**8.30am** - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

*Children's Liturgy of the Word in 8.30am Mass*

**5.30pm** - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

## Save the Date...

### In March...

**4th** - St Benedict's Parish Prayer Network  
Lenten Group link within.

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

**10th** - St Benedict's Parish, Second Rite of  
Reconciliation, 7pm.

**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.

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

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

**29th** - Palm Sunday.

### In April...

**2nd** - 7pm, The Lords Supper.

**3rd** - 10am, Stations of the Cross

**3rd** - 3pm, The Passion of the Lord

**4th** - 7pm, The Resurrection of the Lord.

**5th** - 8.30am, The Resurrection of the Lord.

**19th** - Children's Liturgy of the Word, in  
8.30am Sunday Mass.

**19th** - 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 and wear your face mask with you, when you are rostered on for Communion Ministry Roster please. Thank you.

shared prayer. Individuals then confess privately to a priest. This rite beautifully expresses both personal conversion and our shared journey back to God.

Our St Benedict's Parish community warmly invites you to our **Second Rite of Reconciliation at 7pm on Tuesday March 17 in our Mass Centre**. All are more than welcome. Come and experience God's mercy and love as we strengthen and encourage one another, enhancing our Journey Home together to God this Lent.

### 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 Project Compassion.

### St Benedict's Lenten Groups on Zoom - each Wednesday from 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. 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!

### 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.

Have a great week everyone, journeying home to God, *Fr Bryan*.

## Mass Ministry Roster - Ministry Roster - Week 3.

### Saturday 14th March, 4pm

**Commentator:** Oliver Morata  
**Reader 1:** Mary Foronda  
**Reader 2:** Sheila Pereira  
**Communion Minister:** Gerard Davis

### Sunday 15th March, 8.30am

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

### Sunday 15th March, 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.

### The Easter Triduum at St Benedict's Parish

7pm, Thursday 2nd April - The Lords Supper  
10am, Friday 3rd April - Stations of the Cross  
3pm, Friday 3rd April - The Passion of the Lord  
7pm, Saturday 4th April - Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord  
8.30am, Sunday 5th April - Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord \*\* Please note, no 5.30pm Mass on Easter Sunday.



### 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.



### 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.

### 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.



### Justice Peace & Ecology Noticeboard.

We met with Emma Beach from the Archdiocese. She reinforced the importance of UPDATING our 2025 **Laudato Si Action Plan**. We have a draft 2025 action plan but have not launched it. Pope Frances declared the Laudato Si encyclical in 2015. It is about the importance of looking after our planet and caring for our fellow people, especially the disadvantaged who are more and more the victims of our rapidly changing times. Pope Leo has endorsed Pope Frances' encyclical completely. It is now our challenge to explain its teachings to our parishioners and have them join the journey.

**Help!** We have passionate hard workers and a great team, but we are needing assistance with recording and communicating where we are going. Anyone with an interest in the activities of the JPE Group, with available time, and a skill in simple Group administration please contact Ken on 0438799028.

**Caritas Project Compassion** has commenced for 2026. Please read our Newsletter for information or see Caritas projects at <https://www.caritas.org.au/>.

**The South Brisbane Mens' Shelter** tell us their need is greater than ever. So, the shirt collection is on again with a target of 60 shirts – good quality collared shirts suitable for a business interview.

**Future meeting dates** will be the second Wednesday of each month: 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, etc. Meetings will be at a member's house, notified before each meeting. March will be at Ken and Mary's.

**JPE email address** - [jpestbenedicts@gmail.com](mailto:jpestbenedicts@gmail.com). Should you have any questions in regard to any of this information please reach out.

### 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](mailto: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:** Lyn Kellerher



## CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION



### 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, we will share in afternoon tea. We encourage everyone to bring a plate to share.

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 Jody also if you have questions. Thank you.



### Registering your details with our Parish- Email & Census.

We encourage our Parishioners to keep the Parish Office up to date with your family details. Please find our Census Cards on the Welcome Table at the Mass Centre. Please complete and submit to the office so we can register/update your contact details. This will also assist us to send out our weekly Parish Newsletter via Email to you. Receiving the Newsletter is a wonderful way to keep up to date with the varied ministries and events happening in and around our Parish. You are also welcome to email the Parish Office your information.

The Newsletter is uploaded to our Parish Website every Thursday.

## 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

### Parish Collections - Weekend of 01/03/2026.

Parish Collections:-

**\$1149.30**

Building Collections:-

**\$1102.65**

Total Donations:-

**\$3611.95 (total incl T&G)**

*We offer heartfelt thanks to our Parishioners who have ever so generously donated in support of the life and mission of the St Benedict's Parish.*

*We thank you for your continued support.*

### 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.

### Containers for Change at St Benedict's

St Benedicts Catholic Parish Number- **C11719697**

There are many ways to support the fundraising efforts for the St Benedict's Parish.

We are happy to share that we are now set up with our own Containers for Change account, perhaps you may consider donating to the Parish through this avenue. Every little bit helps! Thank you!



Support Project Compassion 2026 through the envelopes, by calling: 1800 024 413, by scanning the QR Code at the Mass Centre, 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.

*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.*