

Nativity of the Lord.
Year A.
25th December 2022.



ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

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 (Postponed to 2023)

Saturday - 4.00pm

Sunday - 8.30am and 5.30pm

Parish Secretary:

Renaë Smyth-Scott

admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office:

Address: Level 2/12 Endeavour Blvd
North Lakes, Qld 4509

Postal: PO Box 1602
North Lakes, Qld 4509

Phone: 34901768 or 0401550638
admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 2.30pm

Friday Closed.

Parish Youth:

Coordinator: Chrisma Shaji

Phone: 0423 503 546

Email: sbparishyouth@outlook.com

Gather Friday evenings, 6.30pm - 8pm

Parish Safeguarding:

Email: northlakes.slr@bne.catholic.net.au

STOpline: Ph - 1300 304 550

STOpline: Em - A0B@stoline.com.au

Parish Website:

www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au

Parish Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
StBenedictsCatholicParish/](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictsCatholicParish/)

St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

The Full Meaning of Christmas

"Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season" (General Norms of the Liturgical Year and Calendar, 32).

Since early times, Christians have celebrated Christmas from December 25 through to the Epiphany. The Church calendar today extends this celebration until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

From the beginning, the readings and prayers for the season have expressed the Church's understanding that Christmas is more than a commemoration of Jesus' birthday. It is rather the celebration of the beginnings of the mystery of salvation.

Christmas has its own octave (eight-day feast) during which the feasts of St Stephen (26th), Saint John (27th) and the Holy Innocents (28th) are celebrated. These saints are seen as having a particular relation to the Christmas mystery and are traditionally honoured as "companions of Christ".

The Sunday within the Christmas octave is celebrated as the feast of the Holy Family. This year, since Christmas is celebrated on a Sunday, the feast of the Holy Family will not be celebrated on a Sunday.

The last day of the Christmas octave, January 1, is observed as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (this year celebrated on a Sunday). Like the fourth Sunday of Advent, it highlights the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the incarnation and life of the Saviour.

The Epiphany is the celebration of God's eternal plan of salvation in Christ for all people. This is represented traditionally in the story of the Magi. In Australia the Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday falling between January 2nd and 8th (January 8 in 2023).

The custom of keeping Christmas decorations up until Epiphany helps to show that these two feasts are very closely linked. It would be even more appropriate to keep them in place until after the Baptism of the Lord - when Jesus' divinity is proclaimed from the heavens at His baptism, His public ministry begins and the Christmas season is brought to an end.

This rich diversity of solemnities and feasts is celebrated using special Christmas vestments, candles, flowers, banners, music, etc for the whole season maintaining the spirit of Christmas joy.

People will always need to hear the real message of Christmas – that Jesus is Emmanuel, "God – with - us", here and now in the trials and tribulations of our lives. Christmas celebrates not only the light of the star over Bethlehem, but Christ as the light of our lives and the light of the world. Merry Christmas everyone!

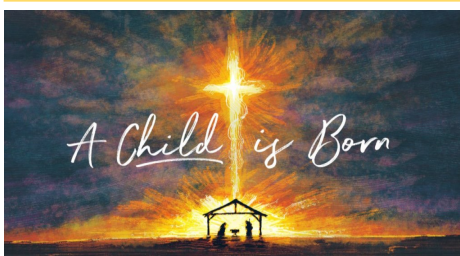
St Benedict's Christmas Carols

Congratulations once again to our St Benedict's Regium Youth and Young Adults for hosting our St Benedict's Christmas Carols so beautifully last Saturday evening. The singing of the carols, the playing of the music, the dancing, and the powerful messages delivered combined brilliantly to give all of us who attended a great night. And more importantly, the Carols have prepared us to celebrate the Birth of Jesus with great joy.

Thank you to all the parishioners who came along for not only supporting our Youth and Young Adults Group, but for supporting our St Benedict's Parish. St Benedict's Youth are a beautiful gift not only for us, but also for Jesus and His Church. Christmas blessing to you all!

New Year's Eve Mass 4pm

This year the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, falls on a Sunday. So, our **Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve (Saturday December 31) will be celebrated at 4pm.** All are welcome!



The Week Ahead...

Monday 26th December

Boxing Day Holiday

Tuesday 27th December

Christmas Observance

Thursday 29th December

** NO NEWSLETTER **

Friday 30th December

** No Friday Mass, while the Building works take place on the Scholl Hall **

** No Youth Group - Christmas Break **

Saturday 31st December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 1st January

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Parish Office Closed -
22nd December 2022
to 29th January 2023.

Parish Office Reopens -
30th January 2023.



Save the Date...

January...

29th January, 8.30am St Benedict's Parish Commissioning Mass for the Teachers and Staff of St Benedict's Schools.

March...

11th March, 9am - 3pm Deanery Retreat for Parishioners and Friends, details will be shared as they come to hand, early in 2023.

Mass Ministry Roster - Week 1.

Saturday 31st December, 4pm

Commentator: TBC
Reader 1: TBC
Reader 2: Nancy D'Souza
Communion Minister: TBC

Sunday 1st January, 8.30am

Commentator: Thessa Ikitau
Reader 1: Chrisma Shaji
Reader 2: Chrislyn Shaji
Communion Minister: Daisy Kurian

Sunday 1st January, 5.30pm

Commentator:
Reader 1: Ministers to be confirmed
Reader 2:
Communion Minister:

** Should you not be able to attend your Ministry Roster, please let the Sacristans know asap or please arrange to swap weeks with another Minister. Thank you.

Advent Discussion Group

Thank you to all of those who came along to our Advent Discussion Group during Advent. I thoroughly enjoyed each session, and I hope you did too, as each of us endeavours to live our faith with the "Heart of a Disciple."

Thank You!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for assisting us greatly in serving God and God's people in our St Benedict's Parish this year. I am just so grateful that we are blessed with so many generous talented people who use their gifts beautifully to contribute significantly to the life and mission of our parish.

A special thank you to our Parish Secretary Renae, and Youth Coordinator Chrisma, who assist me greatly in my role as Parish Priest.

Parish Office Closed, and Next Newsletter

Our Parish Office will be closed over Christmas and throughout January. It will **reopen on Monday January 30, 2023.**

Our next newsletter will be sent out on Thursday **January 12.**

Building Extension of the Primary School Hall underway.

The St Benedict's Primary School have an exciting building project underway where they are extending and enhancing their hall. This, however, will impact us at the Mass Centre while the construction is taking place.

Many would have seen in previous newsletters, we were able to acquire pictures and information from the Primary School and the builders of the project. It is likely that the completion date will be May/June 2023 (dependent on the weather etc).

During December/January (possibly February also) there will be **no Friday Masses**, and the hall will only have **one entry/exit point, which is the one stacker-door next to the tennis courts** (the two emergency doors at the front of the hall will be used in emergency situations only).

So, the only difference for us is that we will be entering and exiting the hall through the stacker-door at the front of the hall. Given that the front stacker-door is closer to the car park, this will be more convenient for many parishioners.

We thank you for your understanding and patience during these works, and we ask that you please keep all those working towards these extensions in your prayers.

I wish you all a joyful, safe, and holy Christmas, with blessings in abundance,

Fr Bryan.

NORTHERN DEANERY LENTEN RETREAT: "From Ashes to Hope"

Saturday March 11th 2023, 9am to 2pm, concluding with Mass.

St Mary's Parish Centre, 16 Peterson Road, Woodford

Retreat Director:- Shane Dwyer, Associate Director of Evangelisation Bris.

Morning tea will be provided, but please bring along your own lunch and water bottle.

Please come along, the Retreat will be an ideal preparation for Easter.

For any enquiries please contact St Benedict's Parish Office on 34901768 or email admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au

To assist in planning, please book by completing the booking form via the link:- [Northern Rivers Deanery Retreat Booking Form](#)

There is no cost to attend

Communion Ministers - Face Mask Reminder

A gentle reminder to our Communion Ministers.

If you could kindly remember to bring your face mask with you, when you are rostered on for Communion Ministry Roster please.

Alternatively; Face Masks are available for sale from the Sacristy for \$1.00 each.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Respect & Protect.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Zero tolerance. No excuse for abuse.

St Benedict's Parish Safeguarding.

The Archdiocese has reviewed the requirements for Parish Volunteers who are required to hold a Blue Card and/or a Police Check:-

- Most Parish Volunteers are NOT required to have a Blue Card/Police Check unless they are working directly with children or vulnerable adults for our Parish or hold particular roles.
- If you are required to hold or renew your Blue Card/Police Check, our Parish Office will be in contact with you directly. Thank you.

If you wish to become a volunteer for St Benedict's the Welcome Portal is:- <http://archbne.org/welcome>

SAFEGUARDING - STOPLine 1300 304 500

Please remember in your Prayers.

Those who are Unwell: Sophie Allen, Mick Lowcock, Margaret Cafferty.

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:

Our Dear Recently Departed: Mary Loveday



St Benedict's Prayer Network - Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are always welcomed, please fill in your details using one of the following methods: email to sbparishprayerhub@gmail.com, online requests: [St Benedict's Prayer Request Form](#) or via the prayer box available at the Welcome Table at Mass.

All requests will be submitted to the team and will be prayed for two weeks. A new request will be needed after 2 weeks.

Covid-19 Awareness

PLEASE may we refrain from coming to Mass if we have any cold or flu symptoms. And, may we wear a mask, socially distance, and sanitise our hands regularly to help prevent the spreading of this very contagious virus.

We unfortunately continue to experience Parishioners and Friends in our community coming down with COVID. We wish them well.

Please, may we continue to keep each other and ourselves safe by :-

- ** Stay home if you are sick or showing signs/symptoms of illness.**
- ** Feel free to bring and wear your face mask. Masks are recommended when you cannot socially distance.**
- ** Maintain good hand hygiene, sanitizer is provided.**
- ** Please do not shake hands, hug, or kiss hello. These actions are not COVID safe.**

Thank you from St Benedict's Regium Youth.

From all of us at **St Benedict's Regium Youth**, we would like to thank everyone who donated or came and supported us for our Christmas Carols on Saturday the 17th of December 2022. We really enjoyed putting on our performances for you and we hope that all who came enjoyed the night and left with a sense of Christmas joy! We raised a total of **\$675**, these funds will be used to assist members of our Youth group to travel to Portugal next year for World Youth Day.

Thank you again for your generosity and support, not just for the Carols but also for the year gone by. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year. We can't wait for 2023!



Readings for Sunday 25th December 2022

Nativity of the Lord—Vigil

1st Reading - Isaiah 62: 1-5

2nd Reading - Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel - Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Nativity of the Lord—Night

1st Reading - Isaiah 9: 1-7

2nd Reading - St Paul to Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel - Luke 2: 1-14

Nativity of the Lord—Dawn

1st Reading - Isaiah 62: 11-12

2nd Reading - St Paul to Titus 3: 4-7

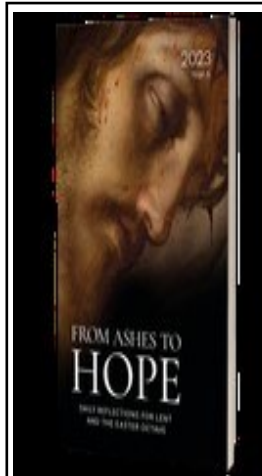
Gospel - Luke 2: 15-20

Nativity of the Lord—Day

1st Reading - Isaiah 52: 7-10

2nd Reading - Hebrews 1: 1-6

Gospel - John 1:1-18



'From Ashes to Hope', A resource for Lent and the Easter Octave 2023

The team from Evangelisation Brisbane has again developed a wonderful new Lent and Easter Octave reflection resource for 2023:-

From Ashes to Hope.

This wonderful resource has been written by Shane Dwyer and Janiene Wilson, to provide each of us with the opportunity to spend a few minutes a day calling out to God from our hearts.

Based on the readings for each day of Lent, Holy Week and the Easter Octave, this prayer and reflection resource provides an opportunity for each of us to turn the eyes of our hearts to God as God leads us beyond ashes to hope.

The 2023 Resource will be available at the Mass Centre from Sunday 1st January 2023, for \$5.00 each.

Further details about the 2023 Lenten Prayer group gatherings will be published in coming weeks.

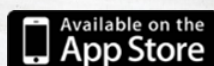
We respectfully acknowledge the Gubbi Gubbi and Ningi Ningi people, as the traditional owners and caretakers of the land which is the St Benedict's Parish.

We acknowledge the Elders, past and present. May we, too, be good stewards of this land.

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>

Thank you for your kind support.



St Benedict's Church Fundraising - Christmas Raffle.

The St Benedict's Christmas Raffle is selling at the Mass Centre, tickets are available at any of the weekend Masses for \$5.00 each.

Please see a member of the Fundraising Team for the details of the many wonderful prizes that are available to be won.

GOOD LUCK!!

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2023

Programs for 2022 have now been completed.

We invite families to please contact the Parish Office (admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au) for information in regard to the 2023 Sacramental Programs. Thank you.

Confirmation, Children in Grade 3 and above, having already received the Sacrament of Baptism are eligible.

First Holy Communion (Eucharist), Grade 4 and above, having already received the Sacrament of Confirmation, are eligible.



Baptism at St Benedict's in 2023.

The Sacrament of Baptism at St Benedict's takes place on the First (1st) Sunday of the month.

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 2023.

Parish Office - Closure for Christmas and New Year.



The St Benedict's Parish Office will be closed for a Christmas and New Year break:-
from 3pm Thursday 22/12/2022, reopening on Monday 30/01/2023 at 8.30am.

Please feel free to email the office with any questions or queries during this period, the emails will be responded to after the 30/01/23.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Joyous and Safe New Year.



Donations received with Thanks, from St Vincent De Paul North Lakes Conference.
SVDP received for week ending 18/12/22 - **\$0.00**

Giving and Donations:- Week ending - Sunday 18th December 2022.

Loose & Envelopes:-

Building (Church) - \$258.00
Parish (Running) - \$836.40

Direct Deposits & Credit Card:-

Building (Church) - \$615.00
Parish (Running) - \$929.00

*'For it is in giving that we receive' ...
St Francis of Assisi*

Totals:-

Building (Church) = \$873.00
Parish (Running) = \$1765.40

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.

St Benedict's Planned Giving

As a Parish, we have the responsibility of meeting the associated costs of running our Parish. It is with great hope and appreciation that Parishioners and Friends of St Benedict's Parish will help to support our Parish financially and consider contributing to the Parish Planned Giving and Building funds. Our Parish has the following giving options available for those who are willing and able to contribute:-

Planned Giving via **Credit Card Deduction**

Planned Giving via **Direct Debit**

Planned Giving **Envelopes**

We also have available the **Plate Collections** at Mass, the **Tap N Go** facilities and the **Parish Plan Giving App** (see above)

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.

Pledge cards are available at the Mass Centre for those wishing to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving and or Building Funds by completing these cards and placing them in the Tap'n'Go Collection stand at the entrance of the Mass Centre. Our Office will be in contact after they are submitted. **We sincerely thank you for your kind and generous support of the St Benedict's Catholic Parish.**

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 behind the OSHC building before or after Mass of a weekend as a matter of safety. Thank you