

First Sunday in Lent
Year A.
26th February 2023.



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
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 and Young Adults:

Coordinators: Brandon D'Silva and
Kali Yopp

Phone: 0423503546

Email: sbparishyouth@outlook.com

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

Gather Friday evenings, 6.30pm - 8pm

Parish Safeguarding:

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

STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550

STOPline: Em - AOB@stopline.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)

Quo Vadis – Where are you Going!

Today's Gospel follows Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan. The Spirit inspires Jesus to go out into the desert for forty days. During this time Jesus prays and fasts in order to connect more deeply with the Father to work out what God was calling Him to do as the "beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased" (Matt 3:17).

By the way, we hear these same words from God the Father when each of us are baptised, "you are my beloved child, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt3:17). So, like Jesus, who spent forty days in the desert praying and fasting to discern God's call for Him, we too spend forty days each year during Lent to discern God's call for us.

Prior to Jesus' baptism by John we know nothing of His early adult life, which is fascinating. But Jesus' Baptism propelled Jesus in a new direction. It was a call, an invitation to know Himself as beloved Son. Jesus' baptism challenged Him to understand Himself in a new, very personal relationship with God, and following this, Jesus would need time to reflect and consider what this invitation and challenge meant for Him.

So, Jesus retired to the desert to seek God's word and to know what God was calling him to. Jesus' baptism did not come with a diary of what to do next. Like all of us, Jesus had to work out for Himself what God was asking in his life.

Let us all embark on these forty days of Lent to connect more deeply with God, listening to where God is calling each of us, so that we can get a strong sense of where we are going (Quo Vadis). Hopefully, we travel closer and closer to God through our words, actions, and our way of being, so that we can truly know and believe that we are God's beloved children in whom God delights! (Matt 3:17).

Call to Serve God in the Life of our St Benedict's Parish

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we are going to have a ministry drive for the life of our St Benedict's Parish. As you pray this week, please consider how you might be able to serve God in the life of the parish. The following ministries are in much need of support:

- * Nursing Home Communion Ministers for two of our three Nursing Homes in the Parish.
- * St Vincent de Paul leadership roles.
- * Mass ministries (Commentators, Readers, and Communion ministers) for our Saturday 4pm and Sunday 5:30pm Masses.
- * Fundraising and Events Leadership team.
- * Fundraising and Event helpers.

Please take time out this week to reflect on where God is calling you in supporting the life of the parish, and building up God's Kingdom of love in the world.

LENT - Coming Back to God with all Our Heart

In the First Reading on Ash Wednesday from the Book of the Prophet Joel, God says to us, "**Come back to me with all your heart.**" This is a very appropriate quote, for it describes the primary focus of our Lenten journey, that is, strengthening our friendship with Jesus.

We strengthen our friendship with Jesus every Lent through fasting, acts of charity, and increased prayer. All these gifts work together in strengthening our personal relationship with Jesus.

The Building of our Church

My apologies to all. I was told that plans would go ahead with our 300-seat church that will be joined to a 2000-seat auditorium. But the Director of Building and Property for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Patrick Lane-Mullins, informed us last Thursday that we cannot precede until the College have made their plans for the building of their 2000-seat auditorium.

Other information gleaned from Patrick last week, is that once we get to start the building process, it usually takes approximately two years from initial design to final build.

I do have a major concern though. My concern is how are we going to be able to financially sustain the building of a church. At the moment we are dependent on \$55 000 per year financial support from the Archdiocese of Brisbane to break even. The cost of the church will be at least \$5 million. At the moment, the Archdiocese will pay half of this, and we will need a \$2.5 million loan for the remaining. The expectation will be for us to pay interest only for the first ten years of this loan. That is, conservatively at 4 percent interest, \$100 000 per year. Also, we will have to pay at least \$25 000 per year insurance, and \$20 000 per year for utilities and maintenance (all these figures are conservative). With our current annual financial position, this will give us an annual debt of \$200 000. I am going to push hard for the

This Sunday's Readings, 26th February 2023

1st Reading - Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7

Psalms - Ps 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17

2nd Reading - St Paul to the
Romans 5: 12-19

Gospel - Matthew 4: 1-11

The Week Ahead...

Wednesday 1st March

7pm - 'From Ashes to Hope' Lenten Prayer Group, via Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85183920838>

Thursday 2nd March

Parish Newsletter Day.

Friday 3rd March

**** No Morning Mass ****

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

6.30pm - St Benedict's Youth Group .

Saturday 4th March

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 5th March

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Archdiocese to contribute more towards the building of the church, but we will need to at come up with at least an extra \$100 000 per year to be sustainable. If you have suggestions as to how we can come up with this \$100 000 each year, they will be much appreciated.

Please don't be disheartened, for the church "the people" in our parish is thriving. If we continue to grow spiritually and with more people joining us, our leaders will most certainly have to support us more. Please keep this very important matter in your prayers.

Days of Abstinence and Fasting During Lent

There are two days of abstinence, where we abstain from eating meat, during Lent. These are: **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. The church also encourages us to fast (limit our food intake) each Friday throughout Lent.

Lenten Retreat

Lent is a time where we make a concerted effort to connect with God more in prayer, so that we can be blessed with a deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery (the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus).

This year we have **Shane Dwyer**, co-author of "From Ashes to Hope", directing us in our **Lenten Retreat**. I encourage you all to join us on **Saturday March 11, from 9am to 2pm at St Mary's Parish Centre, Woodford**.

As a parish, we will be car-pooling (meeting in the St Benedict's car park at 7:30am). So, please book-in for this retreat using the following link: [Northern Rivers Deanery Retreat Booking Form](#) . Please also let us know (admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au) if you need a lift. It will be great to see you there.

Our Lenten Group

On Wednesdays, starting on **March 1, at 7pm** all are welcome to join **our St Benedict's Parish Lenten Group**. We will be using our Lenten resource "From Ashes to Hope" focusing on the coming Sunday's Gospel. These sessions will be on zoom, and the link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85183920838>

These sessions will be for 30 minutes, and it would great if we could get lots of parishioners to come along as we journey together with Jesus towards Easter.

Project Compassion

Lent is a time where we reach out to the poor in love, becoming more and more like Jesus and preparing ourselves to get the most out of our Easter celebrations. Every year Caritas Australia helps us to do this by encouraging us to donate to the wonderful project initiatives known as Project Compassion.

Throughout Lent our Justice and Peace team will be encouraging us to contribute to the projects of Project Compassion this Lent. We will be playing videos giving us information on the respective projects immediately before all Masses each week. If you can, please support these very important initiatives.

Have a great week everyone, with God breathing life into us, *Fr Bryan*

Save the Date...

March...

11th March, 9am - 3pm Deanery Retreat for Parishioners and Friends, please find the ad on the bottom of this page (2).

12th-31st March, St Benedict's Stewardship Program. Time, Talent, Treasure.

April...

2nd April, Palm Sunday.

6th April, Holy Thursday.

7th April, Good Friday.

8th April, Easter Saturday.

9th April, Easter Sunday.



Mass Ministry Roster - Week 1.

Saturday 4th March, 4pm

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

Sunday 5th March, 8.30am

Commentator: Thessa Ikitau
Reader 1: Andrea Matthews
Reader 2: Chrislyn Shaji
Communion Minister: Daisy Kurian & Shaji George

Sunday 5th March, 5.30pm

Commentator: **Ministers to be confirmed at Mass.**
Reader 1:
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.

NORTHERN DEANERY LENTEN RETREAT: "From Ashes to Hope"

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

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

Parishioners and Friends are invited to attend the Northern Deanery Lenten Retreat, where you will receive friendship, a nice morning tea, fresh country air, spiritual satisfaction, food for thought, and a personal message to you of hope that Jesus will place in your heart. Shane Dwyer from Evangelisation Brisbane will be our Retreat facilitator and will speak on the topic of "From Ashes to Hope."

The day will begin at 9 am and will finish at 2pm after Mass.

This is a free Retreat, with morning tea provided, but please bring along your own lunch and water bottle.

Please come along, we would love to see you there. The Retreat will be 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 book, please complete the booking form via the link:-
Northern Rivers Deanery Lenten Retreat - 9am-2pm Saturday 11th March 2023.
[\[google.com\]](#)

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.



St Benedict's Parish Safeguarding.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane 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>

If you are required to hold a Blue Card, we ask that you please take part in the Level 1 Training for Safeguarding, this is online:-

[Level One Induction Video for Safeguarding](#) and submit the form on completion. Please contact the Parish Office should you require any help.

Please remember in your Prayers:

Those who are Unwell: Sophie Allen, Mick Lowcock, Margaret Cafferty, Bernadeen Hodby, Cheryl Black.

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:
Faye Graham.

Our Dear Recently Departed:



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, or

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.



First Sunday of Lent- 25 & 26 February

Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.



Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023, if you are able.

Visit - caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



LENTEN RETREAT IN BRISBANE

with Fr. Roni George VC,
Director of Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby

Saturday, 25th March 2023
9.30am-4pm

School Hall, Holy Cross Church
110 Nottingham St, Kippa Ring, QLD, 4021

Contacts: Gabrielle 0432 833 439, Steve 0435 590 630



DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE

160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250,
Tel: 02 4372 1598, email drccsydney@gmail.com
www.divineretreatcentre.org - www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentresomersby

The Divine Retreat Centre promotes the safety and protection of children and other vulnerable persons in its care.

Men's Shelter South Brisbane

The St Benedict's Parish and greater community have been proud to support the Men's Shelter in South Brisbane for many years by donating shirts and socks for those in need.

In January this year, Mitchell (from the shelter) stated that their need is greater now than ever before.

Mitchell is seeking assistance once again, in the way of donating white shirts/executive shirts suitable for job interviews, socks and good quality warm clothing.

Almsgiving is one of the three pillars of Lent. Are you able to help in this worthy cause?

From Saturday, March 4th, the St Benedict's Justice and Peace group will be collecting donated items at all Masses in our worship centre. There will be a washing basket available for all donated goods.

It is with the greatest of hope that we can improve on last year's donations of 12 pieces of clothing.

The donated goods will be presented at the preparation of gifts during Holy Thursday Mass, 6th April.

The donated clothing items will be then given to the Men's Shelter after Easter.

Thank you for your support of this important initiative.

Covid-19 Awareness

PLEASE may we refrain from coming to Mass if we have any cold or flu symptoms, this will help greatly to prevent the spreading of this very contagious virus.

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.**

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

Help us keep you up to date.

Please feel free to reach out to the Parish Office if you would like to update or check any contact details we may have on file for you and/or your family.

Receiving our weekly Newsletter by email is a wonderful way to see what is happening in and around our Parish.

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.



Donations received with Thanks,
from St Vincent De Paul North Lakes Conference.
SVDP received for week ending 19/02/23 - \$10.00

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2023



First Holy Communion and Reconciliation -

children in Grade 4 and above, having already received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Families that participated in the Sacramental Program for Confirmation in 2022 will be contacted directly by the Parish in coming weeks.

Enrolments will open in early March, Sacramental Preparation will take place throughout the months of May and June, with Sacraments being received in June.

Confirmation - children in Grade 3 and above having received the Sacrament of Baptism are eligible.

Enrolments will open late April, Sacramental Preparation to take place throughout the months of July and August, with the Sacrament being received in August.

We welcome you to please contact the Parish Office—34901768 or admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au if you are wishing to have your child/children enrolled in the Sacramental Programs for 2023, and you have not yet done so.



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.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Respect & Protect.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Zero tolerance. No excuse for abuse.

Giving and Donations:- Week ending - Sunday 19th February 2023.

Loose & Envelopes:-

Building (Church) - \$507.80

Parish (Running) - \$766.50

Totals:-

Building (Church) = \$1203.80

Parish (Running) = \$1425.50

Direct Deposits & Credit Card:-

Building (Church) - \$696.00

Parish (Running) - \$659.00

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

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