

Second Sunday  
of Advent.

10th December 2023.



# ST BENEDICT'S PARISH

North Lakes, Mango Hill & Griffin

## 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 Youth and Young Adults:

Coordinators: Brandon D'Silva and  
Kali Yopp

Phone: 0423503546

Email: [sbparishyouth@outlook.com](mailto:sbparishyouth@outlook.com)

Email: [youth.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:youth.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)

Instagram: @regiumyouth

Gather Friday evenings, 6.30pm - 8pm

## Parish Safeguarding:

Email: [northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)

STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550

STOPline: Em - [A0B@stopline.com.au](mailto:A0B@stopline.com.au)

## Parish Website:

[www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au](http://www.stbenedictscatholicparish.com.au)

## Parish Facebook Page:

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

StBenedictsCatholicParish/

## St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

## Salvation has Arrived!

It is by no accident that the author of Mark starts his account of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, with a quote attributed to Isaiah. For through the prophet Isaiah, God communicated that God will come into the world to save it! (Isaiah 40-55).

Many of us have perhaps wrongly thought that John the Baptist is the main character in this coming Sunday's gospel, but no, Isaiah is the main character. For Isaiah prophesied that God would come into the world to save the world. The appearance of John the Baptist points to this long-awaited arrival of the Divine entering the world to build us up, to raise us up from our human flaws and weaknesses, enabling us to live to our full potential as human beings.

Now that we know that God is entering the world through the person of Jesus, to save us, it is very important to reflect on John the Baptist, where he appears, and his urgent calling for us all.

We know John the Baptist was born into a faith-filled family. His mother Elizabeth was Our Heavenly Mother Mary's cousin, and there is that beautiful encounter they have in Luke's gospel where they are both praising God for the conception of their children, and the positive impact these children will make on the world. John the Baptist's father, Zachariah, was a priest who devoted his life to serving God in the temple. Elizabeth and Zachariah clearly brought their son up in a deep and intimate relationship with God, for John was clearly a man of strong faith, a man of integrity.

John the Baptist is also depicted in this coming Sunday's gospel as a man of great humility. Rightly acknowledging that Jesus, who is God, is much greater than he is. Also, he dressed and ate in a very understated way.

John the Baptist appears in the wilderness/desert. The wilderness symbolises detachment and journey. Detachment from the things of the world that distract us from living our lives in relationship with God. Journeying with God, who gives us life in abundance through the outpouring of ourselves totally to God, who gets us to pour ourselves out completely for each other.

John the Baptist's urgent message is to "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." (Mark 1:3). Here John is identifying Jesus as God (Kyrios), urging us to prepare ourselves to receive God fully into our lives. He then goes on to call us to turn around our lives (repent) and be washed clean of the behaviours that block God out of our lives (sin). For Jesus is coming to immerse (baptise) us in into the life of God.

May we pay heed to John the Baptist, a great witness to the faith, and his words, which urge us to embrace God fully in our lives for our own good, and for the good of the world (salvation).

## **Second Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday 12th December 7pm.**

We will be having a **Second Rite of Reconciliation** this Advent. The celebration of this sacrament will take place on **Tuesday December 12 at 7pm in our worship space**. This will be a very good opportunity for us to eliminate any barriers in our lives that are preventing us from receiving Jesus more fully into our lives. Like all our celebrations, everyone is most welcome!

## **Anointing (Healing) Mass – Friday December 8**

Tomorrow, on Friday December 8, we will be celebrating an Anointing (Healing) Mass at 9am. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, like all our sacraments, was instituted by Jesus and proclaimed by St James. It is administered by anointing with blessed oil accompanied by prayer.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be received by any baptised person who has reached the age of reason and is in need of physical, mental or spiritual healing. This rite is one way in which the Church continues the healing ministry of Jesus. The healing offered by this anointing is forgiveness of sins, hope and inner peace, sometimes physical healing, and an assurance of God's steadfast love and care. All are welcome!

## **Advent**



Advent is a period of four Sundays, not four weeks as we sometimes think, and this year Advent is as short as it can possibly be – just 22 days. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Vigil Masses begin that evening.

In Advent the Church's attention is on the three comings of Christ: in the past at his birth at Bethlehem, in the present, and at his Second Coming in the future.

The season features three key figures – the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary.

Advent has three distinct stages:

- \* the first focuses on the end of time when Christ will come again in glory
- \* the second focuses on John the Baptist heralding Jesus' public ministry
- \* the last focuses on Jesus' birth and the role of Mary in salvation history.

The word 'advent' means 'waiting' and the season of Advent is a time of waiting. But how do we wait for God? We wait with patience. Patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the doctor to see us. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the

Advent

## Readings for this week - 10th December,

### Second Sunday of Advent.

1st Reading - Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11.

Psalm - Ps 84: 9-14.

2nd Reading - St Peter 3: 8-14.

Gospel - Mark 1: 1-8.

## The Week Ahead...

### Wednesday 13th December

7pm - Advent Group, via Zoom

### Thursday 14th December

Parish Newsletter Day.

### Friday 15th December

6.30pm - St Benedict's Youth & Young Adults gathering.

### Saturday 16th December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

### Sunday 17th December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

## Save the Date...

### In December...

8th - 9am, Anointing Mass

12th - 7pm, St Benedict's Second Rite of Reconciliation Evening.

### Christmas Mass Times 2023:-

24th - 8.30am, 4th Sunday of Advent Mass.

24th - 6pm, Christmas Eve Family Mass.

24th - 9pm, Christmas Vigil Mass.

25th - 8.30am Christmas Nativity of the Lord Mass.

### In January...

1st - 8.30am, Solemnity of Mary Mass.

7th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning.

### In February...

4th - 8.30am, Commissioning Mass, Morning Tea for St Benedict's Schools Staff.

(Please Note:- there will be no 4pm or 5.30pm Mass on the weekend of this celebration).

## Mass Ministry Roster - Week 3.

### Saturday 16th December, 4pm

**Commentator:** Oliver Morata

**Reader 1:** Jean-Paul Franzidis

**Reader 2:** Rosemary Franzidis

**Communion Minister:** Denise Rapkins

### Sunday 17th December, 8.30am

**Commentator:** Charles D'Rosario

**Reader 1:** TBA

**Reader 2:** Angel Vaipuna

**Communion Minister:** Bobette Sindicic

### Sunday 17th December, 5.30pm

**Commentator:** TBA

**Reader 1:** TBA

**Reader 2:** Shiela Pereira

**Communion Minister:** Theresa Saad

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

One we are waiting for.

Henri Nouwen puts this brilliantly when he writes: "Waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes and seeing there the first rays of God's glorious coming." (Elizabeth Harrington),

### **Our 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate our Sixth Anniversary as a Parish last Sunday morning. There was, as there always is, great joy in our celebration of Mass, and the Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea afterwards.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this celebration so wonderful. A special thank you to those parishioners who donated the sausages, paid for the bread, brought a plate, set up everything, and served the food. May God bless you for your generosity and love. And may God bless us all as we share the joy of Christ with all others.

Once again, in the words of Archbishop Mark from his letter of Decree, "St Benedict referred to the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ as 'the Truest of guides for human life.' May St Benedict's love of Christ be an inspiration to the priests and people of St Benedict's parish now and into the future. We ask our Lady, Mother of God, and Mother of the Church, to intercede with her Son for rich blessings to come to St Benedict's parish now and into our future."

### **Our Advent Resource – With Expectant Hearts**

I have read this year's Advent resource, *With Expectant Hearts*, and it is excellent!

The book covers personal prayer for the four weeks of Advent. Week 1 **starting on Sunday December 3**, and Week 4 **finishing on Sunday December 24**.

It is very important for us to come together every now and again to support each other in the faith. Our St Benedict's Prayer Network is always providing us with opportunities to this. This Advent they have organised an Advent Group to gather at 7pm for the four weeks of Advent on Wednesday evenings on zoom.

In preparation for our Advent Group gatherings, we need to read and reflect on the Advent resource for the upcoming Sunday. Then we will gather for an Opening Prayer, to read the whole Gospel for the coming Sunday, and read the reflection. Then we will discuss insights or questions that the respective readings raise. And we conclude with a Closing Prayer and blessing.

To join our Advent Group for 2023 please click the following link: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83842211376>

I wish you all abundant blessings this Advent as we journey together in raising our hearts and minds to God in praying *With Expectant Hearts*.

### **Friday Mass Changes in coming weeks.**

As Holiday Care will be in full swing in the hall during the school holidays for our St Benedict's OSCH, **we won't be celebrating our usually Friday 9am Mass during the school holidays**. We will resume Friday Mass in 2024 once school recommences.

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

Our Parish will be celebrating the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on Monday 1st January 2024 – 8:30am Mass.

### **Increase in Our Tap N Go Machines**

Responding to many requests, and consistent with most of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, we have increased our **Tap N Go** machines from \$5 to **\$10** a tap.

Have a peaceful week everyone, glorifying the Lord by your life, **Fr Bryan**.

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## Planning Ahead... St Benedict's Christmas Celebrations

Let us all join together this Christmas, to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

The St Benedict's Catholic Parish and Community, will be joining together to celebrate the following Masses for Christmas 2023.

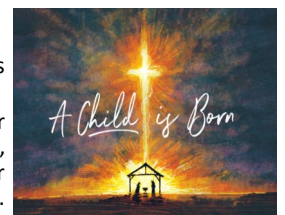
**6pm - Christmas Eve Mass 24/12 (Family/Children's Mass)**

**9pm - Christmas Eve Mass 24/12 (Midnight Mass)**

**8.30am - Christmas Morning Nativity of the Lord Mass 25/12**

There is no need to book in to attend any of our Christmas Masses.

**Please note: Fr Bryan requests;** Families that wish for their children to take part in the Children's Mass, 6pm Christmas Eve, to please attend the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 17th December for rehearsals, fittings, allocation of roles and preparations.



## St Benedict's Parish Office, Closure for Christmas & New Year.

The St Benedict's Parish Office will be closed for a Christmas and New Year break from 3pm Friday 22nd December 2023, reopening on Monday 29th January 2024 at 8.30am.

Please feel free to email the office with any questions or queries during this time, the emails will be responded to after the 30th January 2024.

## Please remember in your Prayers:

**Those who are Unwell:** Sang Yeoul Choi, Chris Beck, Scholastica Korihio, Lynette Kelleher, Paul Kraus, Sue Kraus, Bonni Vestorp, Joy Gibbs, Kay Corcoran.

**Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:**

**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](mailto: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.



## Sacramental Programs for Children 2024

We wish to Congratulate all of the children who have taken part in the Sacramental Programs for 2023 through St Benedict's Parish. Please keep all of the children who have participated, along with their families, in your prayers as we offer them our best wishes.

We welcome families wishing to enroll children to receive their Sacraments or seeking to obtain information about our 2024 Sacramental Programs, to please contact the Parish Office at [admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au)

To receive the Sacraments of:-

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

Then followed by,

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



### Communion Ministers—Face Mask Reminder

A gentle reminder for 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.

### Retreat Opportunity - Communing with the God who Comes to Us

This quiet weekend is an opportunity to reflect upon the God who constantly chooses to come to us in loving relationship.

**Hosted and Facilitated by:** Grace Harwood of Dragonfly Ministries

**When:** Friday 15 Dec 2023 at 6pm – Sunday 17 Dec 2023 at 3pm **OR** Friday 12 Jan 2024 at 6pm – Sunday 14 Jan 2024 at 3pm

**Where:** Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston

**Cost:** \$400 (\$380 for concessions) includes all accommodation, meals (an additional fee for complex special diets), resources, spiritual direction, and facilitation.

**To register** or enquire: [grace@dragonflyministries.net.au](mailto:grace@dragonflyministries.net.au) or 0409524283

### Baptism at St Benedict's in 2024.

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 2024.

[admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:admin.northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au) or 34901768



## REGIUM YOUTH

St Benedict's Parish

PRESENTS IN 2024:

### JESUS, NO ORDINARY MAN

- *Jesus, No Ordinary Man*  
Week One, Term One: 28/1/24
- *Jesus, No Ordinary Teacher*  
Week Three, Term One: 11/2/24
- *No Ordinary Teacher Pt. II*  
Week Five, Term One: 25/2/24
- *Jesus, No Ordinary Relationship*  
Week Seven, Term One: 10/3/24
- *Jesus, No Ordinary Crucifixion*  
Week Nine, Term One: 24/3/24

ALL SESSIONS AFTER SUNDAY  
5:30PM MASS UNTIL 7:45PM  
DINNER PROVIDED

- 📍 St Benedict's Parish, North Lakes
- 📱 @regiumyouth
- 📧 sbparishyouth@outlook.com

A youth group for young people, by young people.



### St Benedict's Christmas Fundraising Raffle

Please support the Fundraising efforts to Build our St Benedict's Church

Over 10 Prizes on offer to be won!

Hampers, Yard Care Products, Childrens Games, Gift Baskets, and Gift Bags.

\$5.00 per Ticket, available at the Mass Centre

Prizes Drawn at the 6pm Christmas Eve Mass.

Good Luck!

Proceeds go towards fundraising for our St Benedict's Church.



**Parish Giving & Donations:- Week ending Sunday 3rd December 2023.**

**Plate Collection & Envelopes:-**

Building (Church) - \$340.00  
Parish (Running) - \$1236.50

**Direct Deposits, Credit Cards, APP & Tap N Go:-**

Building (Church) - \$975.00  
Parish (Running) - \$980.00

**Totals:-**

**Building (Church) = \$1315.00**  
**Parish (Running) = \$2216.50**

*'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.*

**Help us keep you up to date.**

Please feel free to contact 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 great 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>



**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**. At present, we are not receiving enough income from our Planned Giving to meet the financial cost of running the parish.

**There is a need to increase our collections by \$2000 a week** in order to plug the gap when we are no longer eligible to receive the current level of subsidies from the Archdiocese, which will cease in 2024. Also, as I have said, after a church is built there will be additional operating costs such as insurance, maintenance, utility bills etc.

Please, 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 possible increase your financial support. 500 people on average attend Mass each week and we have 83 families that contribute to the Parish through the Parish Planned Giving Program.

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 or**
2. **Credit Card or**
3. **Giving Envelopes**

On this Pledge Card we will have an opportunity to support both:

- \* **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, offices, 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.

**Please be aware, not alarmed—Spamming Continues!**

Archdiocesan priests continue to be a target for spammers. The messages are generated as an SMS or sent from a gobbledygook email address from bigpond, yahoo or gmail (e.g. [churchcare0147@gmail.com](mailto:churchcare0147@gmail.com)), but always spouting a similar urgent message.

The follow up messages attempt to persuade you that the priests' urgent need can only be solved by the purchase of Gift cards or similar. *Hitting the delete button is the best way to deal with these pests and scam artists.* Should you be concerned, or should you receive this type of message, please contact your Parish Office.



If you or anyone you know is struggling and needs a 'hand up', please contact St Vinnies on 1800Vinnie.

**Covid-19 Awareness—Thank you for your commitment.**

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 if you wish, and please maintain good hand hygiene, sanitizer is provided.

**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

*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.*

**St Benedict's Parish Safeguarding.**

Safeguarding requirements for Volunteers in Parishes are constantly under review from the Archdiocese. A number of our Volunteer roles are no longer in need of Blue Cards or Police Checks. Blue Card and/or Police Checks are to be held by those that are working directly with children or vulnerable adults for our Parish or hold particular roles in accordance with Archdiocese guidelines. If you are required to hold or renew your Blue Card/Police Check, our Parish Office will contact you directly. Thank you. *If you wish to become a volunteer for St Benedict's please email the Parish Office.* We thank you for your time given to supporting our Parish.

