

Third Sunday
of Advent.

17th December 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
Instagram: @regiumyouth
Gather Friday evenings, 6.30pm - 8pm

Parish Safeguarding:

Email: northlakes@bne.catholic.net.au
STOPline: Ph - 1300 304 550
STOPline: Em - A0B@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)

Rejoice in the Lord Always! Again, I say, "Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

This coming Sunday we celebrate Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday ("Gaudete" being Latin for "Rejoice"). The focus for this Sunday's readings is not only aimed at preparing us for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and the Second Coming, but they clearly emphasise the incredible joy that Jesus gives us when He comes into our lives in the here and now.

The readings depict people of incredible faith deriving great joy from their relationship with God. The Entrance Antiphon are the words of St Paul encouraging us to "rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say, rejoice!" (Phil 4:4). St Paul is clearly a person who lived his life rejoicing in his relationship with the Lord. The prophet Isaiah, in this coming Sunday's first reading, says, "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation." Once again, we see a person of great faith rejoicing in his relationship with God.

In the responsorial psalm for this coming Sunday, we have Mary, the mother of Jesus and our heavenly mother, singing a song of praise during the visitation scene with her cousin Elizabeth in Luke's gospel. Singing, "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour." (Luke 1:46-47). Once again, expressing great joy in her relationship with God.

Hopefully, we experience this same immense joy expressed by Mary, St Paul, and Isaiah.

We are certainly a parish who fully rejoices in the Lord. As is often the case, visitors come to me after Mass saying, "I love the great sense of joy and happiness you have in this community." We are people who love God, and fully know that we are loved by God. We share this love of God by joining Jesus in reaching out to each other in love, caring particularly for those in need. This life in relationship with Jesus gives us great joy, leading us to rejoice in the Lord always! (Phil 4:4).

Children Nativity Play - Rehearsal after Sunday 8:30am Mass (Dec 17)

We will be celebrating Christmas again this year with a wonderful Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm (Sunday December 24). In this Mass, the children are very heavily involved.

If you would like your child to be an angel, a shepherd, Mary, Joseph, a Wise Man, the Drummer Boy, or a reader, please come along to the **rehearsal after the 8:30am Mass this coming Sunday (December 17)**. 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 24th December we celebrate the 4th 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 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),

The Advent Wreath (Elizabeth Harrington)

Many homes, businesses and churches use the Advent wreath as a symbol of this season.

The Advent wreath is of ancient origin and relates to celebrations of the winter solstice when European days are shortest and gloomiest. Because people longed for the return of the sun's light and life, they suspended wagon wheels, decorated with greenery and candles, in their celebration halls. There they waited for their sun gods to return.

Around 200 years ago, the Advent wreath became customary in German homes and public buildings. It made its way into the church and has become a popular symbol of the passing of time during Advent.

The circle of the wreath, without and beginning or an end, symbolises God's unending love for us and reminds us of eternity. The evergreen leaves represented growth and hopes of eternal life. The symbol of evergreens is rather lost in our part of the world, so Australian gum leaves, nuts and flowers are sometimes substituted.

The four candles mark the four Sundays before Christmas, with one more candle lit each Sunday during Advent. Traditionally three candles are purple with the candle for the third Sunday being rose, but it's the increase in light as more candles are lit that is the focus, not

Advent

Readings for this week - 17th December, Third Sunday of Advent.

1st Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11.
Psalm - Luke 1: 46-50, 53-54.
2nd Reading - St Paul to the Thessalonians
5: 16-24.
Gospel - John 1: 6-8, 19-28.

The Week Ahead...

Wednesday 20th December

7pm - Advent Group, via Zoom

Thursday 21st December

Parish Newsletter Day.

Friday 22nd December

* No Youth & Young Adults gathering.

Saturday 23rd December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 24th December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass,
4th Sunday of Advent

6pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass,
Family/Childrens Mass.

9pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass,
Midnight Mass.

Monday 25th December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass,
Nativity of the Lord.

the colour of the candles themselves.

Sometimes a 'Christmas candle' is placed in the centre of the wreath on Christmas Eve. This candle should be lit throughout the Christmas season. Its visual link with the Paschal candle helps connect the celebration of Christ's birth with its fulfilment in the Easter mystery.

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*.

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.

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.

St Benedict's Young Adults Group—Christmas Break

Our Parish Young Adults Group will be taking a break from their gatherings over Christmas and New Year. They shall meet this Friday evening and then have a few weeks break, recommencing Friday 19th January 2024.

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 great week everyone, rejoicing in the

Lord, **Fr Bryan.**

Save the Date...

In January...

**** Parish Office closed from Christmas until 8.30am Monday 29th January.**

1st - 8.30am, Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God 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).

7th - RCIA Meetings to resume.

11th - Baptism Celebration and Preparation Morning.

14th - 7am, Ash Wednesday Mass

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14th - Caritas, Project Compassion to begin.

16th - 6pm, Stations of the Cross

18th - RCIA - Rite of Elect at St Stephens Cathedral.

23rd - 6pm, Stations of the Cross

Mass Ministry Roster - Week 4.

For the Roster of the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Christmas Masses, please see your Sacristan to confirm you are rostered on to assist with a Ministry please.

Normal Weekly Rosters for Ministry will resume after Christmas Celebrations. Please see your Mass Sacristan or Fr Bryan if you have any questions or concerns, Thank you

** 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.

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.

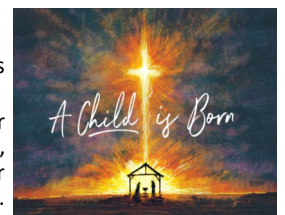
6pm - Christmas Eve Mass 24/12 (Family/Children's Mass)

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.



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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, 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

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 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 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.



Evangelisation Brisbanes Children and Families team has created a collection of free resources to help engage children and parents in your parish during the upcoming liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Resources can be accessed at:- [Advent and Christmas with Kids - Evangelisation Brisbane](#)

including a printable Advent Calendar, craft activities, a weekly Advent video series and animated Nativity story video. We hope that you and your Children's Ministry staff and volunteers will find these resources useful in the lead up to Christmas



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 10th December 2023.

Plate Collection & Envelopes:-

Building (Church) - \$615.00
Parish (Running) - \$1097.00

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

Building (Church) - \$695.00
Parish (Running) - \$590.00

Totals:-

Building (Church) = \$1310.00
Parish (Running) = \$1687.00

*'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.*

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), 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.

