

Fourth Sunday
of Advent.

24th 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/](https://www.facebook.com/StBenedictsCatholicParish/)

StBenedictsCatholicParish/

St Vincent de Paul:

1800 Vinnie (1800 846 643)

"Let it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent places the spotlight on Mary, for Mary obviously has a very important part to play in the birth of our Lord, which we will celebrate with great joy very soon.

In this coming Sunday's Gospel, we hear the Gospel account of the Annunciation where "the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." (Luke 1:26-27).

In this beautiful and much painted scene, the greatest miracle of all time is announced. God enters our history by becoming one of us. God becomes a person that we can embrace and be embraced by. The great divine mystery behind and beyond our world has become a human being. No other religion dares to make so bold a claim. Even as we listen to this announcement in Sunday's Gospel, it is important to realise that it was only possible to make such a claim in the light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It was the life of this man, culminating in the Easter events that led a group of Jewish men and women to say 'we have seen God with us'.

Jesus comes to us as the fulfillment of Israel's longings, and as the one to usher in the new reign of God. This is the importance of Christmas – that God has entered into our history, and remains with us, to be a liberating and healing power in our lives.

Archangel Gabriel's announcement in this Sunday's Gospel brings heaven and earth together in the womb of a young girl, Mary. The little village of Nazareth is suddenly filled with wondrous titles, Son of the Most High, ruler of the house of Jacob, the power of the Most High, the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God. All heaven's hopes are focused on Mary's reply. Mary's response enables the impossible to happen, "Let it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38).

Children Nativity Play for our Christmas 6pm Mass (December 24)



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 at 5pm (an hour before Mass)**. All are welcome.

St Benedict's Christmas Carols at 5:30pm before our 6pm Christmas Vigil Mass

All are invited to come along and join in our St Benedict's Christmas Carols on Sunday evening at 5:30pm on December 24th (before our 6pm Christmas Children's Mass).

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),

Celebration Christmas (Elizabeth Harrington)

From the beginning, the Christian Church has understood that Christmas is more than just the commemoration of Jesus' birth on 25th December. For nearly 2000 years, 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.

Christmas in fact celebrates the beginnings of the mystery of salvation – Christ's birth, his revelation to the Jewish shepherds and the Gentile magi, his baptism by John in the Jordan and his first miracle – the changing of water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana.

While it is natural to focus on Christ's nativity at Christmas time, we should not stop there. When we celebrate someone's birthday, we reflect on the life of that person in its entirety, not the day of their birth. Similarly at Christmas we remember not just Christ's birth, but his life, death, and resurrection and what it means for us.

Readings for this week - 24th December, Fourth Sunday of Advent.

1st Reading - Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16.

Psalm - PS 88: 2-5, 27, 29.

2nd Reading - St Paul to the Romans
16: 25-27.

Gospel - Luke 1: 26-38.

Advent

The Week Ahead...

Saturday 30th December

4pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass.

Sunday 31st December

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass,

5.30pm - St Benedict's Parish Mass,

Monday 1st January 2024

8.30am - St Benedict's Parish Mass,
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.

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

**** No Parish Newsletters for Sunday 31st
December and Sunday 7th January ****

Christmas is above all a celebration of the fact that, through the Incarnation, God is present in our everyday lives. The Christ whom we adore at Christmas is no longer the infant in the manger; he is the risen Lord of the universe.

Christmas celebrates not only the light of the star over Bethlehem, but Christ as the light of the world.

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.

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.

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.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Thursday January 11, 2024.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas, with abundant blessings,

Fr Bryan.

Save the Date...

In 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 - Ministry Roster - Week 5.

Saturday 30th December, 4pm

Commentator: Rosemary Franzidis

Reader 1: Russell D'Souza

Reader 2: Maffy Vaz

Communion Minister: Susana Karim

Sunday 31st December, 8.30am

Commentator: TBC

Reader 1: Brandon D'Silva

Reader 2: Aaron D'Silva

Communion Minister: Sosefo Nasio &
ET Mataele

Sunday 31st December, 5.30pm

Commentator: Kali Yopp

Reader 1: Susan Black

Reader 2: Amelda AhColt

Communion Minister: Losa AhColt

** 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) **Christmas Carols at 5.30pm**

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. Thank you.

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Please remember in your Prayers:

Those who are Unwell: Sang Yeoul Choi, Chris Beck, Scholastica Korihiio, 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



Nativity of the Lord, Readings.

Vigil:

- First Reading - Isaiah 62: 1-5
- Responsorial Psalm - Ps 88: 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
- Second Reading - Acts of the Apostles 13: 1-17, 22-25
- Gospel - Matthew 1: 18-25

Night:

- First Reading - Isaiah 9: 1-7
- Responsorial Psalm - Ps 95: 1-3, 11-13
- Second Reading - St Paul to Titus 2: 11-14
- Gospel - Luke 2: 1-14

Day:

- First Reading - Isaiah 52: 7-10
- Responsorial Psalm - Ps 97: 1-6
- Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6
- Gospel- John 1: 1-18



Dear parishioners, thank you for your well wishes, acts of kindness and prayers during my recent illness. Your support has been overwhelming and very much appreciated as my rehabilitation has definitely been enhanced through our St Benedict's community.

God bless, Kay.

ATTENTION ATTENTION, CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

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
- sbparishyouthoutlook.com

A youth group for young people, by young people.



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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!



Parish Giving & Donations:- Week ending Sunday 17th December 2023.

Plate Collection & Envelopes:-

Building (Church) - \$505.00
Parish (Running) - \$645.10

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

Building (Church) - \$686.00
Parish (Running) - \$1140.00

Totals:-

Building (Church) = \$1191.00
Parish (Running) = \$1785.10

*'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.

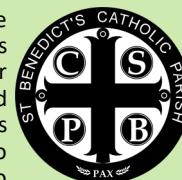
Now, more than ever, your support is needed to help our Parish to continue valuable pastoral activities and to provide ongoing sustainability. To assist you in supporting the St Benedict's Parish, you can now give via the Planned Giving APP:

<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.

