

wings, shepherd's cloak, tea towel headwear or staffs, wise men crowns.

### Parish Office Opening Hours

The Parish Office will be open on Monday 19 December, 9am-1pm, and closed on Tuesday 20 December. On Thursday 22 December and Friday 23 December the parish office will be open as usual.

The following week (Monday 26 December to Sunday 1 January), the parish office will be closed for the Christmas period. The office will reopen on Tuesday 3 January 2023.

### Baptism at 9am Sunday Mass

Robert James Van Meurs will be baptised at the 9am Mass. A warm welcome to Robert, his parents Emma and Samuel Van Meurs and brother Roy, and the extended family. May God bless them on this joyous day.

### Young Men of God

Meet fortnightly on Thursdays in the Parish Centre. 6pm-9pm. In recess now, will resume in February 2023. Contact Fr Chris Eaton for more information.

## *Appeals*

### Sound system upgrade

The parish is looking to update the sound system in the church, with a projected cost of \$25,000. So far we have raised \$17,000, so we need a further \$8000.

Contributions to the project will be gratefully received. You can deposit your donation directly into the parish bank account. Details below:

Account name: St Benedict's Parish  
BSB: 062 786  
Account number: 000014992

Please use the words 'Sound system' in the Reference. Thank you to the very generous donors who have given thus far.

## *Other Notices*

### Palms Australia Mission Training

**In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.** Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

**At Home:** Palms' [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program (January 7 – 11) will "focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular

**attention to those on the margins of society and the church"** as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

**Overseas:** Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

### New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil, St Brigid's Church

The Marian Movement of Priests invites you and your friends to the 16th annual New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil.

Where: St Brigid's Church  
Address: 2 Bancroft Street, Dickson  
Date: Saturday 31st December 2022  
Time: 8.00pm

First Cenacle is prayed at 8.00pm (Joyful Mysteries)  
Second Cenacle is prayed at 9.00pm (Luminous Mysteries). Third Cenacle is prayed at 10.00pm (Sorrowful Mysteries). Fourth Cenacle is prayed at 11.00pm (Glorious Mysteries). Exposition from 8.00pm until Benediction just before Midnight. For further inquiries: Phone Judy & Joe Mewburn 6254 6202.

### 13 January 2023 MNM Registrations Close

Ministry to the Newly Married (MNM) is a mentoring program for couples who have married in the last 2 years or about to be married in the next 6 months. The program aims to foster the development of relationship skills and supports living the sacrament of marriage. Registrations for the 2023 Program close on 13 January 2023. Opening dinner will be on 7th February 2023.

More information is available at <https://bit.ly/MinistryNewlyMarried>. Register your interest here. Contact Ralph & Angela Frank on 0401 994 081 OR Helena and Richard on 0405 440 463 OR via email at [mnm@grapevine.com.au](mailto:mnm@grapevine.com.au).

### Campion College Summer Program: 10-13 Jan 2023, 17-20 Jan 2023

Registration for the Campion College Summer Program is now open! If you know a 16–20-year-old with an interest in history, literature, philosophy and theology, encourage them to sign up for one of the immersive four-day programs in January 2023.

*St Benedict's Catholic Parish acknowledges the **Ngunnawal People**, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.*

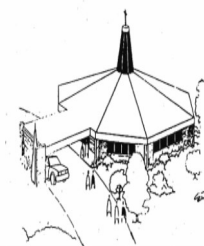
# *St Benedict's Catholic Church*

*In the care of the Missionaries of God's Love*

Parish Team:

**Parish Office Hours: 9am—1pm, Tues, Thurs, Fri**  
**Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55)**  
**Narrabundah ACT 2604**  
**Tel: +61 (02) 6295 7879/ Parish Office**  
**Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772**  
**Website: [cg.org.au/narrabundah/home.aspx](http://cg.org.au/narrabundah/home.aspx)**  
**Email: [Narrabundah@cg.org.au](mailto:Narrabundah@cg.org.au)**

**Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest)**  
**Fr Baiju Thomas, MGL (Mission Centre Director)**  
**Fr Chris Eaton, MGL (Mission Centre Co-Director,**  
**Belle Joseph (Secretary, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am—1pm)**  
**Cathy Schneider (Finance Officer Wednesday 8am—12pm)**  
**Adrian Wellspring (Spiritual Direction & Personal Vocation)**



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent** **17 & 18 December 2022**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent** **Reflection**

We are all busy preparing for Christmas. A lot of preparation had to be made for the first Christmas also by Mary and Joseph. They had to prepare by saying "Yes" to God's plan for the birth of Jesus. Today our Gospel (Matt 1:18-24) focuses on the preparation made by Joseph for that first Christmas.



We can imagine the love and affection between Joseph and Jesus, and between Joseph and Mary. We can imagine Joseph's pain at the poor circumstances of Jesus' birth. We can imagine the pain he must have suffered when Simeon told Mary that Jesus would be a sign that would be opposed and that a sword would pierce her soul (Luke 2:34-35). We can imagine the pain Joseph suffered when he had to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt for safety to preserve their lives. What gave Joseph the strength to endure all the trials his vocation brought him? It was obviously his life of prayer that gave him the strength to be obedient to God's call to him. He was a just man, a man of honour as our Gospel today tells us. (Matt 1:19) He had to have been a man of deep faith to fulfill his high calling.

St. Joseph is Patron of the Church. He had to make preparations for the first Christmas, to submit to God's plan in faith. As we prepare for Christmas, we can turn to Joseph asking his help so that we can prepare our hearts in faith to be worthy managers to receive Jesus.

*From a homily by Fr Tommy Lane*

### Vinnies Giving Tree

Each year the St Benedict's Vinnies Conference delivers 60 food and toy hampers to needy families in Narrabundah. We rely on donations to fill the hampers. We seek your support in donating non-

perishable hamper food. Please take a tag from the tree to donate an age/sex appropriate toy. There is no need to wrap gifts and all donations can be left under the tree. Thanks in anticipation of your generosity.

## *Christmas Masses at St Benedict's*

### Christmas Eve

6pm Mass (Family Mass)

8pm Mass (Charismatic Mass)

Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

9am Mass



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

We need volunteers to do the readings and the offertory procession at each of the Christmas Eve Masses next weekend (6pm, 8pm and Midnight Masses). Please write your names on the sheets in the Foyer if you are willing to help in this way.

The 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th December is a Family Mass. In addition to readers and offertory procession, we would like 2 children (preferably a boy and a girl) to read a special children's gospel that will accompany a powerpoint. Please write the names on the sign-up sheet and /or let Fr Rem know the children's names. We would like to give them a copy of the reading so that they can practise beforehand.

As it is a special Family Mass with an emphasis on children, please bring your children along in Christmas dress up e.g. tinsel haloes or angel's

