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

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

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 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.

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 acknowledge the Naunnawal 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 Office Hours: 9am—1pm, Tues, Thurs, Fri Corner of Sturt Ave & Jerrabomberra Ave (PO Box 55) Fr Baiju Thomas, MGL (Mission Centre Director) Narrabundah ACT 2604 Tel: +61 (02) 6295 7879/ Parish Office

Emergency Number: (02) 6239 6772 Website: cg.org.au/narrabundah/home.aspx

Email: Narrabundah@cg.org.au

Parish Team:

Fr Rembert Fernando, MGL (Parish Priest) 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 mangers 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 nonperishable 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

18 December 2022

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men

without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,

will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child

and will soon give birth to a son

whom she will call Immanuel,

a name which means "God-is-with-us."

Responsorial Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas;

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second reading Romans 1:1-7

on the waters he made it firm.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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17 & 18 December 2022				
	Sat 6 pm Vigil	Sun 9am	Sun 6pm Charismatic	
Welcomers	Marlene Keir	Barry Murphy		
Readers	BA Daly, Louise Gaudry	Julie Douglas, Asterie Niyonsenga	Jeanne Eri, Jonathon Crowley	
Offertory	Ian & Rita Smith	Maria Mendoza		
Eucharistic Ministers	Nhung Booth	Josephus Bumaat		
Flowers, Altar Clean	Claudine Smith, Louise Gaudry, Margie Avellino			
Church Cleaners	Nhung Booth, Don & Jennifer Nguyen			
Mt View		Jindalee		

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9am - 1pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9am; 6pm (Charismatic Mass)

Fourth Sunday of the Month: 6pm (Youth Mass)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Tuesday: 5.30pm; Wednesday: 12.30pm; Thursday: 5.30pm; Friday: 5.30pm (Healing Mass); Saturday 8.00am

RECONCILIATION:

Friday following Healing Mass from. 6.15pm-7pm Saturday: 5pm-5.30pm or by appointment

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Saturday: 7.30am 3rd Friday Padre Pio:5pm

BAPTISMS: During weekend Masses or by appointment. See parish website for booking information.

WEDDINGS: by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

During the 5.30pm Mass on first Fridays 10.30am at Jindalee 1st Thursday of the month 10.30am at Mt View 3rd Thursday of the month

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Monday & Tuesday: 6am-10pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 1pm-10pm; Friday 6am to Saturday 8am

Urgent hours that need to be filled: Monday 3-4pm Tuesday 3-4pm

Friday 12-1pm

Hearing Loop is located in the right center rows of the church. Please ensure your hearing aid is tuned to make the best use of this facility.

EMPOWER HOUR runs 6.30 till 8.30 each Tuesday night. It's a Charismatic night of Lay preaching and healing in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome. 13th December is the last one for the year. **We will recommence in early February at a new start time of 7pm.**

LEGION OF MARY meetings are held every Monday 6:30pm at St Benedict's Parish Centre. New members are welcome. Please contact Theresa Rees: 0402 271 531, for more details.

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND					
24 & 25 December 2022 (Christmas)					
READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE DAY	1ST READING Isaiah 52: 7-10	2ND READING Hebrews 1:1-6	GOSPEL John 1:1-18		
	Sat 6 pm	Sun 9am			
Welcomers	Family Mass— Special roster	Alma Burg			
Readers	Family Mass— Special roster	Josephus Bumaat, Grace De Zilva			
Offertory	Family Mass— Special roster	Linda & Robert Henry			
Eucharistic Ministers	Family Mass— Special roster	Barry Murphy			
Flowers, Altar Clean	Ann Hill, Anne Sutherland				
Church Cleaners	Don & Jennifer Nguyen				
Mt View	Jindalee				

Attendance is fully funded but spaces are limited! Find out more and register on the Campion College website: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid our brothers and sisters who are suffering so deeply in Syria and Lebanon through our Christmas appeal Sharing Hope with Christians in Syria and Lebanon this Christmas.

such as medical aid, community help and gifts for children in Lebanon, as well as support for lay faithful and accommodation for families in Syria. To watch videos and read stories of the projects we are supporting visit www.aidtochurch.org/christmas 2022 or scan the QR code.

The projects we are supporting are projects



Recently deceased: Gemma Di Placido, Verica Fairman, Peter Bird.



Anniversaries: Edna Brisco, Patricia Bugden, James Gowing, John McMahon, Bernard Meere, Bruna Res, Thomas Stephenson, Fr James McDade, Fr Paul F. Stack, Fr Albert Havas.

Our Sick: Jindalee & Mt View residents, Julia Brown, Mitchell White, Germaphi, Leita Barron, Lorraine Davis, Mathew, Frank Smith, Lyn Walker, Louis Pini, Anthony, Helen French, Clem Dick, Flora Arias, Pat Atkins, Carol Rees, Mark Ransom, Pamela Brown, Anne Rosewarne; Monica Boyton, Mary Smith, Ben Melbourne, Colin Paley, Janice Paley, Gert Fletcher, Caroline Evans, Anna Pace, Daniel Collins, Barbara Parsons.