Parts of the Mass: Offertory at the Eucharistic Celebration

The rite commonly called the offertory is one of the most familiar moments in the celebration of the Eucharist, yet it is also one of the most easily misunderstood. In the liturgy, it is more precisely known as the Preparation of the Gifts. This name helps us understand its true purpose: the Church prepares the bread and wine, together with the lives and offerings of the faithful, for the great prayer of thanksgiving and sacrifice that follows.

The offertory takes place after the Liturgy of the Word and before the Eucharistic Prayer. At this point, the altar is prepared, the bread and wine are brought forward, and the priest offers prayers of blessing over them. This moment is not yet the central offering of the Mass; that takes place during the Eucharistic Prayer, when Christ's sacrifice is made present sacramentally. The offertory is therefore a sacred preparation, a transition from hearing God's Word to entering more deeply into the mystery of Christ's self-giving.

The bread and wine presented at the altar are simple, ordinary gifts, yet they carry profound meaning. They come from the earth, but they also require human labour: wheat must be harvested and baked into bread; grapes must be cultivated and made into wine. In this way, the gifts represent both God's creation and the work of human hands. When they are brought forward, the community symbolically brings its daily work, struggles, hopes, joys, and sacrifices to God.

The procession of the gifts is not merely a practical action. It expresses the participation of the whole assembly in the Eucharist. The faithful do not simply watch the priest celebrate; they join their lives to Christ's offering. Through the bread and wine, they place before God their families, work, sufferings, thanksgiving, needs, and desire for holiness. The outward movement of bringing gifts to the altar reflects an inward movement of surrender to God.

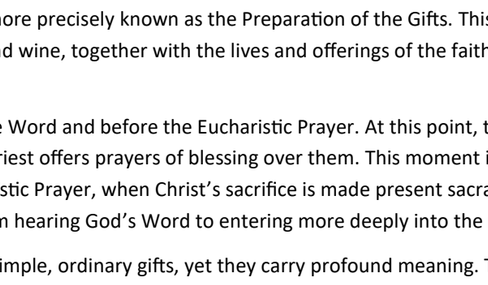
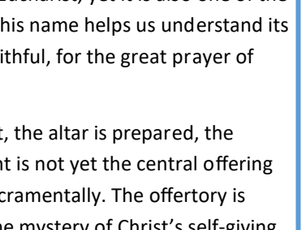
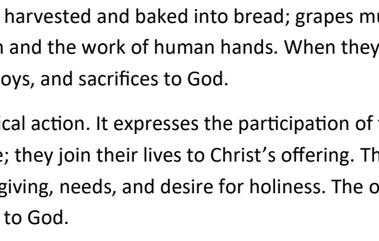
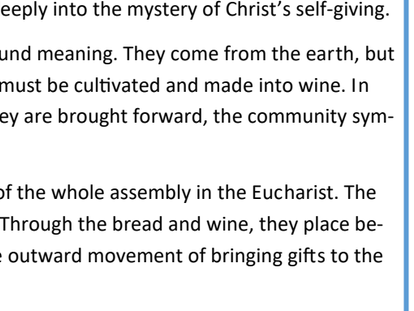
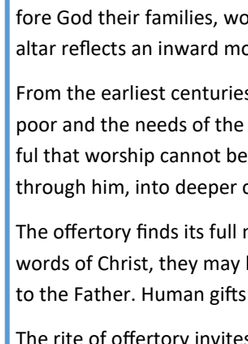
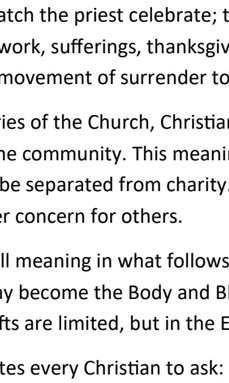
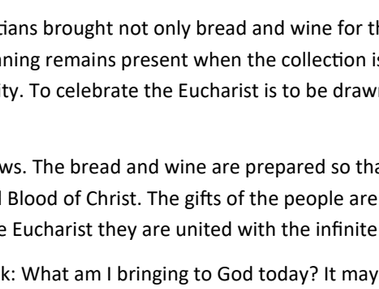
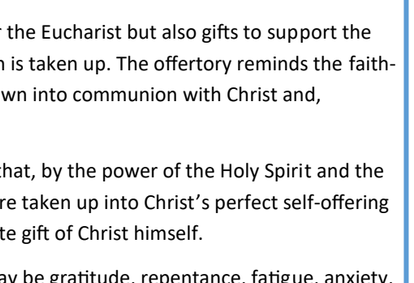
From the earliest centuries of the Church, Christians brought not only bread and wine for the Eucharist but also gifts to support the poor and the needs of the community. This meaning remains present when the collection is taken up. The offertory reminds the faithful that worship cannot be separated from charity. To celebrate the Eucharist is to be drawn into communion with Christ and, through him, into deeper concern for others.

The offertory finds its full meaning in what follows. The bread and wine are prepared so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of Christ, they may become the Body and Blood of Christ. The gifts of the people are taken up into Christ's perfect self-offering to the Father. Human gifts are limited, but in the Eucharist they are united with the infinite gift of Christ himself.

The rite of offertory invites every Christian to ask: What am I bringing to God today? It may be gratitude, repentance, fatigue, anxiety, love, or a hidden sacrifice. The gifts placed on the altar become a visible sign of the invisible offering of the heart. In this sense, the offertory teaches that the Eucharist is not separate from everyday life. Instead, daily life is gathered up and transformed in Christ.

Youth Footy Fest

Our parish youth group recently joined young people from across the Archdiocese of Brisbane for Footy Fest at Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo. It was a wonderful day of fun, footy, friendship and friendly competition, and our youth had a great time taking part in the event. A sincere thank you to our parish youth leaders for encouraging and supporting our young people to be involved in this special Archdiocesan gathering. Here are some photos of our youth enjoying the day.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Fr Dang Nguyen
Administrator
nguyend@bne.catholic.net.au
Virginia Sharpe
Parish Assistant (Volunteer)
Dc Hugo Silva
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Efren Altez
Liturgy/Newsletter (Volunteer)
Seivland Poh
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lsr.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE

Located in Presbytery
350 Mortimer Road
Acacia Ridge QLD 4110
Hours Monday (Closed)
Tuesday to Friday - 9:30am to 3:30pm
Telephone 07 3274 5513
Email
acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au
PO Box 12 Acacia Ridge QLD 4110
Website
www.fatimaacaciaridge.org.au

MASS TIMES

Tue: 5:30pm—Holy Mass
6:00pm Eucharist Adoration
Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat 9 am
Saturday 4.30pm (Vigil)
Sunday 9am & 5pm

CONFESSIONS

Tues: 6:00pm to 6:30pm (or by appointment)

BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the month 10.15am

PIETY STALL

1st Sunday each month

SCHOOLS

Our Lady of Fatima School
www.ourladyoffatima.qld.edu.au
07 3275 1152
pacaciaridge@bne.catholic.edu.au
St Stephens School Algester
www.ststephens.qld.edu.au
07 3711 4911
palgester@bne.catholic.edu.au

Please check out our Parish Webpage and Facebook Page for regular updates.

LIKE US ON facebook

To receive the Parish eNewslet-

Putting Christ First

The Gospel for this Sunday contains some of the most challenging words Jesus ever spoke: **"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."** At first glance, these words can seem harsh. After all, isn't love of family one of God's greatest gifts?

Yet Jesus is not asking us to love our families less. Rather, He is asking us a deeper question: **Who comes first in our lives?**

The first Christians knew that following Jesus could come at a cost. Some were misunderstood by their families, while others faced rejection because of their faith. Jesus was preparing His disciples for that reality. Yet His message is not about loving God instead of our family. It is about putting God first, trusting that when we do, our love for others becomes deeper and stronger.

Saint Augustine expressed this beautifully with the phrase ***ordo amoris*—the "right ordering of love."** Augustine taught that the problem is not that we love people too much, but that we sometimes love things in the wrong order. When Christ is first, our love for family, friends, and neighbours becomes deeper and more generous. When God is at the centre, everything else finds its proper place.

A striking example of this can be found in the life of Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine. She loved her son deeply, but she loved God first. For years she prayed and wept for Augustine as he looked for truth in many places but not yet in Christ. As a young man, Augustine was drawn to Manichaeism and other philosophical schools of thought, searching for answers to life's deepest questions. Monica never gave up praying for him. Eventually, Augustine encountered Christ, was baptised, and went on to become one of the greatest saints and theologians in the history of the Church. Monica's love for her son was not weakened by her love for God; it was strengthened by it.

Jesus then speaks about taking up the cross. In our culture, we often think of freedom as doing whatever we want. Jesus offers a different vision. The cross reminds us that authentic love always involves sacrifice. Parents understand this instinctively. Caring for children, supporting a spouse, remaining faithful through difficult times—these are everyday crosses that reveal the true depth of love.

The Gospel ends with an image that is both simple and profound: a **cup of cold water given in Christ's name**. Jesus deliberately chooses something ordinary. He wants us to know that holiness is not reserved for extraordinary people doing extraordinary things. A small act of kindness, a word of encouragement, a visit to someone who is lonely, a helping hand offered without seeking recognition—these things matter to God.

In the end, this Gospel is not about loving others less. It is about putting **Christ first.** When Christ is first, we begin to see others as God sees them and to love them as He loves them. The cross becomes meaningful. Even the smallest act of charity becomes a participation in God's own love.

And perhaps that is the question this Gospel leaves with us: **What truly comes first in my life?**

Deacon Hugo Silva

Sacramental Program 2026

Sacrament of Confirmation
(for Grade 3 and above)

ENROLMENT via WEBSITE: OR Scan QR code to enrol

LAST DAY TO ENROL: 20th July, Monday

INFORMATION EVENING: 29th July, Wednesday, 6pm-7pm

RITE OF ENROLMENT: 1st August, Saturday, 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)

OR 2nd August, Sunday, 9am (Mass)

CONFIRMATION FORMATION CLASSES:

5th August, Wednesday, 6-7pm

19th August, Wednesday, 6-7pm

26th August, Wednesday, 6-7pm

REHEARSAL: 2nd September, Wednesday, 6-7pm

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION MASS: 9th September, Wednesday, 6pm

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish
fatimaacaciaridge.org.au
sc.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Youth Group Bible Studies

Our parish youth group is holding Bible study sessions every fortnight after the 9 am Sunday Mass. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity for young people to grow in faith, reflect on the Word of God, and connect with one another in a welcoming and supportive environment.

All young people of the parish age from 15 or older who would like to be part of the program are warmly welcome to join. For more information, please contact our Youth Coordinator, Lawrence Auva'a, at auvaal@bne.catholic.net.au.

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul winter appeal will be held on the weekend of 20 / 21 June.

Your support is essential if we are to provide food for the poor families of our parish

If you would like to donate on line our bank details are as follows

Name: SVDP Our Lady of Fatima
BSB: 064786 Account: 100026094

You can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to the poor in the parish. We have no administrative costs.

St Vincent de Paul said that "serving the poor is serving Jesus"

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 9 July, 9:30am at Parish Office/ Presbytery. Bring a plate of food to share and a friend.

Catechism Class

Dear parents, An ongoing catechism class every Sunday during school Term for 30 minutes after the 9 am Mass at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Acacia Ridge. For more information, please contact Sr. Hanna MC. Ph: (07) 3252 4441 if interested.

Have you signed up? Why Flocknote?

Parishioners and visitors are invited to scan the QR code to sign up and register with the parish. If you have any questions, please reach out to our parish office :
acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding News

The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Our Lady of Fatima Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk. In an emergency, please call the Police 000 or information can be provided to STOPline anonymously. Phone: 1300 304 550 Email: AOB@stopline.com.au Online: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com https:// brisbane-catholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/

Saint of the Week: St Elizabeth of Portugal

St Elizabeth of Portugal, also known as Queen Saint Elizabeth, is remembered as one of the great peacemakers of medieval Europe. Elizabeth was born around 1271 into the royal house of Aragon, the daughter of King Peter III of Aragon and Queen Constance of Sicily. She was named after her great-aunt, St Elizabeth of Hungary, whose example of holiness and care for the poor would later be reflected in Elizabeth's own life. From childhood, Elizabeth received a deeply religious education and developed habits of prayer, fasting and generosity.

At a young age, Elizabeth married King Dinis of Portugal. As queen, she lived in a court marked by political tension and personal difficulty, yet she remained faithful to her religious commitments. She supported the poor, cared for the sick, welcomed pilgrims and founded charitable institutions. Her royal position gave her influence, but her humility and service gave her lasting honour.

St Elizabeth is especially remembered for her ability to bring peace where conflict seemed certain. When tensions rose between her husband and their son Afonso, she worked to reconcile them and prevent bloodshed. Tradition says that she even rode between opposing forces to stop violence. Her courage was not the loud courage of battle, but the quieter and often harder courage of mediation.

Her efforts were not limited to her immediate family. Elizabeth also helped settle disputes among royal relatives and neighbouring kingdoms. In a time when political disagreements could easily become wars, her calm judgment and commitment to reconciliation made her a respected figure. This is why she is often called "the Peacemaker."

Elizabeth's faith was practical. She did not separate prayer from action. Her devotion to Mass and personal prayer strengthened her commitment to those who were suffering. She gave money, food and support to the poor, and she used her resources to care for the sick and vulnerable. Her charity was not occasional; it was a pattern of life.

After King Dinis died in 1325, Elizabeth withdrew from court life and lived near a Poor Clare convent in Coimbra, devoting herself even more fully to prayer, penance and works of mercy. Yet she did not abandon the world's troubles. Near the end of her life, she set out once again to help make peace, this time between her son, King Afonso IV of Portugal, and Alfonso XI of Castile. She died on 4 July 1336 at Estremoz, Portugal.

St Elizabeth of Portugal was canonised in 1625 and her feast day is celebrated on 4 July. She is honoured as a model of charity, patience and peace. Her life reminds us that true leadership is not measured only by power or title, but by the ability to serve others, heal divisions and remain faithful to what is good. In a world still marked by conflict, her example continues to speak with quiet strength.

Leading the Journey to Becoming Catholic Formation Event

On Sunday afternoon, 21 June, members of our parish RCIA team — Deacon Hugo Silva, Margarita Silva, Virginia Sharpe, Richie Huber, and Mahealani Huber — attended the **"Leading the Journey to Becoming Catholic"** formation event organised by Archdiocesan Ministries and held in the Hanly Room.

The gathering brought together both new and experienced RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) team members from across the Archdiocese to deepen their understanding of accompanying adults on their faith journey towards becoming Catholic. Through presentations, discussions, and shared experiences, participants explored effective ways of fostering faith formation, hospitality, and spiritual accompaniment within parish communities.

The event provided valuable insights and practical resources to support those involved in RCIA ministry. It was also an excellent opportunity to connect with other parish teams, share experiences, and learn from one another's successes and challenges.

Our team returned encouraged and inspired, with renewed enthusiasm for supporting those who are discerning the Catholic faith and preparing to receive the Sacraments. We thank Archdiocesan Ministries for providing this enriching formation opportunity and look forward to applying what we learned in our parish RCIA program.