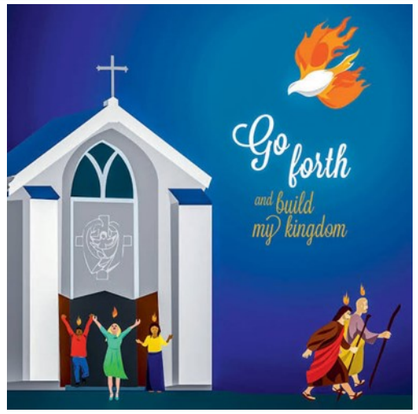
Parts of the Mass: The Concluding Rites



At first glance, the Concluding Rites at Mass may seem brief and simple: a few announcements, a blessing, a dismissal, and the reverencing of the altar. Yet this final part of the Eucharistic celebration carries deep spiritual meaning. It does not merely bring Mass to an end; it sends the faithful out with a mission. Having heard the Word of God and received the Body and Blood of Christ, the assembly is blessed and commissioned to live what it has celebrated.

The final blessing is more than a polite religious farewell. It is a prayer that God will accompany, strengthen, and protect the faithful as they return to ordinary life. The priest blesses the people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, reminding them that Christian life is lived within the love and power of the Trinity. On certain feasts or seasons, a solemn blessing or prayer over the people may be used, giving particular emphasis to the mystery being celebrated.

This blessing also forms a bridge between worship and daily discipleship. The faithful do not leave Mass relying only on their own effort. They go with God's blessing, carrying the grace of the Eucharist into their families, workplaces, schools, communities, and relationships.

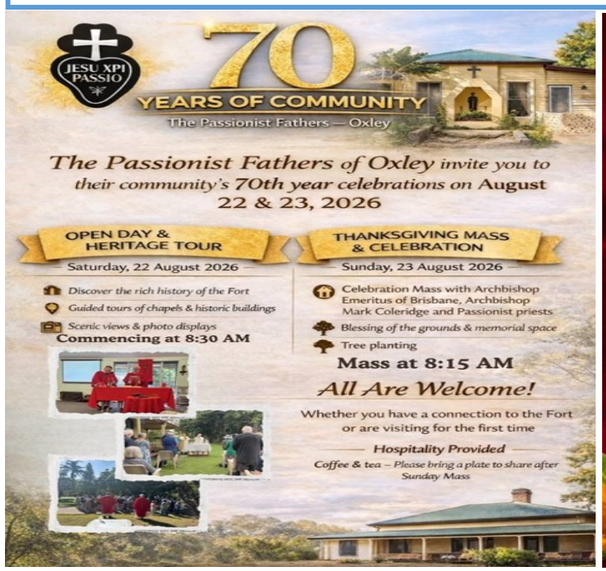
The dismissal is the heart of the Concluding Rites. The word "Mass" itself is traditionally connected with the Latin dismissal, "Ite, missa est," which means, in effect, "Go, you are sent." This shows that the liturgy is not complete until the people are sent out. The Eucharist gathers the Church, nourishes the Church, and then sends the Church into the world.

The dismissal is therefore not simply permission to leave. It is a commissioning. When the deacon or priest says, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," the faithful are reminded that Christian worship must become Christian witness. The Eucharist is meant to bear fruit in works of mercy, justice, forgiveness, service, and evangelisation.

The Concluding Rites reveal an important truth: Mass is not an escape from the world but preparation for loving the world as Christ loves it. The faithful receive Christ in Holy Communion so that they may become more fully the Body of Christ in daily life. They are called to carry the peace they have received, the Word they have heard, and the charity they have celebrated into the places where people are lonely, wounded, forgotten, or in need.

For this reason, the Concluding Rites should not be treated as an afterthought. They help the assembly understand that the Eucharist has consequences. If the faithful have truly encountered Christ, then they are changed and sent. Their response, "Thanks be to God," is not only gratitude for the celebration just completed; it is also a willing acceptance of the mission now entrusted to them.

The Concluding Rites are short, but their meaning is profound. Through the blessing, the Church asks God to strengthen the faithful for the journey ahead. Through the dismissal, the Church sends them to live the Gospel in the world. The Mass does not end at the church door. It continues in every act of faith, hope, charity, and service that flows from the Eucharist. In this sense, the final command to "go" is not a closing word but a beginning: the beginning of mission.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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nguyend@bne.catholic.net.au
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Seivland Poh
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lsr.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE

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350 Mortimer Road
Acacia Ridge QLD 4110
Hours Monday (Closed)
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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
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Please check out our Parish Webpage and Facebook Page for regular updates.

LIKE US ON facebook

FATIMA NEWS
16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Greetings to All,

Jesus often uses parables in his teachings to make us think. He draws on ordinary experiences: planting seed, making bread, hiring workers—to reveal something about the Kingdom of God and our role in building up God's Kingdom. Yet sometimes Jesus includes details that surprise us because they do not fit ordinary life. He does this to show that God's Kingdom is often different from the world we know.

Today's parable of the weeds and the wheat is a good example. When the landowner discovers weeds growing among his wheat, he tells his servants to let both grow together until harvest time. No sensible farmer would normally say that. Weeds take moisture and nutrients from the crop, so the usual response is to pull them out quickly.

So, why does Jesus say in the parable that the weeds and the wheat should grow together? What's his point? A clue is given to us in the advice of the landowner to the servants. He says, "If you pull up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them." It seems that in the world of Jesus's parable, it is difficult to separate weeds from wheat, to distinguish which is which. Therefore, it is better to wait, to wait as long as we can before acting because something that appears to us as a weed might in time be revealed as wheat. This parable of wheat and weed is really a parable about patient vigilance. It calls us to wait, watch, and allow time for the truth of people and situations to become clear.

There might be someone in our family who is making a mess of their life, one wrong decision after another, going along without purpose or guidance. But, before we cut that person off, this parable advises us to wait, to offer as much wisdom and love as we can and then see what might begin to grow. We do not need to pull up the weed today.

There might be someone at work or in our neighbourhood who is negative and difficult. But before we distance ourselves from that person, this parable advises us to wait, to treat that person with honesty and respect and see what develops.

The same is true in the Church and in society. We may see circumstances that seem harmful or discouraging. We should not become indifferent to what is wrong, nor should we tolerate injustice. But neither should we assume too quickly that we fully understand what God is doing. We are called to stand for what is good while trusting that the harvest has not yet come.

The parable reminds us that our judgments at times can be premature and mistaken. God is always working to bring life, mercy, and goodness into the world. So Jesus invites us to wait with patient vigilance, to keep doing what is right, and to trust God's timing. Only at the harvest will the weeds and wheat be fully known.

Have a blessed Week!

Fr Dang

To receive the Parish eNewslet-

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.

Sacrament of Confirmation Registrations

Families of children in **Grade 3 or older** are warmly invited to register for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** as part of the 2026 Sacramental Program.

The program will launch on Wednesday night, **29 July, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm** at our Church.

We encourage families to take this opportunity to support your children as they continue their journey of faith and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Please register your child by scanning QR code or if you have any question please contact **Ms Seivland Poh: sc.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au**

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 23 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/

World Day for Grandparents & Elderly

On **25-26th July**, the Church celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, established by Pope Francis in 2021 and celebrated each year near the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

This year's theme, "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15), reminds us to **give thanks for the love, wisdom, faith, and example of our grandparents and elderly parishioners.** It also encourages us to reach out to those who may be lonely or isolated, recognising the important place they hold in the life of the Church.

Saint of the Week: St Bridget of Sweden, Religious.

St Bridget of Sweden is remembered as one of the most important religious figures of medieval Europe. Born in Sweden around 1303, she became known for her deep prayer life, charitable works, spiritual visions and courageous calls for reform within the Church. Her life was remarkable because she served God in many different roles: as a noblewoman, wife, mother, widow, mystic and founder of a religious order.

Bridget was born into a wealthy and devout Swedish family. Her father was a respected governor and judge in Uppland, and her mother also came from a prominent family. From childhood, Bridget showed a strong religious sensitivity. Accounts of her life describe early visions that shaped her devotion to Christ and gave her a lasting concern for repentance, mercy and service.

At the age of about thirteen, Bridget married Ulf Gudmarsson, a Swedish nobleman. Their marriage was known for its mutual faith and devotion, and together they had eight children, including Catherine of Sweden, who later also became a saint. Bridget's religious life did not remove her from family responsibilities; instead, she lived her faith through marriage, motherhood and generosity toward the poor, the sick and vulnerable women and children.

In the early 1340s, Bridget and Ulf made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, one of the great Christian pilgrimage destinations of the Middle Ages. Soon after their return, Ulf died at the Cistercian monastery of Alvastra in 1344. This loss changed the direction of Bridget's life. As a widow, she devoted herself more fully to prayer, penance and religious service, living near the monastery and seeking to understand the spiritual mission she believed God had given her.

Bridget is especially famous for her mystical revelations. She believed that Christ, the Virgin Mary and saints spoke to her through visions. These revelations were written down and later translated into Latin, becoming influential throughout medieval Europe. Her messages often urged Christians to return to sincere faith, warned leaders against pride and corruption, and called for renewal in both personal life and Church leadership.

One of Bridget's greatest achievements was founding the Order of the Most Holy Savior, commonly called the Bridgettines. The order was centred on prayer, devotion to Christ's Passion and a disciplined religious life. Its most famous monastery was at Vadstena in Sweden. Bridget received papal approval for the order in 1370, near the end of her life, after many years of effort and perseverance.

In 1350, Bridget travelled to Rome, where she remained for much of the rest of her life. She became known for her care for the poor and for her bold appeals to Church leaders. During a period when the papacy was based in Avignon rather than Rome, Bridget urged the pope to return to the city. Her religious courage was not political ambition but a belief that the Church needed spiritual renewal and visible faithfulness to its mission.

Near the end of her life, Bridget made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She died in Rome on 23 July 1373 and was canonised in 1391. Her feast day is celebrated on 23 July, and in 1999 Pope John Paul II named her one of the patron saints of Europe. This recognition reflects her importance not only to Sweden but to the wider Christian tradition.

St Bridget of Sweden's life shows how religious commitment can be lived in many forms. She was not only a visionary mystic but also a wife, mother, reformer, pilgrim and founder. Her faith inspired practical charity, spiritual discipline and courage in speaking the truth. For religious communities and ordinary believers alike, Bridget remains a powerful example of a life shaped by prayer, service and devotion to God.