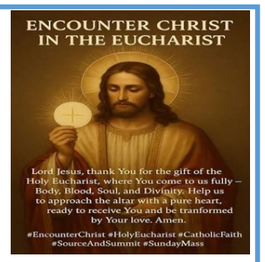
Christ's Presence at Mass



Being Missionary Disciples of Jesus

To be a disciple of Jesus is not only to admire him from a distance, but to follow him with one's whole life. In the Catholic understanding, mission begins with an encounter with Christ and grows into a way of living, loving and serving that makes the Gospel visible in the world. Jesus calls people to follow him, to worship him, and to share a life shaped by his teaching, his compassion and his self-giving love.

Mission is therefore not an optional activity for a few specially trained people. It belongs to the identity of every baptised Christian. Through Baptism, Catholics are joined to Christ and sent to continue his work in the Church and in the world. This mission may look different according to each person's gifts, vocation, age and circumstances, but every disciple is invited to witness to the Good News through words, actions, relationships and choices.

Mission Begins in Encounter with Jesus

Catholic mission begins before any program, plan or public action. It begins when a person meets Jesus and allows his love to change the heart. Pope Francis often speaks of the Church as a community of "missionary disciples": people who have received the joy of the Gospel and are moved to share it. Mission is rooted in gratitude, because the disciple has first been loved, forgiven and called by Christ.

This means that mission is not simply about increasing numbers or proving religious ideas. It is about helping others encounter the living God. A disciple points beyond themselves to Jesus, so that others may discover mercy, hope, forgiveness and new life. In Catholic faith, mission is always connected to prayer, Scripture, the Eucharist and the life of the Church, because these form the disciple and keep the mission centred on Christ rather than personal ambition.

Proclaiming the Good News in Everyday Life

One important part of mission is proclaiming the Good News of God's Reign. This can include speaking openly about the Christian faith, but it also includes the witness of ordinary daily life. Families, schools, workplaces, parishes and local communities can all become places where the Gospel is shared through patience, honesty, generosity, forgiveness and courage.

For Catholics, evangelisation is not forcing belief on others. It is an invitation offered with respect and humility. A disciple may share a story of faith, explain why prayer matters, invite someone to Mass, encourage a person who is struggling, or simply live in a way that raises the question of God's love. In this sense, mission is both spoken and embodied: the message of Jesus is proclaimed through words and confirmed through a life shaped by him.

Teaching and Forming Disciples

Mission also includes teaching. Jesus formed his disciples by gathering them, opening the Scriptures, praying with them and sending them out. Catholics continue this pattern whenever they gather for worship, catechesis, Bible reflection, sacramental preparation, youth ministry, adult faith formation or parish life.

Teaching in the Church is not only the passing on of information. It is formation for a way of life. Seekers, new believers, children, young people and adults all need accompaniment as they grow in faith. Those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist are not simply learning facts; they are being invited into a covenant relationship with God and into the community of the Church. A missionary disciple helps others learn how to pray, how to read Scripture, how to participate in the sacraments and how to make moral decisions in the light of the Gospel. (Cont. next issue)

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
silvah@bne.catholic.net.au
Efren Altez
Liturgy/Newsletter (Volunteer)
Seivland Poh
Safeguarding Officer (Volunteer)
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

FATIMA NEWS

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9 August 2026

When Life Doesn't Go According to Plan *(Matthew 14:22–33)*

Have you ever noticed that life never checks your calendar before sending a storm?

One day everything is going smoothly. The next, the car won't start, the washing machine decides it has retired, the children are arguing, the boss wants to see you, and your phone rings with news you never wanted to hear. That pretty much has happened to me too! If life had a sense of humour, sometimes it feels like it's laughing at us... no kidding!

That is why this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 14:22–33) feels so real. It isn't just a story about wind, waves and a frightened fisherman. It is our story.

The disciples are exactly where Jesus told them to be. They are doing His will, yet they still find themselves battling a storm. That should reassure us. Sometimes we quietly wonder, ***"If I'm trying to follow God, why is my life so difficult?"*** The Gospel reminds us that suffering is not necessarily a sign that we have taken a wrong turn. Sometimes the storm comes precisely while we are trying to be faithful. Exactly right!

One detail is easy to miss. Jesus does not immediately calm the sea. Instead, He comes to His disciples while the storm is still raging. Before changing their circumstances, He changes their fear with four simple words: **"Do not be afraid."**

That is often how God works.

We naturally pray, **"Lord, take this problem away."** I do it all the time. Sometimes He does, and we thank Him when He does! But there are other times when His answer is different. Rather than removing the storm, He gives us the strength to walk through it with Him.

The **Saints understood this well**. St Paul carried his "thorn in the flesh." St Thérèse of Lisieux died of tuberculosis. St John Paul II lived with Parkinson's disease. St Teresa of Calcutta endured years of spiritual darkness. St Óscar Romero gave his life for the Gospel. **Their storms were real, but so was the presence of Christ.** They discovered that His grace was greater than the waves.

Perhaps that is the greatest miracle in today's Gospel. Not that Jesus walked on water, but that He came to His disciples in the middle of the storm. The promise of the Christian life is not that we will avoid suffering. It is that we will never face it alone.

So here is a question to take into your week:

When the next storm comes—or when you find yourself in one—what will capture your attention first: the size of the waves, or the presence of Jesus?

The answer to that question may not change the weather forecast! But it may change the way we walk through the storm. And sometimes, that is the miracle we need most.

May Christ, who comes to us in every storm, fill you with courage, hope, and His peace. And please, keep me in your prayers, as I will keep you in mine.

God bless you. Deacon Hugo Silva

To receive the Parish eNewsletter, please email to 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.

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 13th August, 9:30am at Parish Office/Presbytery. Bring a plate of food to share and a friend.

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/

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.

Annual Catholic Campaign

The Annual Catholic Campaign **supports ministries across the Archdiocese of Brisbane that bring hope and the love of Christ to people in need.** Through your generosity, the Campaign helps care for vulnerable people, forms future priests, supports children through the Mary MacKillop Bursary Fund, and strengthens many other ministries.

This year, the Annual Catholic Campaign will be held the weekend of 22-23 August.

Saint of the week: St Clare of Assisi, Virgin

St Clare of Assisi

St Clare of Assisi stands among the most luminous figures of the medieval Church. She chose a path that seemed almost impossible for a noble young woman of her time: a life of radical poverty, prayer, and complete dedication to Christ.

Clare was born Chiara Offreduccio into a wealthy family in Assisi. From childhood, she was drawn to prayer and showed a deep concern for the poor. Her life changed after she heard the preaching of St Francis, whose message of simplicity and trust in God stirred in her a desire to live "after the manner of the holy Gospel."

On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare secretly left her family home and went to the chapel of the Porziuncola, where Francis and his brothers received her. There she exchanged her fine clothing for a rough tunic and veil, and Francis cut her hair as a sign of consecration. This act marked a decisive break with worldly expectations and began her lifelong commitment to Christ as her only spouse.

Clare's decision was not simply personal; it became the beginning of a new form of religious life for women. After a brief stay with Benedictine nuns, she settled at San Damiano, a small church outside Assisi. Other women joined her, including her sister Agnes and later her mother, Ortolana. Their community became known as the Poor Ladies, later called the Poor Clares.

At the heart of Clare's vision was what she called the "privilege of poverty." She wanted her community to own nothing, even as a group, so that the sisters could live in complete dependence on God. This was a bold request in an age when religious communities often relied on property for security. Clare persisted, and shortly before her death Pope Innocent IV approved her Rule, making her one of the first women known to have written a rule of life for a religious order.

Clare's poverty was not misery or rejection of creation; it was freedom. By refusing wealth and status, she sought to imitate Christ, who became poor for the sake of humanity. Her life at San Damiano centred on prayer, silence, penance, and sisterly charity. She led not through power but through humility, perseverance, and joyful service.

Tradition also remembers Clare for her profound devotion to the Eucharist. During a time of danger for Assisi and San Damiano, she is said to have confronted invading soldiers while holding the Blessed Sacrament, trusting that Christ would protect her sisters. Whether read as miracle, memory, or symbol, the story captures the central truth of her life: Clare believed that the presence of Christ was stronger than fear.

Clare suffered illness for many years, but she remained a source of strength to her sisters. She died at San Damiano on 11 August 1253. Two years later, in 1255, she was canonised by Pope Alexander IV. Her feast day is celebrated on 11 August.

St Clare's life remains powerful because it challenges every age to ask what true freedom means. She gave up wealth, comfort, and social expectation, not because she despised life, but because she had discovered a greater treasure. As virgin, foundress, and contemplative leader, she showed that holiness can be both gentle and strong. Her witness continues to invite Christians to simplicity, courage, prayer, and a love that places Christ at the centre of all things.

Click to Pray

Would you like to join in praying with the Pope's worldwide prayer network "Click to Pray"?

"Click to Pray" is the Pope's prayer app which you load up on your phone or ipad for easy viewing.

Join with the Pope and thousands of others throughout the world in praying for the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the church.

This valuable prayer tool will increase your closeness to Jesus and bring you peace.

There is a brief prayer for Mornings, Afternoons and Nights for every day of the year.

The Pope's pray network focuses, daily, on current events plus prayerful reflections on issues raised in the scriptures each day.

In recent months the Pope's focus has been on praying for the people and countries devastated by war, earthquakes and cyclones.

In addition, the Pope entrusts his Worldwide Prayer Network each month with prayer intentions that express his great concern for humanity and for the mission of the Church. Listed below are example of headings of the Pope's monthly prayer intentions

July	"Respect for Human Life"
June	"For the values of Sport"
May	"That everyone might have food"
April	"For Priests in crisis"

There is other information and news from the Vatican on the app that may be of interest.

Check the web for "Click to Pray". It will provide detailed information on the app.