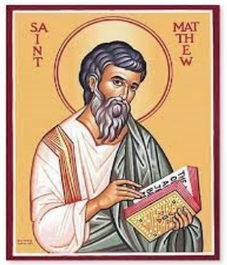
The Gospel of Matthew



The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year, Year A, and a change in the source of the Gospel readings at Sunday Mass. Gospel readings in Year A are taken from Matthew. Matthew is the first Gospel in the bible because when the New Testament was formed it was believed to be the oldest of the four. It is now accepted that Mark's Gospel was written first. For centuries, it was assumed that the author was Matthew the tax collector who became an apostle but its use of second-hand sources means that this is highly unlikely.

A distinctive feature of Matthew's gospel is the way the writer has arranged the speeches of Jesus into five extended sermons. The first is the most famous - the Sermon on the Mount. The others are: the Mission Sermon, addressed to the apostles as Jesus sends them out to preach; the Sermon in Parables, a collection of parables about the kingdom of heaven; the Sermon on the Church; Sermon on the End Times. Each of these concludes with a similar phrase: 'When Jesus had finished these words/commands/parables …'.

The evangelist Matthew is depicted symbolically as the figure of a man because of Matthew's emphasis on the humanity of Christ. Matthew's gospel begins with the reassurance that Jesus has come to be with us and concludes with Christ's promise to remain with us until the end of time. *Elizabeth Harrington*

Gingerbread House Night

You are invited to join Emmanuel Community for their Gingerbread House making night. Come along for a festive evening, build your own gingerbread house and support a great cause.

When: Wednesday 19 November from 7pm
Where: Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre
Cost: $55 each, or $250 for 5 tickets (all profits will support the mission of Emmanuel Community).

All materials will be provided and parking is available in the Cathedral carpark - 196 Charlotte Street.

To register your attendance, please visit **www.ec.org.au**.
If you have any questions, please email **events@ec.org.au**.

Advent and Christmas Resources for Children

To help include the children in your parish or family in the celebration of Advent and Christmas, the Children and Families Team at Archdiocesan Ministries have created some resources that you might like to use to help them along the journey.

You can find all the resources at
tinyurl.com/AdventWithKids

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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PARISH OFFICE

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PO Box 12 Acacia Ridge QLD 4110
Website
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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

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FATIMA NEWS

1st Week of Advent– 30 November 2025

1st Sunday of Advent – Staying Awake
Gospel: Matthew 24:37–44

These days I've been traveling around Japan, and every morning starts with a little adventure: finding our way through enormous, bustling train stations. The crowd bustles by, signs point in every direction, and trains arrive and leave in minutes. It's surprisingly easy to miss a gate or get on the wrong train. And yet, with a bit of focus—and despite a few close calls—we eventually make it to our destination.

Today we visited the Monument of the Twenty-Six Martyrs of Nagasaki and the basilica where many of their relics are preserved. It was a powerful experience I hope to share more about in a future article. But while weaving through those busy stations, I thought to myself: one distracted moment, and we could have ended up somewhere completely different.

Advent begins with a similar invitation. Jesus tells us, **"Stay awake."** It's not meant to scare us. It's a gentle reminder that life can get so busy, so full of routines, that we might miss God quietly working in and around us. Like the people in Noah's time, we can go about our days—eating, talking, planning, working—without noticing the movement of God in our hearts.

This season invites us to awaken, to pay attention, and to make space for God in our lives. He comes quietly and gently, often when we least expect it, inviting us to notice Him—in a word of **forgiveness, a gesture of kindness, moments of prayer, or someone who needs our love.**

So as we light the first candle of Advent, we can ask ourselves: **What needs waking up in me?** Perhaps faith that has grown routine, hope that has dimmed, joy that has been buried, or a relationship that needs healing. Advent is the season to open our hearts and watch for Christ in the ordinary moments of life.

May this Advent help us stay alert, awake, and ready to welcome the Lord—into our hearts, our homes, and our daily lives.

In this time of waiting and vigilance, we are also reminded of the profound mystery of God's timing. Unlike our human schedules, God's arrival is never predictable or confined to our plans. **Advent calls us into a posture of trust—**trust that even in moments of uncertainty or silence, God is faithfully at work, preparing the world and our hearts for the fullness of His kingdom.

This trust is a spiritual awakening itself—one that deepens our patience and sharpens our hope. "As we stay alert and watch, we accept that God's kingdom is both here now and still to come. We trust and wait for what's ahead while fully living in the present."

With Advent blessings,
Deacon Hugo

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 or https:// brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/

A heartfelt gratitude to all our parishioners for making this year so wonderful. Your dedication, selflessness, generosity and community spirit in serving our parish community are a true blessing. Thank you for sharing your time, talents and heart to our parish. Your efforts make a lasting impact, and we are so blessed to have you as part of our parish family. Wishing you and your families a safe and blessed Christmas and New Year. Blessings from Father Dang

You and your family are invited to a Pre-Christmas Volunteers Get Together on Saturday, 6 December 2025, 6:00pm at the back of church (grassy area).

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 11 December, 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.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Many homes, businesses and churches use the Advent wreath as a symbol of this season.

The Advent wreath is of ancient origin and relates to celebrations of the winter solstice when European days are shortest and gloomiest. Because people longed for the return of the sun's light and life, they suspended wagon wheels, decorated with greenery and candles, in their celebration halls. There they waited for their sun gods to return.

Around 200 years ago, the Advent wreath became customary in German homes and public buildings. It made its way into the church and has become a popular symbol of the passing of time during Advent.

The circle of the wreath, without and beginning or an end, symbolises God's unending love for us and reminds us of eternity. The evergreen leaves represented growth and hopes of eternal life. The symbol of evergreens is rather lost in our part of the world, so Australian gum leaves, nuts and flowers are sometimes substituted.

The four candles mark the four Sundays before Christmas, with one more candle lit each Sunday during Advent. Traditionally three candles are purple with the candle for the third Sunday being rose, but it's the increase in light as more candles are lit that is the focus, not the colour of the candles themselves.

Sometimes a 'Christmas candle' is placed in the centre of the wreath on Christmas Eve. This candle should be lit throughout the Christmas season. Its visual link with the Paschal candle helps connect the celebration of Christ's birth with its fulfilment in the Easter mystery.

St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

Weekend December 13 & 14

It's that time of the year again. We need your help in supporting families in the parish that are living on the poverty line.
Our members would like to provide Christmas hampers to these poor families and need your financial support.
We appreciate the generous support you have offered in the past and ask that you dig deep again.
St Stephen's, Our Lady of Fatima and St Thomas More schools as well as MacGregor Lions provide hamper food. We are seeking your financial help to provide those little things that make Christmas special.
Donations over $2 are tax deductible.
To make an online donation:
BSB: 064 786
Account: 100 026 094
Reference: [use your surname] Email: olf4110@svdpqld.org.au for a receipt.
Thank you and God bless.

2025 Youth Leader's Celebration

A night of celebration for all those who have given their time and talents to serving in ministry to young people in 2025!

Hosted by the Youth and Young Adults team of Archdiocesan Ministries, join us for a special event where we celebrate the great things God has done through you in 2025 and recognise those who have served in special ways with the Youth Leader Awards.

When: Thursday 4 December
Where: Garden Marquee, Victoria Park

For more information and to register your attendance, please visit **tinyurl.com/YLC-2025**