What are the liturgical colors and what do they mean?

- Purple is the colour of Penance Preparation and is used during Advent and Lent.
- Red is the colour of Sacrifice and is used during Passion Sunday, Good Friday, Pentecost, and the feast of the apostles and the martyrs.
- Rose/Pink are the colours of anticipation and is used on the third Sunday in Advent and the fourth Sunday during Lent.
- Green is the colour of Hope, Life and Growth and is used throughout Ordinary Time.
- White/Gold are the colours of Joy & Purity and are used during Easter and Christmas seasons and feasts of the Blessed Mother, angels and saints who weren't martyred.

2025 CHRISTMAS THANK YOU! We would like to thank all those who prepared our churches, liturgies, fellowship and music for the celebration of Christmas. We can agree that they were beautiful occasions of prayer and praise for our God. It was particularly wonderful with regard to the music and singing carols. Much work goes on behind the scenes, and we should be grateful for the generous efforts of so many who decorated the church, read at the Masses or serve as communion ministers. Thank you to the children from our parish who so beautifully re-enacted the first Christmas with the Christmas Gospel at the Vigil Masses. We also thank those who only attend a few times a year; it was wonderful to have you join in with the celebrations.

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 ORDINARY TIME

Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time A
11 January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord – Gospel Matthew 3: 13-17

Over the past year, as a newly ordained deacon, I have had the joy of baptising a few children in our parish. Each time has been more than just a ritual. I have looked out at parents holding their child close, godparents standing proudly beside them, and family and friends smiling and quietly supporting the child and their family. Seeing all that love and support makes the church feel alive. Each child is welcomed into the faith and into a community that promises to walk with them.

I was also blessed to visit the Jordan River. Standing there was an unforgettable experience. I tried to picture the scene we hear about in today's Gospel—Jesus in the water, the Spirit coming down like a dove, and God's voice speaking over him. Being in those same waters left more than just a memory in my mind; it touched my heart and helped me feel, in a small way, how God truly enters our lives and stands with us.

Today's feast of the Baptism of the Lord reminds us why these moments matter. This celebration closes the Christmas season and begins Ordinary Time. After angels, shepherds, and wise men pointed out who Jesus was, we now see him step into the waters of the Jordan and begin his mission.

Matthew's Gospel shows us a very human side to the story. Only Matthew tells us that John the Baptist hesitated when Jesus came to be baptised. John knew his baptism was for those turning from sin and understood that Jesus did not need it. He even says, "I need to be baptised by you." But Jesus answers, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus did not need baptism, but he chose to stand with us and take on our human condition.

When Jesus comes up from the water, the Spirit descends like a dove, and God's voice says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." In Matthew's Gospel, this is a public declaration, showing us, who Jesus is before he even begins his teaching or miracles.

Every baptism I witness reminds me that the same is true for us. Each child, and each one of us who has been baptised, is claimed by God and sent into the world with the support of family, friends, and the community. As Ordinary Time begins, may we remember our baptism and continue to walk with Christ and with one another.

In Christ's service,

Deacon Hugo

To receive the Parish eNewsletter, please email to acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

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

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 22 January, 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.

BACK TO WORK: The Christmas trees are looking a little out of place, the tinsel and decorations are coming down, and the post-Christmas sales are in full swing – it must be time to think about getting back to normal. Our Parish Office reopened last January 6th.

Parish Liturgy Team: A brief Year-end Report

The OLOF Parish Liturgy Team has played a vital role in coordinating liturgical celebrations, ensuring that all sacred and liturgical components are prepared in accordance with the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The team has provided invaluable support to our parish priest and assisted the parish by working alongside dedicated volunteers during the celebration of liturgies and sacraments.

Over the past year, the Team convened at least six times. In 2025, members participated in and celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St. Stephen's Cathedral and organising a Marian retreat. We are grateful to Deacon Hugo for initiating these events.

Call for Volunteers: The Team continues to warmly invite members of the community to engage in Parish activities. Those interested in volunteering for the many roles across the Parish are encouraged to contact the Parish Office.

The inaugural printing of the 2026 parish calendar has been met with success, as numerous volunteers expressed appreciation upon receiving their copies.

On behalf of the Team, we extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who offers encouragement, support, and prayers. We remain committed to serving, even during the most challenging times within our Community and the Catholic Church.—*Efren Altez*

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal results

Whilst we await further financial donations from Our Lady of Fatima school, your incredible generosity has resulted in us receiving $3,289 in financial donations – which is approximately $1,000 more than past years!

Thanks to schools at Our Lady of Fatima, St. Stephens Algester and St. Thomas Moore Sunnybank, we also received approximately 80 Christmas hampers. These – together with 20 larger hampers donated by Macgregor Lions – were distributed by our members to disadvantaged families in our parish.

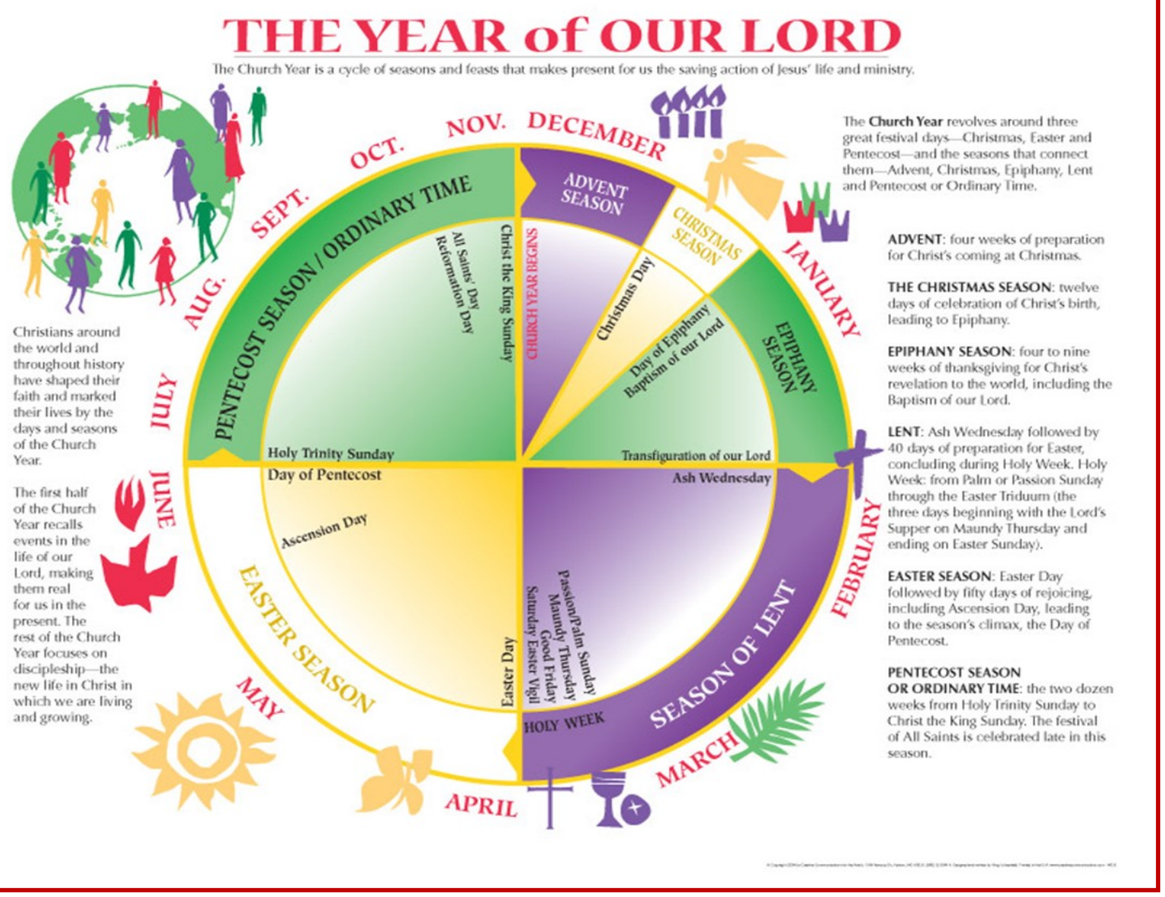
We're looking for new members to go out in pairs one afternoon a week to provide assistance to our clients. These visits normally take 60 – 90 minutes and training is provided. We also have meetings for approximately one hour every second Monday at 6.00 pm in the Presbytery coming on 12 January.

If you'd like to help, please email us olf4110@svdpqld.org.au

Thank you once again for helping us bring Christmas cheer to our brothers and sisters in need.

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

Fresh beginning: The church year began in Advent. We have now come though the Christmas Season. We begin Ordinary Time. Ordinary time is so named by the ordinal number that is used to designate each of the Sundays as in Second, Third, Fourth and so on. After this weekend, the church will move to the Ordinary Time. This way until 18 February which is Ash Wednesday. The colour returns to green. The Sunday readings are follow three years cycle A, B and C. This year is Year A which follows Matthew's Gospel. However, there is only years one and two in the weekdays. Hopefully you are now back on track!!



ORTHODOX NEW YEAR

The Orthodox New Year, also known as the "Old New Year", is celebrated by many Eastern Orthodox Christian communities and countries that follow the Julian calendar. While most of the world observes New Year's Day on 1 January, the Orthodox New Year falls on 14 January, marking the beginning of the year according to the traditional Julian calendar. This unique celebration blends religious customs, cultural traditions, and historical continuity.

The reason for the difference in dates lies in calendar history. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced the Gregorian calendar to reform the older Julian calendar, correcting its drift against the solar year. While many countries adopted the Gregorian calendar, several Eastern Orthodox Churches and countries continued to use the Julian calendar for religious observances. As a result, their New Year is celebrated 13 days after the Gregorian New Year.

Orthodox New Year celebrations vary by country and region, but some customs are widely shared:

- Religious Services: Many Orthodox Christians attend church services on the eve or morning of the New Year, offering prayers for peace, prosperity, and health in the coming year.
- Family Gatherings: The holiday is a time for families to come together, share a festive meal, and exchange well-wishes.
- Visiting Friends and Neighbours: It is customary to visit loved ones, bringing small gifts or homemade treats.

While the Orthodox New Year is not an official public holiday in most countries, it remains an important cultural and religious observance. For many, it is a chance to honour their heritage, reflect on the past year, and set intentions for the future. In multicultural countries like Australia, it serves as a bridge connecting generations and cultures.