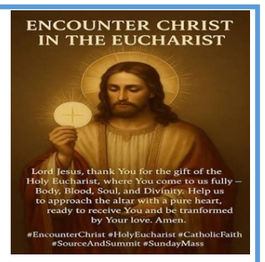
Christ's Presence at Mass (Continued from last week)



Tending and Caring for Others

Mission is also expressed through loving service. Jesus healed the sick, welcomed sinners, fed the hungry, touched the excluded and showed compassion to the vulnerable. A Catholic disciple continues this mission by responding to human need with practical love. This may include visiting the lonely, supporting the grieving, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, listening to the distressed, welcoming refugees, assisting families or offering time and talents in parish and community service.

Such service is not separate from faith; it is faith made visible. The Catholic tradition teaches that every person has dignity because each person is created in the image of God. Therefore, disciples are called to protect those who are poor, marginalised, isolated, rejected, discriminated against or vulnerable. Mission means standing close to people who feel cut off or forgotten and reminding them, by concrete action, that they are loved by God and belong to the human family.

Transforming Society with Justice and Peace

The mission of a disciple is personal, but it is never merely private. Catholic understanding insists that the Gospel has social consequences. If Jesus announces God's Reign, then disciples must ask how society reflects or fails to reflect the justice, mercy and peace of God. Mission therefore includes working to transform unjust structures, challenging violence, seeking reconciliation and defending the dignity of every person.

This begins with repentance and forgiveness in our own lives. Disciples who have received mercy are called to become peacemakers in families, parishes, workplaces and communities. But mission also calls Catholics to advocate for justice where people are exploited, excluded or silenced. To follow Jesus is to care about poverty, racism, violence, inequality, loneliness and every situation where human dignity is denied. Catholic mission seeks not only to comfort those who suffer but also to address the causes of suffering.

Safeguarding Creation

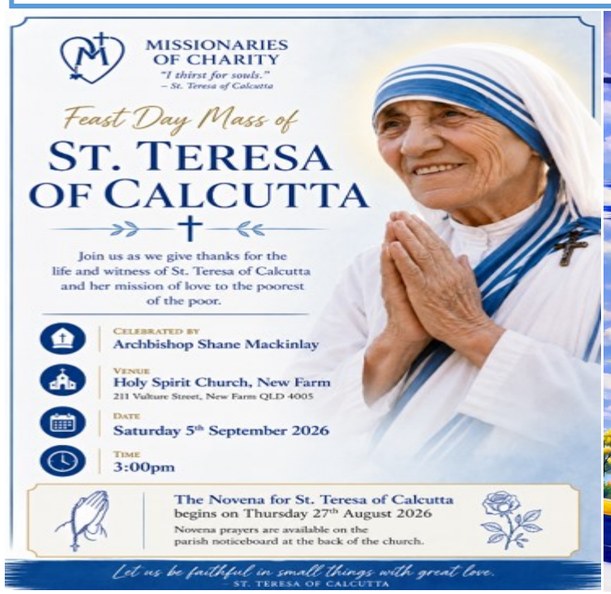
Mission includes care for creation because the world is God's gift, not merely a resource to be used. A Jesus-shaped life recognises that human beings are part of creation and have a responsibility to protect and renew the life of the earth. Catholic discipleship therefore includes living responsibly, reducing waste, caring for local environments, supporting sustainable choices and respecting the interconnectedness of people, creatures and the planet.

Creation care is also an act of love for the poor and for future generations, because environmental damage often harms the most vulnerable first. To safeguard creation is to honour the Creator and to live with gratitude rather than greed. It is one more way that disciples share in Christ's mission of healing and renewal.

Conclusion: Mission as a Way of Life

The importance of mission in Catholic discipleship is that it keeps faith alive, outward-looking and faithful to Jesus. A disciple is someone who follows Christ, is formed by Christ and is sent by Christ. Mission may involve proclaiming the Good News, teaching the faith, caring for others, working for justice, building peace or protecting creation. These are not separate tasks but different expressions of one calling: to live and share the life of Jesus in the world.

Every Catholic, whatever their vocation or circumstances, can ask: How is Jesus inviting me to follow him today? Who is he asking me to love, serve, teach, encourage, forgive or defend? Where is he calling me to bring hope? When disciples ask these questions and respond with courage, the Church becomes what it is called to be: a community sent into the world to make Christ known, loved and followed.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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

PARISH OFFICE

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Hours Monday (Closed)
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Email
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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
palgester@bne.catholic.edu.au

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

LIKE US ON facebook

FATIMA NEWS

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 August 2026

Greetings to All,

There are many ways to explain what it means to be a Christian, many paths by which we might describe how to follow Christ. But today's Scriptures present us with a very practical description: a Christian is one who reaches across boundaries.

We live in a world full of boundaries. Countries are separated by language, culture, and history. Cities are divided into different neighbourhoods. People are often grouped by race, wealth, gender, politics, and religion. Some people believe these divisions are good and that we are safer and happier when we stay apart from one another. But when this idea becomes part of social policy, it can lead to segregation and oppression. History shows us that divided societies do not create peace. Instead, they often lead to violence and war.

People of faith should be the first to question such divisions, because our Scriptures present to us with a vision of unity. In the first pages of the Bible creation is described as a gift from God in which all that is made is good. All humanity, male and female, are made in the image and likeness of God. The Hebrew prophets look forward to a day when all people will be one. Today's first reading from Isaiah describes a day when all people will worship together on God's holy mountain. So both in our origins and in our future the scriptures describe a unified world. But today's world is one of many boundaries. And overcoming those boundaries is a real challenge.

In today's Gospel Jesus struggles with boundaries. He withdraws from Israel to Canaanite country, and a Canaanite woman comes and asks him to heal her daughter. The Canaanites were not Jews. They were pagans who worshipped many gods. Their sacrifices were seen by Jews as abominations. Most Jews of the time would withdraw from Canaanites. They would not interact with them. Jesus seems at first to follow this approach. He does not respond to the woman. And when she presses her case, he insults her, calling her a dog. But the woman's persistence, cleverness and faith win out in the end. Jesus heals her daughter. Jesus reaches across the boundary of religion, race, and gender and gives the woman an example of God's love.

You and I, as followers of Christ, must imitate his example. To be a Christian, it is not sufficient simply to live peacefully in our own subdivision of the world. We must remember the intention of creation and the promise of that future day when all will be one. We must work to build God's kingdom which is a kingdom of unity. We must do what we can to tear down the walls which divide us.

We live in a world marked by boundaries, but as Christians we understand that those divisions are not according to God's will. We are called to build God's kingdom, a kingdom where people can be one. To do this we must first identify who in our life is the stranger, the foreigner, the Canaanite. Then, following the example of Christ, we should reach across that boundary and offer an example of God's love.

Have a blessed Week,

Fr Dang

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.

FRIENDS IN GRACE

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 27th August, 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

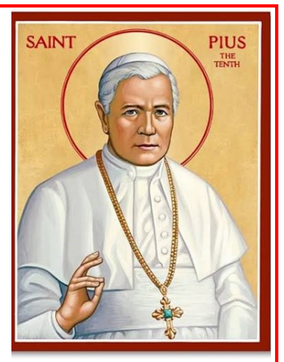
The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Our Lady of Fatima Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk. In an emergency, 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/

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: Pope Saint Pius X



Pope Saint Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was one of the most influential popes of the early twentieth century. He came from a humble family and grew up with a strong sense of faith, discipline, and concern for ordinary people. His parents valued education, and Giuseppe showed early promise as a student. With support from local clergy, he entered seminary studies and was ordained a priest in 1858.

As a young priest, Sarto served in parish ministry, where he became known for his devotion to the poor, his love of catechism, and his practical approach to pastoral care. These qualities remained central throughout his life. He later became Bishop of Mantua and then Patriarch of Venice before being elected pope in 1903.

After the death of Pope Leo XIII, Cardinal Sarto was elected pope on 4 August 1903 and took the name Pius X. His election brought to the papacy a man who had spent much of his life close to parish life rather than courtly or diplomatic circles. He carried into Rome the instincts of a pastor: teach clearly, celebrate the sacraments reverently, and help the faithful live their faith more deeply.

Pius X is especially remembered for reforms that shaped Catholic life for generations. He encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion and supported the admission of children to First Communion once they reached the age of reason. This emphasis helped renew Eucharistic devotion and made sacramental life more accessible to ordinary Catholics.

He also promoted religious instruction, insisting that catechesis was essential for a living faith. His name became closely associated with a clear and simple catechism designed to teach Catholic doctrine in a direct way. In the liturgy, he encouraged a revival of Gregorian chant and sought to make sacred music more fitting for worship.

Another important reform was his initiative to codify canon law. Although the first Code of Canon Law was completed after his death, under Pope Benedict XV, Pius X set the project in motion. He also reorganised parts of the Roman Curia, seeking greater efficiency in the Church's central administration.

Pius X's pontificate was also marked by his strong opposition to Modernism, a movement he believed threatened the integrity of Catholic teaching. Through official documents and disciplinary measures, he worked to defend traditional doctrine against interpretations he considered incompatible with the faith. This stance made him a controversial figure in some circles, but it also reflected his conviction that the Church had to preserve the truth it had received.

Pius X died in Rome on 20 August 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the First World War. His death was widely mourned, and his reputation for personal holiness continued to grow. He was beatified in 1951 and canonised in 1954 by Pope Pius XII, making him the first pope to be canonised in several centuries.

His legacy is complex but significant. To many Catholics, he remains a model of humility, pastoral zeal, and devotion to the Eucharist. His reforms encouraged active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, strengthened catechesis, and helped shape modern Catholic discipline and worship. At the same time, his forceful response to Modernism continues to be studied and debated by historians and theologians.

Above all, Pope Saint Pius X is remembered as a pope who wanted faith to be lived clearly and deeply. From his modest beginnings in rural Italy to his leadership of the universal Church, his life reflected a consistent desire to bring people closer to Christ. His motto, "to restore all things in Christ," remains the clearest summary of his mission and the enduring theme of his pontificate.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Click to Pray

You are invited to join with Pope Leo XIV and his worldwide prayer network? Just, load the "Click to Pray" app on your phone or Ipad. It is Free

What is Click to Pray

'The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a **Pontifical Work entrusted to the Society of Jesus**. We are present in over **90 countries**, forming a spiritual community of more than **22 million people** who seek to live each day with availability to God's mission.

At the centre of our life are the **monthly prayer intentions of the Pope**, which invite us to focus on the pressing challenges facing humanity and the Church. These intentions help us to see, to feel, and to serve with a heart like Jesus'.'

Personal prayer is essential but joining the Pope and his international prayer network to pray for the challenges facing humanity is critical, if world leaders are to use dialogue to resolve disputes instead of war.

If you need help loading the app on your phone or Ipad ring Noel Sweeney mobile 0423550052.