A Brief History of the Seven Sacraments

The seven sacraments are central to Catholic life: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Catholics understand them as visible signs through which God gives grace, guiding believers through important moments of faith, healing, service, and community. Although these sacraments are now clearly named and defined, their history developed gradually over many centuries.

In the first years of Christianity, Christians already celebrated important sacred actions. Baptism welcomed a person into the Church. The Eucharist became the centre of Christian worship. Christians also prayed for the sick, forgave sinners who returned to God, laid hands on new believers, chose ministers for leadership, and blessed Christian marriages.

At first, however, the Church did not have one official list of seven sacraments. The Latin word *sacramentum* was used in a broad way for many holy signs and sacred actions. In the Greek-speaking Church, Christians often used the word "mysteries." Early Christians were more focused on living their faith and celebrating these rites than on counting them.

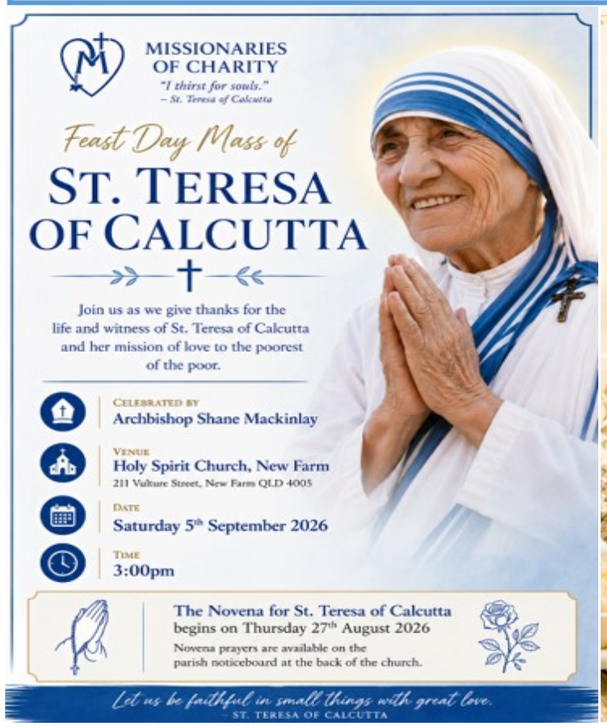
During the Middle Ages, theologians began to define the sacraments more carefully. As Church life became more organised and universities grew, scholars asked what made a sacrament different from other sacred actions. They considered whether each rite had been instituted by Christ, what outward sign it used, what grace it gave, and who could administer it. By the twelfth century, the list of seven sacraments became increasingly influential, especially through Peter Lombard's *Sentences*, a major theology textbook of the period.

The seven sacraments also made sense because they connect with the main stages of Christian life. Baptism begins life in the Church. Confirmation strengthens faith. The Eucharist feeds and unites believers with Christ. Reconciliation brings forgiveness. Anointing of the Sick gives comfort and strength during illness. Holy Orders prepares bishops, priests, and deacons for service. Matrimony joins a man and woman in faithful married life.

Later Church councils gave official support to this teaching. The Second Council of Lyon in 1274 listed the seven sacraments. The Council of Florence in 1439 repeated the list and explained more about each sacrament. These councils did not create the sacraments. Instead, they clarified what Christians had already been practising for many centuries.

The Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century brought new debate. Many Reformers accepted only Baptism and the Lord's Supper, but rejected the other sacraments. In response, the Council of Trent, which met from 1545 to 1563, strongly confirmed Catholic teaching. In 1547, Trent declared that the sacraments are seven: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. The council taught that the sacraments were instituted by Christ and truly confer grace when properly received.

Today, the seven sacraments remain a defining feature of Catholic faith. Catholics believe that through the sacraments, Christ continues to be present in the Church. The sacraments help people meet God's grace at important moments in life, from birth and growth in faith to healing, service, marriage, and care near the end of life.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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Calamvale | Parkinson
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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
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Who Do You Say That I Am? - Matthew 16:13–20

During one of our **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) sessions over the past three years, as adults explored the Catholic faith and prepared for initiation into the Church, I once asked the group, "**Who is Jesus?"** The answers came quickly: "The Son of God," "our Saviour," "the Good Shepherd." They were all true. Then I asked, **"But who is Jesus to you when you are worried, hurt, or struggling to forgive?"** The room became quiet for a moment. The question had moved from a textbook answer to a personal encounter.

That is what happens in today's Gospel. Jesus first asks what others are saying about Him. The disciples report the opinions around them: some think He is John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But Jesus does not leave the question at the level of public opinion. He turns to them and asks, **"But who do you say that I am?"**

Peter answers, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** This is one of the greatest confessions of faith in the Gospel. Peter recognises that Jesus is more than a teacher, prophet, or good man. He is the Messiah, the Son of God. Yet Jesus makes clear that Peter has not arrived at this by human intelligence alone: **"Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven."** Faith is first a gift from God, and then it becomes our response.

Still, Peter has much to learn. Soon after this confession, Jesus speaks of suffering, rejection, and the Cross. Peter struggles with this because he can accept Jesus as the Christ, but not easily as the Christ who suffers. In that struggle, Peter becomes close to us.

It is easy to say that Jesus is Lord when life is peaceful. It is harder to trust Him when prayers seem unanswered, when forgiveness costs us something, or when the Gospel asks us to change. The question **"Who do you say that I am?"** is not answered only with words. It is answered in choices, relationships, patience, mercy, and courage.

Saint Francis of Assisi understood this deeply. For him, Jesus was not simply someone to admire from a distance. Jesus was someone to follow. Francis allowed Christ to shape his whole life: his simplicity, his love for the poor, his care for creation, and his desire to see Christ in those whom society often ignored.

Peter, too, learned slowly. He would later deny knowing Jesus, yet Jesus did not give up on him. After failure came forgiveness; after forgiveness came mission. This is good news for us. Jesus does not wait for perfect people. He calls, forgives, forms, and strengthens those who are willing to begin again. One way we do that is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we return to the Lord and receive His mercy anew. **When was the last time you allowed Christ to meet you there?**

So, the question remains for each of us: **Who is Jesus for me?** We know the faith of the Church: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. But does that truth shape how we forgive, how we speak, how we make decisions, how we deal with everyday problems and how we face uncertainty?

To believe in Jesus is not only to know the right words. It is to place our lives in His hands and to keep following Him, even when the road is not the one we would have chosen. This week, let us carry Peter's question in our hearts: **Who is Jesus for me—and am I willing to follow Him?**

Shalom! Deacon Hugo

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

Annual Catholic Campaign

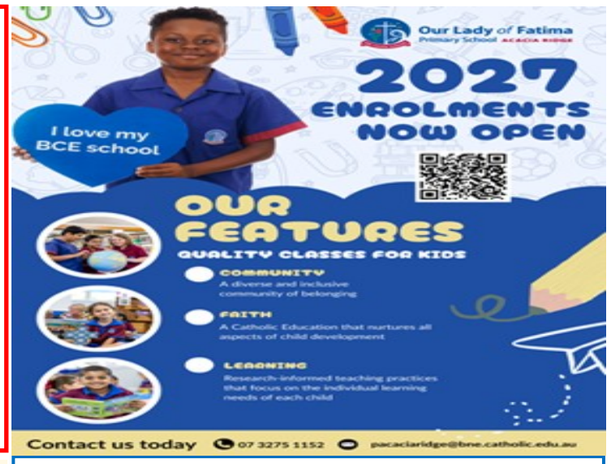
The Annual Catholic Campaign **supports ministries across the Archdiocese of Brisbane that bring hope and the love of Christ to people in need.** Through your generosity, the Campaign helps care for vulnerable people, forms future priests, supports children through the Mary MacKillop Bursary Fund, and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

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

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, 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/

Saint of the Week: St Augustine of Hippo

St Augustine of Hippo is one of the most important saints in the history of the Church. The Church honours him as a Doctor of the Church because his teaching helped many people understand God's grace, sin, love, and the deep desire of every human heart to find God.

Augustine was born in the year 354 in Tagaste, in North Africa, in the area we now call Algeria. His mother, St Monica, was a faithful Christian. She prayed for Augustine for many years and never gave up hope that he would come close to God. His father, Patricius, was not always a Christian, but he was baptised before he died.

As a young man, Augustine was very clever and loved learning. He studied speaking and writing, and later became a teacher in Carthage, Rome, and Milan. But even though he was successful, he was restless inside. He wanted to know the truth and the meaning of life. For a time, he followed different ideas and ways of thinking, but none of them fully satisfied him.

In Milan, Augustine met St Ambrose, the bishop of the city. Ambrose's preaching helped Augustine see that the Christian faith was deep, and full of meaning. Augustine began to understand Scripture in a new way. Still, he struggled to change his life. He wanted to follow God, but he found it hard to leave behind old habits.

In his famous book *Confessions*, Augustine tells the story of this struggle. One day, he heard a child's voice, "Take and read." He opened St Paul's Letter to the Romans and felt that God was calling him to a new life in Christ. This moment became an important turning point in his conversion.

Augustine was baptised by St Ambrose in 387, together with his son, Adeodatus. After this, he returned to Africa. He wanted to live a quiet life of prayer and community, but God had other plans. Augustine was ordained a priest and later became Bishop of Hippo. He served the people there until his death in 430.

As bishop, Augustine preached often, helped guide the Church, cared for the poor, and defended the faith during difficult arguments and divisions. He wrote many books, letters, and sermons. His two best-known works are *Confessions* and *The City of God*. In *Confessions*, he speaks honestly about his life and his search for God. In *The City of God*, he explains that history is shaped by two loves: love of God and love of self.

One of Augustine's most important teachings is about grace. He taught that we cannot save ourselves by our own strength. We need God's help. Salvation is a gift from God, given through Jesus Christ and received with faith and love. St Augustine died on 28 August 430. Yet his wisdom lived on through his writings. His life reminds us that God is always drawing us closer, and that our hearts find true peace only in God.

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'.'

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