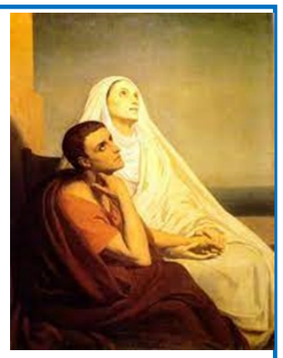
Story of St Monica



This Week on the 27th of August, we celebrate the memorial of St Monica. She was known for her deep faith, kindness, and unwavering devotion to God. Monica was married to a pagan named Patricius, and together they had three children, the most notable of whom was their son, Augustine.

From a young age, Augustine was gifted with intelligence and curiosity. However, as he grew older, he strayed from the path of righteousness. He became enamored with worldly pleasures and embraced a hedonistic lifestyle, much to the dismay of his mother. Despite her sorrow, Monica never lost hope. She prayed fervently for her son's conversion, shedding countless tears and offering her sufferings to God.

Monica's faith was unshakable. She sought the counsel of wise and holy men, including St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan. St. Ambrose became a source of comfort and guidance for Monica, encouraging her to remain steadfast in her prayers. He assured her that "the child of those tears shall never perish."

For many years, Monica followed Augustine, never giving up on him. She traveled to different cities, always keeping him in her prayers and hoping for his return to the faith. Her persistence and love were unwavering, even when Augustine seemed completely lost.

One day, Augustine experienced a profound moment of clarity. He heard a child's voice chanting, "Take up and read, take up and read." He picked up a nearby book, which happened to be the letters of St. Paul, and read a passage that spoke directly to his heart. In that moment, Augustine felt the overwhelming presence of God's grace and decided to turn his life around.

Augustine sought out St. Ambrose and was baptized, marking the beginning of his journey back to the faith. Monica's prayers had been answered. Her son had finally embraced Christianity, and her heart was filled with joy and gratitude.

Monica's love, faith, and persistence had played a crucial role in Augustine's conversion. She had never given up on him, even when all seemed lost. Her unwavering devotion to God and her son became a testament to the power of prayer and the strength of a mother's love.

St. Monica's story continues to inspire countless people around the world, reminding them of the importance of faith, hope, and perseverance. Her legacy lives on through the writings of St. Augustine, who became one of the most influential theologians and saints in the history of the Church.

Farewell Mass for Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Dear Parishes,

On **Saturday 6 September 2025**, the Archdiocese of Brisbane will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for Archbishop Mark Coleridge at 11am at the Cathedral of St Stephen.

Mass will be followed by morning tea in the Hanly Room. All are welcome to attend as we celebrate his service and leadership as Archbishop of Brisbane for over 13 years.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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Efren Altez
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Seivland Poh
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lsr.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE

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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

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

LIKE US ON facebook

FATIMA NEWS ORDINARY TIME

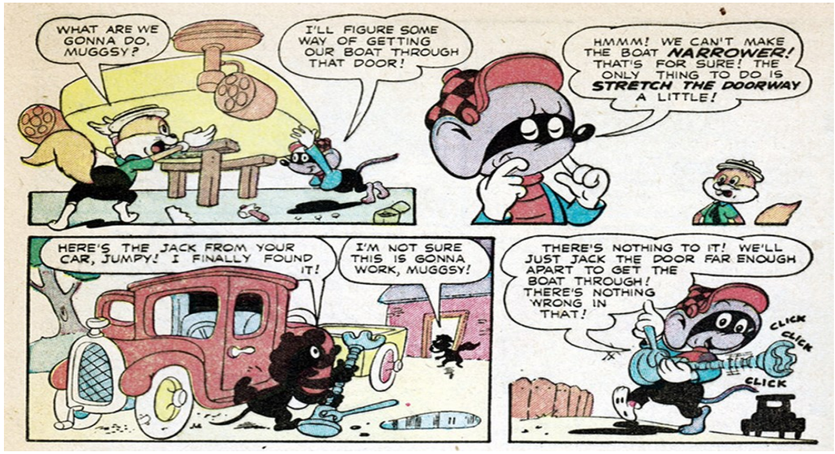
21th Sunday in Ordinary Time C
24th August 2025

Greetings to all,

The gospel passage from Luke describes a conversation Jesus has with followers about who will be "saved". He uses the image of a "narrow gate", saying many will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough, and many others will be turned away when they knock on the door.

How are we to understand these words of Jesus that seem to indicate that only a few people will be saved? How do we square these words with so many places in the New Testament where Jesus seems to indicate that salvation is open to all who can enter into the Kingdom of God?

It seems that Jesus leaves his listeners and us with more questions than answers, isn't it? "What is the narrow gate? What do I need to do to pass through safely? If it is not enough that we know Jesus and follow his teachings, what else is required? Who are the last, who are the first, and where am I?" These questions certainly dawn on his listeners at that time, and many of us also. What could we possibly do that would incur this judgment and cause us to be "cast out" and denied salvation?"



Personally, i love the image of he "narrow gate". It can be a metaphor for many things, all challenging. Perhaps a reminder that we can never be complacent in our faith. We may have made a commitment to follow Jesus but that means we are on "the way"; we can never say I have arrived. Or, it may refer to the responsibility we each have for the life we have been given.

Or, a reminder for continual alertness to the "narrow gate" that is the result of discernment for the many decisions of life....merely following the rules of custom and culture will not lead to salvation. We need to give up our way of making decisions, e.g. always choosing the "harder" thing, always saying "yes" to others, or whatever other ways we avoid the sometimes tough work of listening for God.

Or this: the "narrow gate" of the surprise revealed when we attend to the present moment; not bound by resentment from the past nor fears of the future.

Perhaps Jesus was simply tired of people following him wanting answers and wanting to be told what to do...perhaps he wanted to shake them up and invite them to reconsider the mystery of God and God's ways, and leave them with puzzlement. A good way to our start our week; pondering the mystery of God and holding many questions.

God Bless, Fr Dang

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

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.

***FRIENDS AND GRACE:* Join our next Morning Tea on 28 August, 2025 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/

Our Parish Youth Fun Day

We are delighted to share that our recent Youth Funday was a tremendous success! Over 70 kids and their families joined us for a day filled with fun and community spirit.
A heartfelt thank you to our Parish Youth Leadership Team for their incredible energy and efforts in making this event possible. Your dedication truly made a difference.
We also extend our gratitude to the parents for their unwavering support. Your involvement is invaluable to our community. Thank you all for being a part of this wonderful day!

Annual Catholic Campaign—23/24 August

"Strive to enter by the narrow door," says Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel. These words challenge us to reflect on the burdens we carry – pride, fear, hardship, injustice – that might stop us from entering the Kingdom of God. The Gospel reminds us that all are invited to the feast, but the path is narrow and demands that we lay down whatever weighs us down. In his homily video, Archbishop Mark explains that some people carry burdens like poverty, violence, or illness. Things they did not choose and cannot carry alone. Others may be burdened by judgement or exclusion, turning away those Jesus came to welcome. The Church, then, must be a community that helps to lift burdens, not add to them.

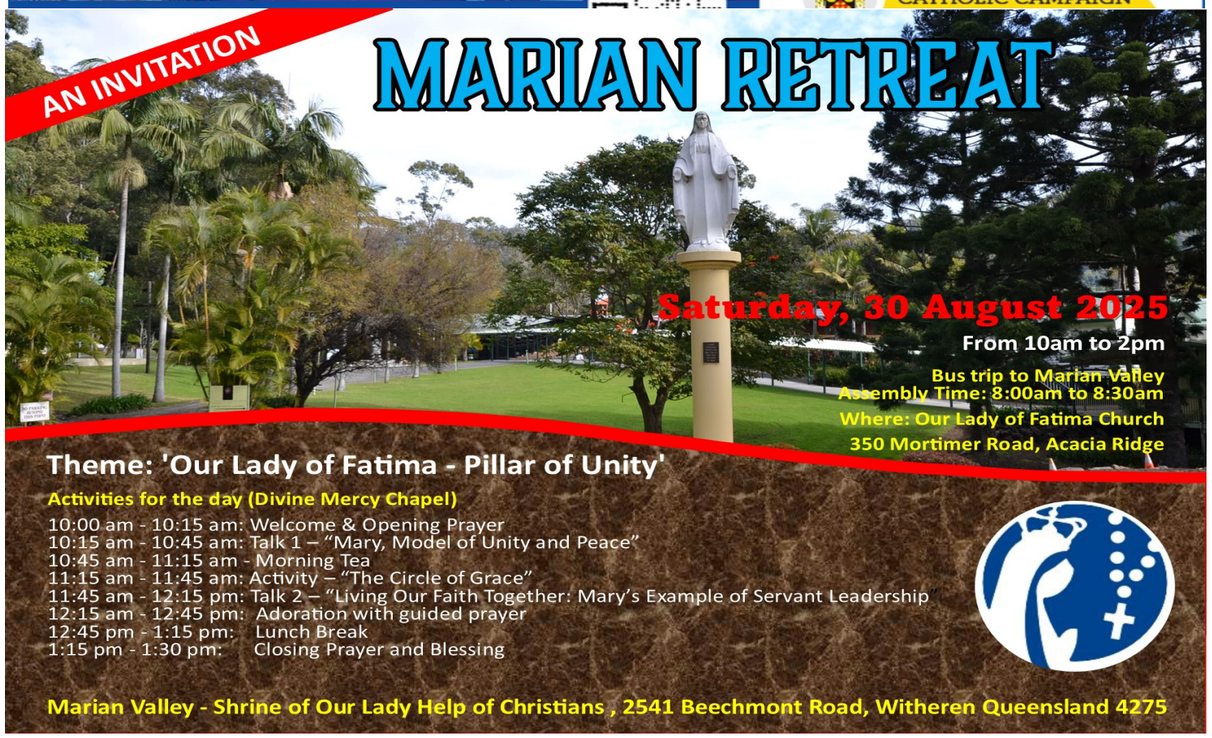
This is where the Annual Catholic Campaign comes in. The Campaign supports five key ministries that help people from all walks of life move closer to the "narrow door":

The MacKillop Brisbane Catholic School Access Fund, providing education to children in need
Holy Spirit Seminary, forming future priests to serve our communities
The Priests Foundation, caring for our retired priests
Centacare's Pastoral Ministries, offering support in hospitals, prisons, counselling and family services
The Annual Grants Program, seeding parish and community projects in areas like youth ministry and care for the poor

By supporting this Campaign, we help lift the weight from others' shoulders. In doing so, we live out the Gospel invitation to make room at the feast of the Kingdom for all God's people. This weekend there will be Campaign brochures and giving envelopes for you to fill out and return to the parish office or place in a collection basket next week.

Please contact Leslie Silva if you have any questions about this year's campaign at silval@bne.catholic.net.au or 07 3324 3486.

Be blessed and bless others with your gift

The Annual Catholic Campaign asks us to make a sacrifice to support the works of the Church in our local community. Your gift will help lift the burden from the shoulders of those in dire need, and is a way of ensuring that as many as possible can come to the feast of the Kingdom which God has prepared for all.

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN