Why do we pray the Rosary!

For Catholics, praying the Rosary is more than repeating familiar prayers. It is a deeply spiritual devotion that leads believers closer to Jesus Christ through the guidance and example of Mary, the Mother of God. The Rosary has been loved by Catholics for centuries because it joins vocal prayer, meditation, and contemplation. Through its rhythm of the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, the faithful are invited to slow down, focus their hearts, and open themselves to God's presence.

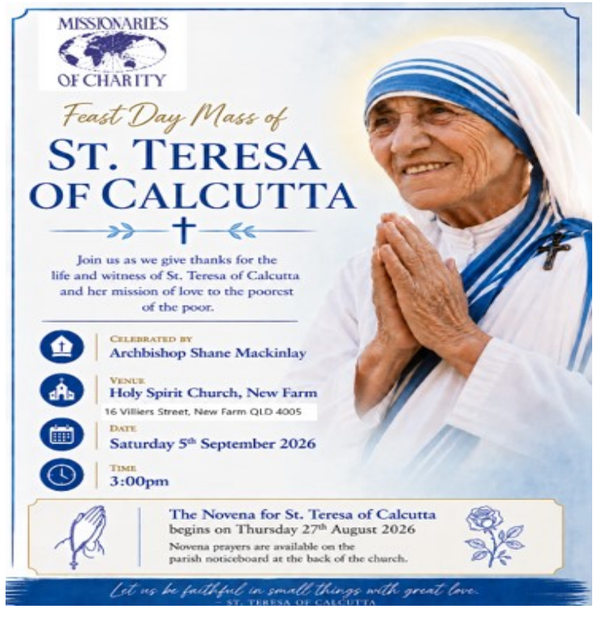
One important meaning of the Rosary is that it is a Christ-centered prayer. Although it is often associated with Mary, the heart of the Rosary is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Each mystery invites Catholics to reflect on an important moment in salvation history: the joy of Christ's birth, the light of His public ministry, the sorrow of His suffering, and the glory of His resurrection. By meditating on these mysteries, Catholics learn to see their own lives in the light of Christ's love and sacrifice.

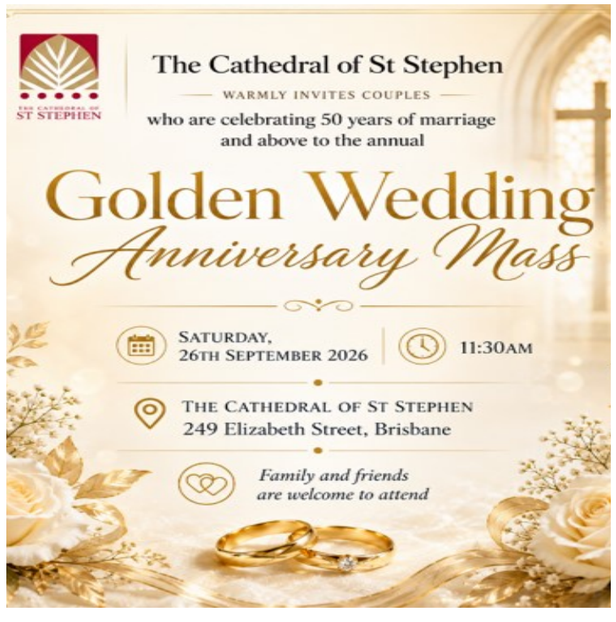
The Rosary also strengthens personal prayer. In a busy and noisy world, many people struggle to find peace and direction. The Rosary creates a sacred space where the mind and heart can rest in God. Its repeated prayers are not meant to be empty words, but a gentle path into deeper meditation. Like breathing, the steady rhythm of the Rosary can calm anxiety, encourage patience, and help a person become more aware of God's grace in daily life.

Another spiritual meaning of the Rosary is its connection with Mary. Catholics do not worship Mary; rather, they honour her as the first and most faithful disciple of Jesus. When Catholics pray the Hail Mary, they ask her to pray for them and to help them follow her Son more faithfully. Mary's life teaches humility, obedience, courage, and trust. Through the Rosary, Catholics place themselves at the "school of Mary," learning how to listen to God and respond with faith.

The Rosary is also a prayer of hope and intercession. Many Catholics pray it for their families, for the sick, for peace, for forgiveness, and for the needs of the world. Holding the beads can remind believers that prayer is concrete and personal. Each decade becomes an offering of love, trust, and concern. In times of suffering, the Sorrowful Mysteries help Catholics unite their pain with Christ's Passion. In times of joy, the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries remind them that God's promises are stronger than fear and death.

Finally, praying the Rosary shapes a Catholic's spiritual life by forming habits of faithfulness. It teaches believers to pray regularly, to meditate on Scripture, and to carry Christ's peace into everyday actions. The Rosary is simple enough for children and profound enough for saints. Whether prayed alone, with family, or in a parish community, it reminds Catholics that they are never alone on their journey of faith. Through the Rosary, they walk with Mary toward Jesus, growing in love, trust, and holiness.





OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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

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Greetings to all,

Last weekend we heard Simon Peter's strong and Spirit-filled confession of faith. When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). It was a true and beautiful confession. Peter saw, by the grace of God, that Jesus was not simply a teacher, prophet, or miracle worker. He was the promised Messiah, the Son of the living God.

Yet in today's Gospel, Peter quickly discovers that confessing Jesus as the Christ also means learning what kind of Christ He is. Jesus begins to explain that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, be killed, and on the third day be raised to life (Matthew 16:21).

In these few words, Jesus reveals the heart of His mission. He has not come to win earthly power. He has come to suffer, die, and rise again for the forgiveness of sins and for the salvation of the world.

Peter cannot accept this. "Never, Lord!" he says. "This shall never happen to You!" (Matthew 16:22).

Peter wants a Christ without a cross. He wants glory without suffering, victory without sacrifice. But Jesus knows who He is and why He has come. So He rebukes the temptation behind Peter's words: "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men" (Matthew 16:23).

Jesus' way is the way of the cross. It was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem. It was necessary for Him to suffer unjustly, to die on the cross, and to be raised by the power of the Father. Through His cross, Jesus carried our sins. Through His resurrection, He opened the way to life. By His mercy, our broken relationship with God is restored.

Then Jesus turns to His disciples and says, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). This is not only a word for Peter. It is a word for every Christian. To follow Jesus is to walk behind the Crucified and Risen Lord. It means surrendering our self-centred plans and trusting God's will, even when that way is difficult.

Sometimes we misunderstand what our cross is. Not every hardship is a cross, because sickness, disappointment, conflict, and daily struggles are common to all people. The cross Jesus gives us is the suffering, sacrifice, and service we willingly bear because we belong to Him. It may be loving someone who is difficult to love, caring for the lonely, helping those in need, forgiving when forgiveness is hard, serving quietly when no one notices, or giving generously for the work of God's kingdom.

We see a beautiful example of this in Saint Teresa of Calcutta, whose feast that we celebrate this week. She took up the cross of Christ by caring for the poorest and most forgotten. In serving them, she showed the love of Jesus in a simple but powerful way. Her life reminds us that the cross is not only something we suffer; it is also something we carry in love.

Jesus also promises that the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His angels and will reward each person according to what they have done (Matthew 16:27).

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We are not saved by our works. Eternal life is God's gift, given through faith in Christ. Yet our works reveal the faith that lives in our hearts. Our service is a joyful response to the One who first loved us and gave Himself for us.

May God give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts filled with compassion, so that with faith and joy we may take up our cross and follow Jesus. Amen.

Have a blessed Week, Fr Dang

Saint of the Week: St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

St Teresa of Calcutta, widely known as Mother Teresa, remains one of the most recognisable figures of modern Christian charity. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on 26 August 1910 in Skopje, she devoted her life to serving people who were poor, sick, abandoned, or dying. Her work in Kolkata, India, made her a global symbol of compassion, humility, and practical love.

St Teresa grew up in a Catholic family and developed a strong sense of faith from an early age. At eighteen, she left home to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland, where she took the name Sister Mary Teresa. Soon after, she travelled to India, where she taught at St Mary's School in Calcutta for many years. During this period, she witnessed deep poverty around her and gradually felt called to leave the classroom and live among the poorest people of the city.

In 1950, Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation dedicated to caring for "the poorest of the poor." The sisters served people who had been rejected by society, including the dying, the homeless, people with leprosy, orphans, and people suffering from serious illness. Their work was simple but powerful: provide food, shelter, medical care, companionship, and dignity to those who had little or no support.

One of Mother Teresa's most important beliefs was that every person deserves to be loved and treated with respect. She did not measure success by wealth, power, or fame, but by small acts of kindness performed with great love. Her example encouraged many people around the world to volunteer, donate, and pay closer attention to those suffering in their own communities.

Mother Teresa received many honours for her humanitarian work, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. The Nobel Committee recognised her efforts to bring help to suffering humanity. However, her work has also been discussed critically, especially regarding medical standards in some homes and her views on social issues. A complete understanding of her legacy includes both the admiration she inspired and the questions raised about how charity should respond to suffering.

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta on 5 September 1997. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003 and canonised by Pope Francis on 4 September 2016, becoming St Teresa of Calcutta. Her feast day is observed on 5 September. Today, the Missionaries of Charity continue their work in many countries, carrying forward her commitment to serving vulnerable people.

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, 10 September, 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/

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.

Deacon Hugo reflects on the moment when Jesus shares with His disciples the hard truth that He is destined to suffer grievously and be put to death. Watch now. https://youtu.be/74PUXaluqWo?list=PL8-1Dil2Zzb9z01HTFLGlG3oVio_5jDi1

Last weekend, our parish held an appeal for the Annual Catholic Campaign in support of the important local ministries in our Archdiocese. Thank you to everyone who responded generously to Archbishop Shane's call for support. If you took the envelope home, please pop it in the mail or leave it here on your way out after Mass. You can also give online by scanning the QR code on the envelope, or going to catholiccampaign.com.au