Congratulations to our newly Confirmants!

We had a great celebration last Wednesday night as more than 37 of our young parishioners receiving sacrament of confirmation. The Confirmation ceremonies were beautiful and full of joy. We offer thanks to the many who worked so hard to make it a wonderful celebration.

We especially wish to thank sisters of missionaries of Charity, especially Sr Hannah and Sr Zelia and St Stephen's staff and teachers who helped to plan and prepare the candidates for this important day. Their wonderful energy and wisdom in leading the sessions this year, accompanying with their hard work and commitment in assisting parents as they share their faith journey with their children.

Also, a very especial thank to Efren, Virgina, Seivland and the team who are always wonderful in coordinating behind the scenes. We are grateful for all of you.

We particularly express our sincere gratitude to all our dear parishioners who had generously volunteered their times and financial assistance preparing an amazing feast so that the whole community can come together and celebrate with our newly confirmed and their families. It was so awesome. thank you.

Finally, we congrats the 37 newly confirmed for committing to Christ. Confirmation is a major milestone and meaningful moment not only for themselves, but to their whole family and to our parish. It is a wonderful step of growing into Godly children.

Also, we would like to thank you for all the parents, for your ongoing and valuable support of our parish. Especially in the last six weeks, as you journey with your children in their sacramental program. We appreciate so much for your time and effort to bring your children to join our community. Thank you. Fr Dang

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
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
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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

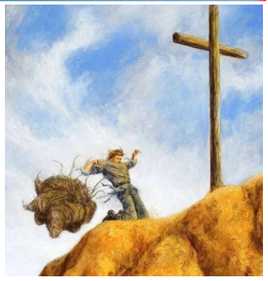
SCHOOLS

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

To receive the Parish eNewsletter,



Greetings to All,

Is there any teaching of Jesus more difficult than the one we hear in today's Gospel? Peter comes to Jesus and asks, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?" Peter probably thought he was being generous. Seven times already sounds like a great deal. But Jesus answers, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." In other words: always.

To make sure Peter understands, Jesus tells the parable of the king and the unforgiving servant. The servant owes an impossible debt, one he could never repay. Yet the king forgives him completely. But when that same servant meets someone who owes him only a small amount, he refuses to show mercy. He demands payment. He has received forgiveness, but he will not give it.

Is there any teaching in the Gospel more contrary to our cultural training than this? Our culture often encourages us to treat others with fairness and justice. But should anyone offend us, our culture supports responding in kind. We feel that we are obliged simply to treat others in the same manner they treat us. And so we feel justified not forgiving those who sin grievously against us. How often have we heard someone say, "I can never forgive him/her"?

But forgiveness is at the very heart of the Gospel. Jesus does not present it as an optional extra for especially holy people. He places it at the centre of Christian life. He even teaches us to pray it every day: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Each time we say those words, we ask God to forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. That is a challenging prayer.

Today's Gospel therefore gives us a privileged moment to examine our hearts. Whom have we not forgiven from the heart? Sometimes the answer is not far away. It may be a parent. It may be a friend, a spouse, a neighbour, or someone in the parish community. Often the deepest wounds come from those closest to us.

Forgiveness does not mean pretending that nothing happened. It does not mean excusing injustice or allowing harm to continue. Forgiveness also does not mean forgetting. Sometimes we must remember clearly so that the same wrong is not repeated. But we remember not to imprison ourselves in hatred, but so that, with God's help, we can be free.

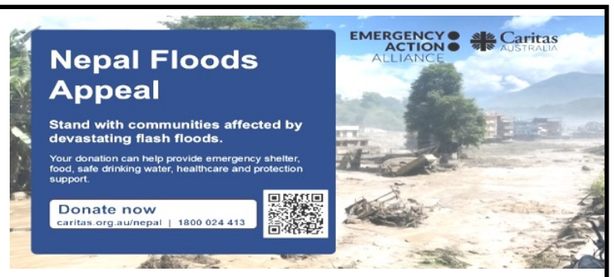
That is why forgiveness is not only a gift to the person who hurt us. It is also a grace for the one who forgives. Resentment, bitterness, anger, and self-pity can slowly poison the heart. They can keep old wounds alive and prevent us from living fully. When we forgive, God begins to free us from that burden. The memory may remain, but its power over us can be diminished.

Of course, forgiveness is never easy, especially when the hurt is deep. At times it may even feel impossible. That is why we need grace. Jesus never asks us to do something difficult without also offering us his help. He calls us to forgive because he knows that unforgiveness destroys us, while mercy opens the way to peace.

Peter thought seven times was enough. Jesus tells him to go further. He says the same to us: forgive, and keep forgiving. Not because it is easy, but because it is the path of freedom. And when we struggle, we look to Jesus on the cross, who prayed for those who crucified him: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." May he give us the grace to forgive from the heart, and so enter more deeply into his mercy.

Have a blessed week, Fr Dang

Caritas Australia: Nepal Floods Appeal



Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support.

Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families.

Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal.

To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit **www.caritas.org.au/nepal** or call **1800 024 413**.

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 24 September, 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 Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

St Hildegard of Bingen stands among the most remarkable figures of the medieval Church. A Benedictine abbess, she lived in twelfth-century Germany and left a legacy that crossed the boundaries of theology, music, medicine, natural science, and spiritual direction. The Church honours her as a Virgin and Doctor of the Church, recognising both her consecrated life and the lasting value of her teaching.

Hildegard was born in 1098 in the Rhineland, in what is now Germany. As a child she was entrusted to the Benedictine community at Disibodenberg, where she was formed in prayer, Scripture, the chanting of the Divine Office, and the rhythm of monastic life. Under the guidance of Jutta of Sponheim, Hildegard learned a spirituality rooted in obedience, contemplation, humility, and the search for God's will.

After Jutta's death in 1136, Hildegard became the leader of the women's community. Her wisdom, discipline, and spiritual insight attracted many others, and around 1150 she founded a new monastery at Rupertsberg. Later, she established another community at Eibingen. These foundations showed not only her courage but also her practical leadership and concern for the spiritual and material wellbeing of her sisters.

Hildegard's learning was astonishing in its range. She wrote theological works, letters to popes, bishops, abbots, political rulers, and ordinary believers, as well as texts on natural science and healing. Her writings reveal a mind deeply shaped by Scripture, liturgy, and the Benedictine tradition, yet also unusually attentive to the natural world and the health of the body.

She was also one of the great composers of the Middle Ages. Her chants, hymns, and sequences are marked by soaring melodies and vivid spiritual imagery. Her musical drama, *Ordo Virtutum*, presents the struggle of the soul between the virtues and evil, and is often regarded as an early morality play. Through music, Hildegard gave voice to theology: song became a way of contemplating divine beauty.

The title "Virgin" honours Hildegard's consecrated life. As a Benedictine nun and abbess, she gave herself wholly to God through prayer, community life, and service. Her virginity was not merely a personal state but a sign of undivided love, spiritual freedom, and dedication to Christ.

The title "Doctor of the Church" is given only to saints whose teaching is judged to be of outstanding importance for the whole Church. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI extended Hildegard's veneration to the universal Church and proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church. She became one of the few women to receive this title, joining the company of saints whose doctrine continues to guide Christian faith and life.

Hildegard remains surprisingly relevant in the modern world. She reminds Christians that faith is not narrow or lifeless, but expansive, beautiful, and intellectually rich. Her attention to creation speaks to contemporary concerns for ecology and stewardship. Her concern for bodily and spiritual health points to an integrated vision of the human person. Her music shows that worship involves beauty as well as truth. Her leadership demonstrates that holiness can be courageous, creative, and practical.

Above all, Hildegard teaches that true wisdom begins in listening to God. She did not seek fame, yet her obedience made her a voice for reform and renewal. She did not hold public office in the usual sense, yet popes, bishops, and rulers listened to her counsel. She did not separate contemplation from action, but allowed prayer to become the source of teaching, creativity, and service.

St Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, shines as a witness to the harmony of holiness, learning, beauty, and courage. Her life shows that the gifts of the Spirit can flourish even in weakness, illness, and difficulty. Her writings, music, and leadership continue to invite believers to see creation as God's work, the Church as Christ's living body, and the soul as called to radiant communion with the living Light.

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.