## JUBILEE OF TEENAGERS

The Jubilee of Teenagers celebrates those aged 13-19, recognising those years as vital in the formation of the person, and highlighting the joy and enthusiasm of teenagers.

From Pope Francis' Message for the Jubilee of Mercy for Young Boys and Girls (6 January, 2016):

"Yours is a time of life which is full of amazing changes. Everything seems possible and impossible all at once. I repeat what I said to some of your friends: "Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage!

… With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals" (Homily at the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, 2013).

"Don't ever lose hope! The Lord has a great dream which, with your help, he wants to come true! Your friends, young people your age living in less trying conditions than your own, have not forgotten you; they are working for peace and justice for everyone everywhere. Don't be taken in by the messages of hatred or terror all around us. Instead, make new friends. Give of your time and always show concern for those who ask your help. Be brave and go against the tide; be friends of Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace (cf. Is 9:6). "Everything in him speaks of mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of compassion" (Misericordiae Vultus, 8)."

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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**PARISH OFFICE**

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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

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

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# FATIMA NEWS

**4nd Sunday of Lent Year C, 30 March 2025**

Greetings to all,

This 4th Sunday of Lent brings us to perhaps the greatest and most profound of all of Jesus' parables. Each of characters in the parable is worthy of hours for us to reflect upon. In this reflection, I would like to focus on the character of the elder son, because in many ways this character is the one that is closest to us.

We can easily identify the problem of the elder son is ingratitude which manifests itself in jealousy and in anger. The elder son was a lucky guy, a blessed individual. He had been born into a wealthy family to a father who loved him deeply, who entrusted to him all that he had. As the father says, "My son, you are with me always, and all I have is yours." Not only was the elder son so loved by his father, he also had his health. The parable says that he had the strength to be out working in the fields. He had friends, because he mentions them as he complains to his father. In so many ways this elder son was blessed time and again.

However, he was not thankful. If he had been thankful, he would have been able to own how loved he was, how gifted he was, how blessed he was. If he could have owned those things, he would have been able to rejoice when his younger brother came home. But because he was ungrateful, and all he could do when his brother returned was to react in jealousy and anger. All he could do was compare himself to his younger brother. He resented the love and joy that was shown to his younger brother because he could not claim the love and joy that were his own possession.

How often are we like that! We are so blessed. We have life, we have our health, we have family and friends, we have good jobs. We live a standard of living which is the envy of the world. The list goes on and on. Yet, by and large, we take all of these things for granted. We are not grateful, at least not actively so. Somehow we presume that all of this is our due. This attitude is dangerous. If a person is not actively thankful, thankfulness fades. And when thankfulness fades, it is replaced by jealousy and anger.

When we are out of touch with how truly blessed we are, we start comparing ourselves to others: "Why can't I be like him? Why can't I have what she has?" In time jealousy overcomes us and robs us of joy. When we are out of touch with the blessings that surround us, we can suddenly burst into rage: "How do those people get away with that? Who does she think she is?" In time anger begins to characterize our life and robs us of joy.

(*continued next page...*)

There are two kinds of people in the world: the person who gets up every morning and says "thank you—thank you for this day, thank you for my life, thank you for the blessings that surround me," and the person who wakes up every morning and begins to complain about what he or she does not have. Everyone one of us is moving towards one or the other of those two people. Each day we move closer to a person who is more thankful, more alive, more joyful, or we move closer to a person who is less grateful, more jealous, more angry.

God has given us life and all the blessings of life. God wants us to celebrate that life. So every day God is holding a celebration, a banquet with music and dancing. Our only choice is whether we will participate in that celebration or sit outside sulking like the elder son. God's celebration of life will go on with us or without us. But if we want to be joyful, if we want to live a full life, there is only one way forward. We must be thankful for the things which are ours, and then we can enter the feast.

Have a blessed week.— *Fr Dang*

**CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT**

Forgiveness should be part of everyone's Lenten journey. God's mercy is unconditional! The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Tuesday at OLOF church from 6pm to 6:30pm.
Our Parish Lenten Confession is celebrated on **Tuesday April 15th from 6pm to 7:30pm** at our Church. We have invited Fr John Fitz Herbert assisting with confession on that evening.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** We will have Stations of the Cross during Lent every Friday at 5:30 pm.

**LENTEN PROGRAMME:** This year the Lenten Program is entitled, "Metanoia". Our meeting is on every Friday during Lent at our parish office at 6pm. We have some books here for anyone who would like a book to reflect on.

## BIG CONGRATS TO OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On behalf of the Parish Community, I would like to extend our CONTRATULATIONS to the children who made their First Holy Communion on this weekend March 29, 2025.

A big shout out to our parents and guardians who worked hard with their children during the sessions. We hope that your experience of sharing in the faith journey with your children, in this Sacramental Program, has been helpful in supporting your role, as parents and guardians, as their first teachers of the Christian faith.

I would also like to commend the wonderful energy and effort of sacramental team, **Sr Hannah and Sr Zelia** for leading the sessions this year. Our sincere thanks to your hard works and commitments in sharing your love of God and the Church to our Children and to **Virginia Sharpe, Seivland Poh** for coordinating behind the scenes. We are also grateful for all of you. Once again, to our kids our sincere CONGRATULATIONS! Fr Dang

## The Prefaces of Lent

The first section of the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass - the part that comes after our response "It is right and just" and before the "Holy, holy" - is called the Preface.
There are 97 Prefaces in the Roman Missal. The common tone of all these Prefaces is one of thanksgiving. In addition, during feasts and seasons of the church year, the Preface always reflects the focus of the celebration.

The Prefaces for the Sundays of Lent serve to reinforce the Gospel readings of the day. For example, the Gospel reading on the second Sunday of Lent is always the account of the transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor, so in the Preface on that day we hear:
- For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death,
- on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory,
- to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets,
- that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.
(Preface for the Second Sunday of Lent)

If we are distracted and our thoughts wander, the Preface can sometimes over before we are aware of it. This is a pity. Listening carefully to the Preface helps us link the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass with the Liturgy of the Word and to participate more fully in the celebration.

## Lent Liturgical Texts

Some of the Mass prayers that we hear during Lent remind us about the purpose of this season of the Church's year and provide material for our personal prayer during the week.

Preface of Lent I (The spiritual meaning of Lent)
For by your gracious gift each year your faithful await the sacred paschal feasts with the joy of minds made pure, so that, more eagerly intent on prayer and on the works of charity, and participating in the mysteries by which they have been reborn, they may be led to the fullness of grace that you bestow on your sons and daughters.

Preface of Lent III (The fruits of abstinence)
For you will that our self-denial should give you thanks, humble our sinful pride, contribute to the feeding of the poor, and so help us imitate you in your kindness.
Prayer over the People Fifth Sunday of Lent
Bless, O Lord, your people, who long for the gift of your mercy, and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire they may receive by your generous gift.

*Elizabeth Harrington*

## 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 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:// brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/

Caritas AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

We pray for those driven away from their homes by violence, persecution or poverty, especially women. May our hearts be open to do all we can to rebuild the lives of others through supporting Caritas Australia and the work of Project Compassion. May we be instruments of God's peace and pilgrims of hope.

Photo: Irene teaches other women how to sew after participating in the Caritas-supported youth empowerment program in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas

## 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.