Cont. from page 3 (St Turibius of Mongrovejo)… St Turibius is also remembered for his compassion and generosity. He provided aid to the sick and poor, personally overseeing the distribution of food and resources. His leadership inspired many, including future saints like St Rose of Lima and St Martin de Porres, who were influenced by his teachings and example.

Turibius died in 1606, leaving behind a legacy of faith, integrity, and social justice. He was canonised in 1726, and his feast day is celebrated on 23 March. Today, St Turibius of Mongrovejo is honoured not only as the patron saint of Latin American bishops, but also as a symbol of the Church's mission to serve and uplift all people. His enduring influence continues to guide Catholic communities throughout Peru and beyond.

A PERSONAL LENTEN RECOLLECTION

This year's Lenten Program gave me the chance to reflect on my own experiences, starting with the hymn "Open My Eyes Lord," which helped connect scripture to everyday life. The program led me to strengthen my faith, showing me that God is always present - not just a destination to reach. Motivating facilitators and engaging in group conversations encouraged me to practice my faith daily. Each morning or evening at home, I began with prayer and reflection. Just as a GPS makes travel easier, following Jesus Christ guides us toward true happiness and eternal life.

On the **First Sunday of Lent,** I thought back to a period marked by job uncertainty and spiritual dryness. During that time, temptation made shortcuts and seeking approval from others seem tempting, but Jesus' example inspired me to trust in God's timing. As retirement approached, concerns about my mortgage led me to work two jobs, yet financial stress remained. This strain impacted my faith, making prayers difficult and causing me to focus more on rules than their true intent. Then, when my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, I felt overwhelmed by the fear of losing her too soon. However, through persistent prayer, I became aware of God's presence and greater plan for me, discovering my capacity for love and service. I realized that God has a purpose for every moment and that His timing is always perfect - especially when my hopes and healing were fulfilled.

The gospel reading for the **Second Sunday of Lent** emphasizes the Transfiguration, demonstrating that, despite periods of uncertainty, moments of divine revelation serve to strengthen faith. Similar to Peter, James, and John on the mountain, individuals may not always fully grasp the importance of such experiences; nonetheless, it is advisable to trust, listen carefully, and actively engage.

There have been instances in my own life characterized by significant uncertainty. While solitude often aids concentration during creative endeavors by reducing distractions, it can occasionally hinder sustained focus. For example, initiating a graphic arts project involves navigating complexities related to integrating multiple photographs, texts, colors, and visual elements into a cohesive composition - a process requiring both creativity and diligence. Prayer serves as an avenue through which I seek affirmation of God's presence, request guidance to trust His timing, cultivate humility for attentive listening, and remain receptive to transformation, even if it manifests subtly. I acknowledge having encountered personal "transfiguration moments," where the evidence of God's presence was unmistakable, albeit brief.

The **Third Sunday of Lent** invites us into a deeper encounter with God's mercy and truth. By this point in the Lenten journey, the initial enthusiasm of our commitments may have faded, and we might feel the weight of our weaknesses, our fears and lack of confidence. In John 4:14, Jesus says, 'Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. This remind me that God meets us precisely in our thirst — not just for water, but for meaning, forgiveness, and renewal.

Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we're invited to bring our entire selves before Jesus—both strengths and weaknesses. Rather than condemning, He offers restorative living water. I also have times when I try to hide my flaws from others.

I want to share scriptures during the session, but fear and self-doubt often stop me. By admitting my struggles, I see Jesus' promise of "living water" as essential. Sometimes a brief prayer before sharing gives me encouragement. Like her, I am called to share this experience with others.

The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** readings highlight God's determination to bring light into our darkness and assure us that spiritual blind spots like habits, fears, or wounds - recognizing these areas in myself, I find hope in the Gospel story. Like the man healed in the Gospel, we are invited to let Christ open our eyes, seeing both Him and others with greater compassion and truth. This Sunday inspires me to persevere and avoid habits. If I notice myself slipping into a negative habit this week, I'll stop for a moment and make a conscious effort to find a better alternative. Reading about the man born blind reminds me of my own times of spiritual darkness and struggles, but Jesus' words affirm that hardships can reveal God's glory. The man's growing courage encourages me to speak truth about Christ's work in my life, even when it is difficult.

The **Fifth Week of Lent** marks a period for personal renewal. I've experienced discouragement, spiritual dryness, and times that seemed hopeless. One night, I was weighed down by work and doubt, unsure if my prayers mattered. But hope started to return through prayer, acts of kindness, and rediscovering my purpose. The story of Lazarus stands out—Jesus grieves before his miracle, showing God's deep understanding of our pain. This encourages us to let go of fear, resentment, and uncertainty. Just as Martha and Mary were heartbroken in the Lazarus story, my own challenges have shown me how important hope is when facing despair.

As Holy Week approaches, I'm inspired to believe in God's ability to create new beginnings and free me from anything that keeps me stuck. I want to embrace new possibilities, even in uncertain times. This Lent has been the most profound I've ever had.—*Efren Altez*

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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nguyend@bne.catholic.net.au
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Efren Altez
Liturgy/Newsletter (Volunteer)
Seivland Poh
Safeguarding Officer (Volunteer)
lsr.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

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Acacia Ridge QLD 4110
Hours Monday (Closed)
Tuesday to Friday -
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Telephone 07 3274 5513
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

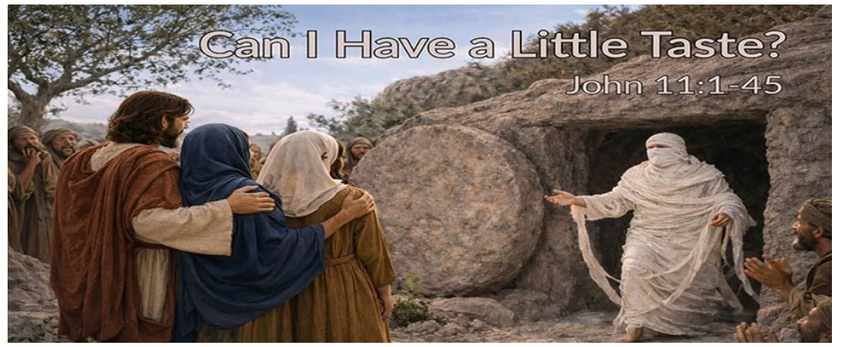
Please check out our Parish Webpage and Facebook Page for regular updates.

LIKE US ON facebook

Lent article on John 11 - I am the Resurrection and the life

In this Sunday's Gospel from John, we encounter a deeply human story of love, loss, and hope. Martha and Mary send a message to Jesus about their brother Lazarus: ***"Lord, the one you love is ill."*** **Their message is simple and full of trust — yet Jesus does not rush.** He waits two more days before going to Bethany.

We, too, **often pray and hope for God's help, only to feel that he is silent or slow to respond**. This can be especially difficult when someone we love is suffering. Yet Jesus reminds us that even when we do not understand what is happening, **God is still at work:** ***"This illness is not to end in death but is for the glory of God."*** What feels like waiting may, in fact, be the space where God is preparing something greater than we can yet see.



By the time Jesus arrives, Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days. Martha meets him with both honesty and faith: ***"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*** Her words echo our own experience — **believing, yet questioning, hoping, yet grieving.** Jesus does not offer explanations. Instead, he offers himself: ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."*** In him, life and hope are never lost, even in the face of death.

Jesus is deeply moved by the sorrow around him. He weeps. In this moment, we see that God is not distant from our suffering. He enters into it, sharing our pain. And then, with divine authority and compassion, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb. **Life overcomes death**. Light breaks into darkness. Hope is restored.

This Gospel reminds me of **Saint Bernadette Soubirous**, a young girl from Lourdes, France. In 1858, Bernadette experienced visions of the Virgin Mary. Many doubted her, and even those closest to her struggled to understand. Yet **Bernadette trusted completely.** Through her faith and obedience, she led others to the spring at Lourdes, which has since brought healing and hope to countless people. Like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, Bernadette's story reminds us that trusting God — especially when the path is unclear — can lead to new life in unexpected ways.

As we reflect on this Gospel, we might ask ourselves: **Where in my life is God inviting me to trust more deeply, even when I do not understand what he is doing?** In our struggles, in our waiting, and even in moments of doubt, **Jesus is present.** He calls us by name, inviting us to step out of whatever holds us back and to walk in the light of his life — **just as he called Lazarus from the tomb.**

Have a blessed Sunday.
Deacon Hugo

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

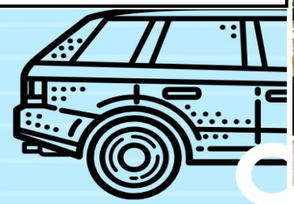
Stations of the Cross and Lenten Program

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us for the Stations of the Cross and Parish Lenten Program every Friday during Lent. Please come along and journey with us in prayer and reflection as we prepare for Easter. All are welcome.

Caritas AUSTRALIA — PROJECT COMPASSION — rosary.catholic.edu.au

A practical and life-giving expression of Lent is our call to generosity and sacrifice in support of those less fortunate through the Project Compassion Appeal. This is something every individual and family can take part in, with a single envelope for the whole season of Lent available at the entrance of each church.

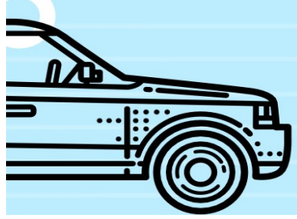
OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC PARISH Acacia Ridge



YOUTH CARWASH!

28th of March 9am - 5pm

Dirty car? Come to our Youth Car Wash and enjoy a sausage sizzle!



SERVICES
Cars: $30
SUV: $40
Vacuum: $10

Our prayers are with those who are suffering illness at this time. May God's presence nourish and strengthen you. We also pray for the recently deceased especially **Juanito Tacujan**, brother of Carmela Tapay, may he find peace and joy in God's eternal kingdom.

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/

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 26 March, 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.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC PARISH Acacia Ridge

Easter Fun Day

BE A PART OF THE FESTIVITIES!
SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2PM - 4PM
OUR LADY OF FATIMA HALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
AUVAAL@BNE.CATHOLIC.NET.AU

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

The Annunciation of the Lord is a pivotal event in Christian tradition, commemorated on 25 March each year. It marks the moment when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a young woman living in Nazareth, to deliver the news that she would conceive and bear a son, Jesus, who would be called the Son of God. This encounter, described in the Gospel of Luke, is celebrated as a turning point that heralded the incarnation of Christ and the unfolding of God's plan for humanity.

The story of the Annunciation is rich in symbolism and theological meaning. Gabriel's greeting, 'Hail Mary, full of grace,' has become one of the most well-known prayers in Christianity. Mary's response—her willingness to accept God's will despite uncertainty—demonstrates profound faith and obedience. The event is not only central to the Catholic and Orthodox liturgical calendars but is also recognised in Anglican and other Christian traditions as a day of reflection and celebration.

In Australia, the Annunciation is observed through church services, prayers, and community gatherings. Many churches display artwork depicting Gabriel and Mary, and the day is often used to emphasise themes of hope, humility, and the importance of saying 'yes' to God's calling, whatever form it may take. The Annunciation also reminds believers of the humanity and divinity of Jesus, encapsulated in the mystery of the incarnation.

Overall, the Annunciation of the Lord stands as a testament to faith, courage, and divine promise. Its observance encourages Christians to pause and reflect on the power of God's message and the role of Mary as a model of discipleship. Whether through liturgy, art, or personal prayer, the story continues to inspire and shape the faith journey of millions around the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday March 22nd, 9 AM Mass: Presentation of the Creed to the Elects

Tuesday March 24th from 6pm to 7:30pm: Parish Lenten Confession

Sunday March 29th— Passion Sunday

CATHOLIC BREAKFAST (SPANISH GROUP)
AVOCADO ROOM
OUR LADY OF LOURDES
121 MAINS RD
SUNNYBANK
PH: (07) 3345 3766
LED BY:
DEACON HUGO SILVA
SAT 28 MARCH 8:30AM TO 11AM
COST : $15 PER PERSON
CONTACT: MARTA
RSVP BY: 22 MARCH

Sacramental Program 2026

Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Holy Communion (for Grade 4 or older)

ENROLMENT via WEBSITE: OR Scan QR code to enrol
LAST DAY TO ENROL: 13th April, Monday
INFORMATION EVENING: 22nd April, Wednesday, 6pm-7pm
RITE OF ENROLMENT: 2nd May, Saturday, 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)
OR 3rd May, Sunday, 9am (Mass)
HOLY COMMUNION FORMATION CLASSES:
29th April, Wednesday, 6-7pm
6th May, Wednesday, 6-7pm
13th May, Wednesday, 6-7pm
RECONCILIATION CLASS: 20th May, Wednesday, 6-7pm
RECONCILIATION CELEBRATION: 27th May, Wednesday, 6-7pm
REHEARSAL: 3rd June, Wednesday, 6-7pm

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish
fatimaacaciaridge.org.au
sc.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Saint of the Week: St Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop.

St Turibius of Mongrovejo, born in Spain in 1538, is widely regarded as one of the most influential bishops in the history of Latin America. Originally a layman and a respected professor of law, Turibius was unexpectedly appointed Archbishop of Lima in 1580, a role he accepted with humility and dedication. He sailed to Peru and quickly became known for his unwavering commitment to justice and the spiritual welfare of the people.

Upon arriving in Lima, Turibius embarked on extensive pastoral visits, often travelling through challenging terrain to reach remote communities. He was renowned for his advocacy of indigenous rights, striving to protect the native population from exploitation and abuse by colonial authorities. Turibius learned local languages, including Quechua, so he could communicate directly with those he served, a rare and admirable effort for his time.

As bishop, Turibius established numerous parishes, built schools, and promoted the training of clergy to ensure the Church's message was accessible and relevant. He convened important synods that shaped church policy and discipline, ensuring that priests and laypeople alike followed ethical and spiritual standards. His reforms fostered a vibrant Catholic community and laid the groundwork for future generations.

(Continued next page)