Australian bishops welcome Pope Leo XIV

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost as the Pope, now to be known by the name Leo XIV.

This represents a momentous event in the life of the Catholic Church, the wider community of Christian believers and, in many respects, the whole world.

Conference President, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, said the Catholic Church in Australia offered its heartfelt congratulations.

"The election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV is yet again a sign of the wisdom behind the Italian saying that 'those who enter the conclave as a pope inevitably emerge from the conclave as a cardinal'," Archbishop Costelloe said.

"He will be warmly welcomed by the Church in Latin America, as Pope Francis was, by the Church in the United States from where he comes, from the English-speaking world as a native English speaker, and from the whole Church as a man of God steeped in the rich spirituality of his Augustinian Religious Order.

Archbishop Costelloe said the new pope would guide the Church with renewed hope and strength.

"Recent Popes have sought ways to be of service to the wider Christian family and we can expect that Pope Leo XIV will follow this same path. The growing sense of unity and common purpose, already evident among Christians, can be a powerful countersign to the fragmentation we see in so many societies and communities."

Archbishop Costelloe said Pope Francis had "reminded us that unity does not demand uniformity, but rather openness to the rich diversity of the many cultures and traditions which are part of our Christian heritage".

Pope Leo XIV paid tribute to Pope Francis in his first remarks, which focused on peace. "Peace be with all of you," he said. He urged the faithful to "move forward, without fear, united, hand in hand with God and with each other".

Background:

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, OSA, will be the first Pope from the United States.

The Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, Archbishop-Bishop emeritus of Chiclayo, was born on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

In 1977 he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Augustine (OSA) in the province of Our Lady of Good Counsel, in Saint Louis.

In August 1981 he gave his solemn vows. He studied at the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, receiving a diploma in theology.

At the age of 27 he was sent by the Order to Rome to study canon law at the Pontifical Saint Thomas Aquinas University (Angelicum). He received priestly ordination on June 19, 1982. He received his licentiate in 1984 and was then sent to work in the mission of Chulucanas, in Piura, Peru (1985-1986).

In 1987 he was awarded a doctorate with the thesis: "The role of the local prior in the Order of Saint Augustine".

In 1999 he was elected provincial prior of the "Mother of Good Counsel" province, Chicago. After two and a half years, the ordinary general Chapter elected him prior general, a ministry again entrusted to him in the 2007 ordinary general Chapter.

In October 2013 he returned to his province (Chicago) to serve as teacher of the professed and provincial vicar, roles he held in November 2014 when Pope Francis appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, elevating him to bishop and assigning him the titular diocese of Sufar.

He served as bishop of Chiclayo from November 26, 2015. In March 2018 he became second vice president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference. Pope Francis appointed him a member of the Congregation for the Clergy in 2019, and member of the Congregation for Bishops in 2020.

On April 15, 2020, the Pope appointed him apostolic administrator of the diocese of Callao.

On January 30, 2023, Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Prevost as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

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 (Volunteer)
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
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

FATIMA NEWS

Easter Sunday
HE IS RISEN

5th Sunday of Easter, Year C
18 May 2025

Greetings to all,

In the gospel of this Sunday, Jesus gives us a new commandment to love one another. Usually when we think of the word "love," we think of romance, of feelings and so on. But love is more than warm affection and sensual intimacy. There is a larger meaning to love which is revealed in today's gospel, as Jesus commands us: we are to love as he has loved us.

So how has Jesus loved? With warm affection? Of course. But more than that, Jesus loved until it cost him. He loved all the way to the cross and death. In this action of sacrifice, in this action of love, the reign of God has begun in our midst. Evil is being destroyed. God's will is being established among us. So in Jesus, love is more than kind regards. Love is action. Love is more than sentimental feelings. Love is power, the power to change the world.

Interestingly, after giving the commandment of love, Jesus then says "By this all will know that you are my disciples." Jesus seems to be saying that there is something in our loving which will set us apart, something that will make us different. But how can this be, if loving is what everyone is doing? Clearly, Jesus' words reveal that he has a specific kind of love in mind, a love which is other than the love on which everyone agrees, a love which makes us distinctive.

The context in which Jesus gives the commandment of love is also interesting. The gospel tells us that Jesus gives this new commandment "when Judas had left them." The commandment to love is given in the context of betrayal. Even as Jesus knows that Judas is on his way to hand him over, Jesus commands his disciples to love one another. And he doesn't say, "Love one another *except for Judas*."

It certainly gives us a hint that the kind of love Jesus commands goes beyond the love that everyone accepts, beyond the love of family and friends. Jesus is asking us to love our betrayer. Jesus is asking us to love the people who do not love us, to love the people who have hurt us.

This is not an easy thing to do. So do not become comfortable with Jesus' command to love one another. It is a disturbing, countercultural command that asks us to show mercy to those who are guilty, to show respect to those who hurt us, to refuse to do violence to those who have done violence to us.

Speaking this kind of love in our society, would appear strange to some and nonsense to others. Many would ignore us or reject us for promoting it. But this is sure that we are to love in this way, we are to love as Jesus commands us, no one could doubt that we are his disciples.

Have a blessed week, Fr Dang

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

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

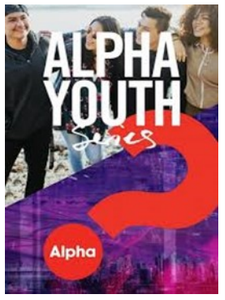
The Safeguarding Commitment for the Archdiocese of Brisbane and Our Lady of Fatima Parish is: Zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to safeguard all who interact with its ministries & services. Special priority is given to the safety & wellbeing of children & adults at risk. In an emergency, 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 LADY OF FATIMA YOUTH GROUP

Our Parish Youth Group is taking part Youth Alpha Series. It opens to young people from year 13 up to 25 years of age.

Not sure what Youth Alpha is all about?

It's a series of interactive sessions designed to engage young people in conversations about life, faith and Jesus. Each week deals with a topic of faith, like, 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why Should I Read the Bible', and 'Does God Heal Today?'. Come and join us!



Contact details:
Lawrence: 0434763218
Parish email: 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.

Our Lady of Fatima Primary School

Greetings from the staff and students of Our Lady of Fatima School!

We have all settled in well to Term 2. Our School Principal, Mrs Cheesman and I have begun the process of interviewing new student for the 2026 school year. If you wish to enrol your children in the OLOF school, please head to this website and complete the Online Enrolment Form:

https://www.ourladyoffatima.qld.edu.au/Enrolments/Pages/Enrolment-Information.aspx

OLOF Mother's Day celebration – 8th May

On Thursday 8th May the OLOF School Community gathered in the Church to share the Mother's Day celebration. It was wonderful to join together in prayer inside the Church, then share a hot drink and refreshments together. On behalf of the school community, I would like to express our gratitude to Fr Dang and the Parish volunteers for providing the coffee and tea.

Our Lady of Fatima Feast Day – 13th May

On Tuesday 13th May, we gathered as a Parish and School community as we celebrated the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima. The students attended Mass with Fr Dang and Deacon Hugo in the Church. We also welcomed two special guests, the Consul General of Portugal and the Honorary Consul of Portugal in Queensland. As part of the Feast Day celebration, students also enjoyed a sausage sizzle provided by the school staff. Here are some photos of our celebrations:

Understanding Purgatory: A Biblical and Theological Apology

Purgatory is often misunderstood, even among Christians. While Protestants and Catholics both affirm that Jesus Christ's death and resurrection brought salvation to humanity, the Catholic Church teaches that, although Christ opened the gates of Heaven, the soul must be fully purified to enter into the perfect holiness of God. This purification process—known as Purgatory—is not explicitly named in Scripture but is deeply rooted in biblical principles, early Church Tradition, and theological reasoning. Let's explore this fascinating topic.

Purgatory: A Word Not Found in Scripture, But a Reality Revealed

Purgatory is often misunderstood, even among Christians. While Protestants and Catholics both affirm that Jesus Christ's death and resurrection brought salvation to humanity, the Catholic Church teaches that, although Christ opened the gates of Heaven, the soul must be fully purified to enter into the perfect holiness of God. This purification process—called ***Purgatory***—is not eternal punishment but a temporary state of cleansing for souls who have died in God's grace yet still need to be purified from the lingering effects of sin. Though the word ***"Purgatory"*** is not explicitly named in Scripture, just as the word ***"Trinity"*** is not, the concept is deeply rooted in biblical principles, early Church Tradition, and theological reasoning. Purgatory is not a second chance after death, nor is it punishment in the sense of damnation. Rather, it is a merciful act of God through which the soul—already destined for Heaven—is purified, so that it may enter into the fullness of God's holiness.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) explains:

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030)

Reflection by Dc. Hugo Silva (To be continued…)

Mary Help of Christians

The Feast of Mary Help of Christians is celebrated on May 24. This tradition goes back to 1571, when the whole of Christendom was saved by Mary Help of Christians while Catholics throughout Europe prayed the Rosary.

In the image of Mary Help of Christians, both Mary and the child Jesus wear crowns, a sign that they share the glory of the kingdom of God.

Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the new Church of Australia in 1844, at a significant time in this country's history. The transportation of convicts was coming to an end, the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843, and issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface.

In the 21st century the Church continues to face the call and challenge of witnessing to the values of the gospel as Australia confront many social issues. Hence, recourse to our national patron, Mary Help of Christians, is as relevant and necessary today as it has ever been. The Collect for the Feast asks God, through the intercession of Our Lady, Help of Christians, to grant "wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens, so that, under her protection, Australia may know harmony, justice and peace". Amen!

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

The members of St Vincent de Paul Acacia Ridge are planning to hold its winter appeal on the weekend of the **14/15 June.**

Your financial help at this time would be greatly appreciated.

There are many poor in our parish who are really struggling to put food on the table for their children. We the members can do little to provide the necessities for these families without your financial support.

You can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to the poor in the parish. We have no administrative costs.

St Vincent de Paul said that "serving the poor is serving Jesus"