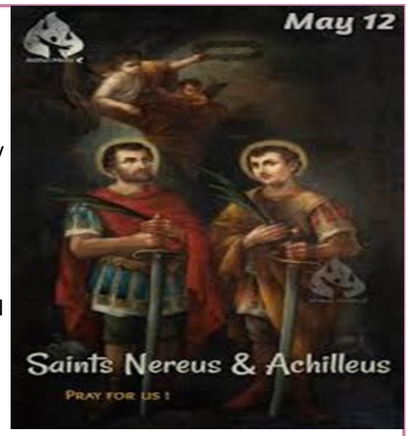
Saint of the Week:
St Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs.



St Nereus and Achilleus are celebrated as early Christian martyrs, whose steadfast faith and ultimate sacrifice have inspired generations of believers. Their story is a testament to courage in the face of persecution and the enduring power of conviction.

Nereus and Achilleus were Roman soldiers in the 1st or 2nd century, often linked to the household of Flavia Domitilla, a noblewoman of imperial lineage. According to tradition, both men converted to Christianity, reputedly after being moved by the teachings and example of the early Christian community. Their newfound faith compelled them to renounce violence and military service, which was a radical choice in the Roman Empire, where loyalty to the emperor and participation in state religion were expected of all soldiers.

Their refusal to participate in pagan sacrifices and military duties brought them under suspicion and ultimately led to their arrest. Despite torture and the threat of death, Nereus and Achilleus remained resolute, choosing to uphold their faith rather than compromise their beliefs. They were executed, most likely by beheading, and became revered as martyrs—witnesses to the strength and resilience of the early Christian faith.

The veneration of St Nereus and Achilleus began early, with a basilica built over their burial site in the Catacomb of Domitilla along the Via Ardeatina in Rome. Their memory is honoured each year on 12 May, a date observed in the liturgical calendar by both the Roman Catholic and some Eastern Christian traditions. Over centuries, their story has symbolised the virtues of courage, loyalty to conscience, and the transformative power of faith.

St Nereus and Achilleus stand as enduring examples of faithfulness and moral conviction, refusing to yield even under the threat of death. Their legacy continues to inspire Christians around the world, reminding us of the cost—and the profound meaning—of true discipleship.

Together we can keep the faith alive
Aid to the Church in Need (*ACN)*

Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction.

This weekend we welcome to our parish an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.

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
2 May 2026
5th Sunday of Easter

Fifth Sunday of Easter (3 May 2026) – Gospel of John 14:1–12
"Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled: Trusting the Risen Lord"

On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, in Cycle A of the liturgical calendar, we are given a deeply encouraging passage from the Gospel of John. These words come from what is known as the Farewell Discourse, spoken by Jesus during the Last Supper.

The moment is important. Jesus has already washed the disciples' feet. Judas has gone out to betray him. Peter has made his sincere, but fragile, promise of loyalty. There is a quiet tension in the room. The Passion is near, and the disciples are about to be tested in a way they do not yet fully understand.

In John's Gospel, this section is often seen as unfolding in three parts: the Farewell Meal, the Farewell Discourse, and the Farewell Prayer. What makes this moment unique is that Jesus is not explaining something that has already happened—He is preparing His disciples for what is about to come: ***His Passion, His Death, and His Resurrection.***

"And yet, the Church gives us this Gospel after Easter—not by accident, but so that we hear it in the light of the Resurrection."

Because of this, we hear these words now as people who already know the end of the story. We know that Christ has risen. We know that death did not have the final word. And still, like the disciples, we can struggle to understand what it means that Jesus has "gone to the Father," and how He remains with us.

The disciples themselves are caught in that difficult moment. **There is hope—but also confusion**. **There is love—but also fear of losing Him**. And it is precisely there that Jesus speaks:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled."

It is not just a command—it is an invitation. **An invitation to trust, even when we do not fully understand**. That speaks directly into our own lives. We also live in times of uncertainty. There is so much noise, so many voices, so many lies and at times it can feel difficult to know what is true or where to turn. Like Thomas, we may find ourselves asking honestly: **"How can we know the way?"**

Jesus does not give a complicated answer. He simply says: **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."** He does not offer a path to follow from a distance—**He offers Himself.** To believe in Jesus is not just to accept an idea, but to **enter into a relationship**. And that relationship becomes an anchor, especially when life feels unclear.

(*Continued next page*)

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

Jesus also reassures His disciples that His "going away" is not abandonment. **Through His union with the Father and the gift of the Holy Spirit, His presence becomes even deeper.** He remains with us—not in a limited way, but in a living and active way. And even more, He invites us into His mission. The works He began do not end—they continue through those who believe in Him.

As we reflect on this Gospel today, **we are gently invited to move from confusion to trust**. The same Lord who strengthened His disciples then is the one who strengthens us now. In Him, our troubled hearts can find peace. And in following Him, we discover not only the way—but the life that truly satisfies.

Peace.
Deacon Hugo

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 7 May, 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/

The Month of May: A Special Devotion to Mary

For centuries, the month of May has held a special place in the hearts of Catholics and many other Christians around the world, being dedicated to the veneration and honour of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This tradition, deeply rooted in faith and cherished across generations, transforms May into a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and communal prayer.

The origins of dedicating May to Mary are believed to date back to at least the 13th century in medieval Europe, but the custom as we know it today gained widespread popularity in the 18th and 19th centuries. This period saw a flourishing of Marian devotion, with May chosen as a fitting time due to its association with spring in the northern hemisphere—a season symbolising new life, hope, and beauty. For Australians, May's autumnal setting offers a different context, yet the focus on renewal and spiritual growth remains just as meaningful.

One of the most beloved aspects of Marian devotion in May, many families embrace the tradition of creating a sacred space in their homes. This small, decorated space, often featuring a statue or picture of Mary, becomes a focal point for daily prayers, rosaries, and the lighting of candles. Such domestic rituals not only nurture a sense of reverence but also help to integrate faith into everyday life, reminding all present of Mary's maternal care and her example of humility, obedience, and trust in God.

The recitation of the Rosary is especially encouraged in May. This meditative prayer, centred on the life of Christ and the mysteries of salvation, draws believers into deeper contemplation and intercession, with Mary as a guiding companion. Many Australian parishes organise special rosary gatherings, processions, and Marian devotions during the month, inviting the faithful to come together in prayer for peace, healing, and the needs of the world.

Marian devotion in May is not merely a sentimental observance; it is a powerful expression of faith and hope. In turning to Mary, people seek her intercession and comfort, especially in times of difficulty or uncertainty. Her example encourages believers to say "yes" to God's will, to serve others with compassion, and to trust in divine providence.

As May unfolds each year, the devotion to Mary unites communities, renews hearts, and draws believers closer to Christ. It serves as a gentle reminder that, in the journey of faith, no one walks alone—Mary, as a loving mother and faithful companion, walks beside us, guiding, protecting, and interceding on our behalf.

For many Australians, the month of May is also a time to reflect on Mary's qualities—her humility, faith, and obedience to God—and to try to emulate these virtues in daily life. By drawing closer to Mary, believers hope to deepen their relationship with Jesus and live out their faith with greater courage and compassion.

Full Participation in the Liturgy

Full participation in the liturgy is a concept that sits at the very heart of the Catholic Church's understanding of communal worship. The idea traces its roots to the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which highlighted the importance of the faithful not merely attending liturgical celebrations, but actively engaging with them. This means that every person present is called to be more than a passive observer; rather, all are encouraged to join in the prayers, responses, singing, and actions of the liturgy.

Active participation involves both external and internal dimensions. Externally, it may look like joining in the hymns, making the sign of the cross, kneeling, and standing together as a community. Internally, it is about opening one's heart and mind to the spiritual realities being celebrated, listening attentively to the readings, and reflecting on the homily. It's about bringing one's own intentions, experiences, and needs to the altar, uniting them with the sacrifice of Christ.

The value of full, conscious, and active participation is that it fosters a greater sense of unity among the gathered community. When everyone takes part, the liturgy becomes a truly communal act, reflecting the Church as the Body of Christ. This unity is not just symbolic, but transformative, shaping the faithful to carry the spirit of the liturgy into their daily lives.

Ultimately, full participation in the liturgy is not about perfection in ritual or performance, but about each person's sincere desire to encounter God and each other. It is an invitation to be present, to listen, to respond, and to offer oneself, drawing the entire community deeper into the mystery and joy of worship.