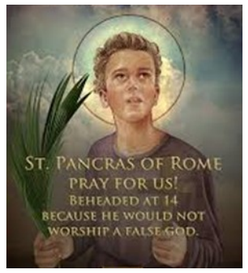
Saint of the Week: St Pancras, The Young Roman Martyr



St Pancras, known as Pancratius in Latin, is one of the early Christian martyrs whose story has inspired countless generations. Born around 289 AD in Phrygia (modern-day Turkey), Pancras was orphaned at a young age and moved to Rome with his uncle. Despite his youth, Pancras became renowned for his unwavering Christian faith during a time when Christians faced severe persecution under Roman Emperor Diocletian.

At just 14 years old, Pancras' commitment to Christianity caught the attention of Roman authorities. Refusing to renounce his beliefs or offer sacrifices to Roman gods, he was sentenced to death. His execution is believed to have taken place around 303 AD, making him one of the youngest Christian martyrs. Pancras' courageous stand in the face of mortal danger quickly led to his veneration among early Christians, and his name became synonymous with youthful faith and resilience.

St Pancras' legacy endured long after his death. A basilica was constructed over his supposed burial site in Rome, the Basilica of San Pancrazio, which remains an important pilgrimage site. His feast day is celebrated on 12 May, especially in Catholic and Orthodox traditions, and he is regarded as the patron saint of children, oath-keepers, and those seeking employment.

The story of St Pancras serves as a powerful reminder of the strength of conviction and the enduring impact of youthful courage in the face of adversity. Even today, his example continues to inspire the faithful and those who value integrity and bravery.

Parish Youth Ministry: Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser at Bunnings

On behalf of our parish leadership team, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the youths who enthusiastically took part in the sausage sizzle at Bunnings last Saturday. Your energy, teamwork, and friendly faces brought our community together and made the day a fantastic success.

Thanks to your dedication and the support from parishioners and friends, we raised a total of $2,577.45 through the sausage sizzle. After covering necessary expenses for materials, the net benefit comes to an impressive $1,577.45.

This result wouldn't have been possible without the effort and commitment of our young people. I encourage everyone to continue supporting our youth and their wonderful contributions to the life of our parish. Fr Dang

OUR LADY FATIMA PARISH

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

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PARISH OFFICE

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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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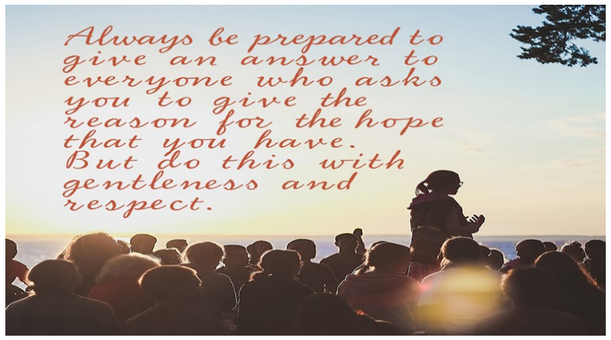
FATIMA NEWS Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

Greetings to all,

St. Augustine is one of the great theologians of our Catholic tradition. He was always trying to understand God more deeply and to appreciate God's power more fully. There is a story about Augustine that one day he was walking along the beach, and ahead of him he saw a young boy who was playing in the sand. The boy had dug a hole in the sand and now was running to the water with a seashell that he filled with water, carried the water back to the hole, and poured it in. He repeated this action over and over.



When Augustine reached the boy, he said, "My child, what are you trying to do?" The boy said, "I am taking all the water of the ocean and pouring it into this hole." Augustine laughed. "That's impossible," he said, "There is too much water in the ocean." "No, no," the boy said, "I am getting better at it, and soon I will be able to run back and forth much more quickly." "It's still impossible," said Augustine. "You cannot empty all the water of the ocean into that hole." With those words the boy was transformed into an angelic messenger and said to Augustine, "It would be easier for a boy to empty the ocean with a seashell than for you to adequately understand the greatness and the power of God."

This story serves as a powerful reminder that God's greatness far surpasses our own understanding. No matter how hard we strive, we can never fully grasp the extent of what God is able to do. This truth gives us hope. In today's second reading, St Peter says: "Always be ready to offer an explanation for a reason for your hope." What is that reason? Simply put, it is the boundless greatness of God. Even when we face seemingly impossible or overwhelming situations, we trust that God is beyond our limitations and can act in ways we cannot even imagine.

When we witness violence in the world—in places like the Holy Land, Lebanon, Iran, and Ukraine,—we may feel helpless, convinced that the cycle of conflict is beyond our control. Yet, as people of hope, we remember that God is greater than any circumstance. God's perspective is broader than ours, and God can intervene in unexpected ways. Let us join with the intention of Pope Leo and continue to pray for peace and an end to violence.

We might also struggle with challenges within our own families— jealousy, resentment or division. Perhaps, despite our best efforts, we haven't been able to heal these wounds, and we feel tempted to give up, thinking, "There's no hope for unity in my family." But our hope remains because our God is greater than all these struggles. God can transform hearts and inspire new ways of thinking, and is always working towards reconciliation in our relationships.

No matter how tough our situation may be, God's power is greater than any force against us. That's why we continue as people of hope. Even when we can't see a path forward, we trust that God already knows the way and is bringing us closer to healing and salvation. Have a Blessed Week, Fr Dang

Thinking About Faith? You're Invited

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Parish
Acacia Ridge

RCIA
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA Formation begins: Monday 25th May

2nd & 4th Monday each month @ 7pm

Parish Office

Are you wondering about the Catholic faith? Sensing a quiet invitation? **RCIA** is a welcoming journey offering space to listen, ask questions, and grow in Faith.
"Come and see."
(John 1:39)

Enquire Today!

(07) 3274 5513 Parish or email acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Program Facilitators: Deacon Hugo Silva & Margarita Silva

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 21 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/

Mother's Day Blessings

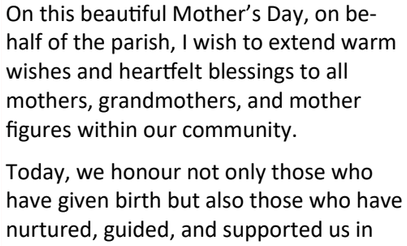
On this beautiful Mother's Day, on behalf of the parish, I wish to extend warm wishes and heartfelt blessings to all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures within our community.

Today, we honour not only those who have given birth but also those who have nurtured, guided, and supported us in countless ways.

To every mum, nan, and cherished mother figure, may God's grace fill your hearts with joy. Your kindness and strength inspire us daily, and we are grateful for the care you give so selflessly. Whether you are celebrating with loved ones or remembering mothers who have gone before us, know that you are held in our prayers and are deeply appreciated.

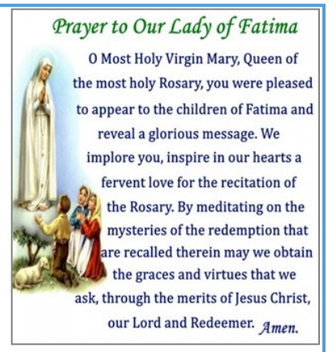
Let us take a moment to thank the Lord for the gift of motherhood and for all women who reflect His love in our lives.

May this Mother's Day bring you peace, happiness, and the assurance that you are treasured. Happy Mother's Day to each and every one of you!



The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Each year on 13 May, Catholic communities around the world gather to commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a day imbued with profound spiritual significance and hope. For our parish, this feast holds particular importance, marking not only a global celebration but also our own parish's special day. The story of Our Lady of Fatima is one that has inspired faith, prayer, and devotion for generations, forming the heart of our parish's identity and drawing us together in unity and reverence.



The origins of the feast trace back to 1917, when three shepherd children—Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta—reported apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary near Fatima, a small village in Portugal. Over six months, the children received messages from Mary urging repentance, prayer for peace, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart. These apparitions culminated in the "Miracle of the Sun" witnessed by thousands, a phenomenon that strengthened belief in the authenticity of the children's visions. Since then, Fatima has become a pilgrimage site, and the message of Our Lady continues to resonate deeply within the Catholic tradition.

For our parish, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima is more than just a date on the liturgical calendar—it is a time for spiritual renewal and communal celebration.

To mark the feast day of our parish, number of parishioners come together to pray the Rosary of Novena in evenings.

Adding to the significance of the celebration, the archbishop has announced his intention to join our parish for the feast. Though his busy schedule prevents him from attending on the actual feast day, he will honour us by celebrating with our community on 14 June.

This visit is eagerly anticipated by all, as it underscores the importance of our parish in the broader archdiocese and offers a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to connect with the Archbishop in person.

As we prepare for the Archbishop's visit, our parish continues to embrace the spirit of Our Lady of Fatima, encouraging prayer, reflection, and acts of charity. The upcoming gathering promises to be a memorable occasion, filled with gratitude, joy, and renewed commitment to our shared faith journey. We look forward to welcoming the Archbishop and celebrating together as a vibrant, united community.

THE EUCHARIST: DOING WHAT JESUS DID

The Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass is based on what Jesus did at the Last Supper. The Gospel accounts tell us that Christ **took** the bread and the cup of wine and **gave thanks** to God for them; he **broke** the bread and **shared** the bread and wine with his disciples.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the Preparation of the Gifts when the bread and wine are **taken** forward, placed on the altar and prayed over. Along with the bread and wine we offer ourselves to God and as the bread and wine are blessed, we too are blessed by God.

In the Eucharistic Prayer, which is the centre and high point of the celebration of the Mass, we **give thanks** to God for the gifts of bread and wine and for the whole work of salvation.

After the sign of peace, the celebrant **breaks** the bread. Early Christians considered that this part of the ritual was so important that they called their Sunday gathering "the breaking of the bread". The breaking of the bread into many pieces signifies that we are made one when we receive Communion from the one loaf. The Lamb of God litany accompanies the action of the breaking of the bread.

In the communion procession we walk and sing together as we go to the altar to **share** in the paschal meal. By taking and eating the Body of Christ, the faithful become the Body of Christ, united in service to the world and in working for the Kingdom of justice, love, and peace.