Parish Youth Ministries

Our Parish has been blessed with many young people. With the strong support of our faith Community, we recently have formed a new youth group. It aims to be a haven of fun, evangelization, and transformation—a place where young people can feel accepted and free to be themselves. This youth group is an integral part of a larger entity; it's connected to the parish, the Church, and ultimately, to Jesus Christ.

Much thanks to many wonderful youth leaders who have been instrumental in laying the foundations of empowering young people in our parish to live Christ centred lives.

The operation of Youth Sessions would follow on from 9 am Mass then join in with parish community fellowship, then lead into prayer, praise and worship, catechesis, small group reflections ending with games that are connected to the teachings.

We also visit larger Archdiocesan Youth Events throughout the year, youth camps, fundays, retreats…

If you wish to involve your children, or wish to volunteer to help out in any way, please contact our Youth Coordinator Lawrence Auva'a at auvaalaw30@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

OUR LADY OF FATIMA 2025 PROGRAMME

- 8th Feb – Meet and Greet You 2025 – MOVIE NIGHT -6.30PM -DONE
- 23rd Feb- WELCOME DAY – T SHIRT Design & Youth Name – 10.30AM - Tae
- 9th Mar (Sun) Youth Gathering - Preparation for Stations of the cross – Silia/ Lawrence
- 15th Mar (Sat)- Alpha Retreat / Oxley (Arch Diocese Event) TO BE CONFIRMED
- 23rd Mar (Sun) – Youth Gathering – Preparation of Stations of the Cross – Silia
- 28th Mar (Fri) 6pm – Reco Rally Concert (Arch Diocese Event) – 6PM
- 30TH Mar (Sun) 2pm – (FUNDAY 2PM) – Lusia
- School Holidays 4th April – 22nd April
- 6th Apr – Youth Gathering – (TBC)
- 13th Apr- Youth Gathering- (TBC)
- 18th Apr – Good Friday – Stations of the Cross Lead by Youth
- 4th May – Youth Gathering – ALPHA SESSION 1 – Chris
- 18th May- Youth Gathering- ALPHA SESSION 2 – Chris
- 1st June – Youth Gathering - *(FUNDAY 2PM) – Malia*
- 15th June - Youth Gathering -ALPHA SESSION 3
- 22nd June – Corpus Christi (TBC) (Arch Diocese Event St Stephens)
- School Holidays 27th June – July14th - Vinnes Sleepout – Vanesca
- 20th July – Youth Gathering – ALPHA SESSION 4
- 3rd Aug – Youth Gathering – *(FUNDAY 2PM) – Silia & Tae*
- 17th Aug- Youth Gathering – ALPHA SESSION 5 - Chris
- 31st Aug – Youth Gathering – ALPHA SESSION 6 – Chris
- 14th Sep – Youth Gathering- ALPHA SESSION 7 & 8 – Chris
- Sep Thurs 18th, Fri 19th, Sat 20th, Sun 21st IGNITE CONFERENCE (3days)
- School Holidays 19th Sep – 6th October
- 12th Oct – Youth Gathering – Catholic Social Teachings – Lawrence
- Sat 8th Nov – FUNDAY Youth Gathering- Beach Day – Jasmin
- 23rd Nov – Youth Gathering – Outreach with Emanuel City - Tae
- 7th Dec – Youth Gathering – *Last Day of Youth celebration ChristmasParty.*

TARGETS 2025

- STRONG LEADERS
- YOUTH MASS
- FRIENDSHIP BONDS.
- INCOUNTER WITH GOD.

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 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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
2 March 2025

Reflecting on Luke 6:39-45: A Call for Self-Examination and Integrity

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The Gospel of Luke is distinct for its attention to detail and its appeal to a broad audience, particularly Gentiles. Luke's writing style is often clear and compassionate, emphasizing the inclusivity of Jesus' message: Jesus came to invite everyone into God's Kingdom.

Throughout his Gospel, Luke portrays Jesus not just as a teacher, but as someone deeply concerned with social justice, humility, and personal integrity. The passage in today's Gospel, with its vivid metaphors and profound wisdom, invites us to reflect on our own lives and how we live our daily lives. By examining these verses, we see how Jesus challenges not only the religious leaders of his time but also each of us today.

Luke 6:39-45 contains three essential teachings: ***the blind leading the blind, the log and speck in the eye, and the tree and its fruit.*** These metaphors serve as a profound reminder about the importance of self-awareness and humility.

The image of the blind leading the blind speaks of the dangers of following leaders who themselves are spiritually or morally misguided. In our own lives, this can challenge us to ask: Are we allowing others to lead us without critically considering their wisdom or integrity? Are we, perhaps, blind to our own faults while being quick to point out the shortcomings of others?

Similarly, the **well-known parable of the log and speck highlights** the hypocrisy that can *quietly* influence our attitudes. It's easy to criticize others, but Jesus calls us to first examine ourselves. This is not just about moral superiority but about **cultivating a deeper self-awareness and humility**. In our daily lives, how often do we focus on the faults of others, ignoring our own faults? **Jesus encourages us to confront our own imperfections before passing judgment.**

The **final metaphor of the tree and its fruit** reflects the theme of integrity. Jesus teaches that a tree is known by its fruit—***good trees bear good fruit, and bad trees bear bad fruit***. This powerful image invites us to examine the consistency between our inner lives and our outward actions. In today's world, it's easy to get caught up in appearances—social media, professional achievements etc. But Jesus challenges us to cultivate inner goodness that naturally produces good deeds.

In practical terms, these teachings invite us to examine how we approach others and ourselves. How often do we judge others without considering our own faults first? As we reflect on these questions, it's essential to consider the broader purpose of Luke's Gospel.

(continued on next page….)

Luke's Gospel, written for a diverse audience including Gentiles, highlights that Jesus' message is for everyone. It calls us to live authentically with integrity and humility, aligning our inner and outer lives with God's values. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to examine our actions, question our assumptions, and focus on integrity. We're encouraged to reflect on whether we live with consistency between what we say and do, and whether we judge others without first addressing our own flaws. Ultimately, Luke urges us to embody humility and goodness, allowing our actions to speak for themselves.

In Christo
Deacon Hugo

RECONCILIATION: 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.

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

LENTEN PROGRAMME: This year the Lenten Programme is entitled, "Metanoia". We have some books here for anyone who would like a book to reflect on.

Caritas AUSTRALIA **PROJECT COMPASSION** FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

A practical and life giving aspect of Lent has always been our ability to financially support, and sacrifice for those who are not so fortunate through Project Compassion Appeal. Indeed, Project Compassion is something that all individuals and families can be involved in. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the church after Ash Wednesday. It is one envelope for the duration of Lent.

Join us for a Morning Tea on 6 March 2025 9:30am at Parish Office/ Presbytery. Bring a plate of food to share and a friend.

Wednesday 5th March is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. It is designated by the Church as a day of fast and abstinence, as is Good Friday. In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day. Alternately smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other times but no food should be consumed at any other time during the day. The law of fasting applies to people from 18 to 59 years old. Abstinence is the practice of abstaining from the use of certain kinds of food. Everyone aged 14 years and older is bound by the law of abstinence from meat. The practice of fasting and abstinence aims at leading us to interior conversion by making us more disciplined and more charitable. We fast in order to share our time and our treasure with an attitude of love towards God and others. In addition, the practice helps us imitate the example of Jesus who fasted for 40 days in the desert. The ashes that are marked on our foreheads on the first day of Lent are a symbol of humility, purification and sorrow and reminds us of the need to repent of our failings.

Ash Wednesday Mass times: 9:00 am & 6:00 pm

Pilgrims of Hope: Embracing the Jubilee Year 2025 (Part II)

For Catholics, the act of crossing the Holy Door during the Jubilee is also linked to receiving a plenary indulgence, which is the full remission of temporal punishment due to sin. This emphasizes the Church's focus on mercy, inviting believers to experience God's forgiveness and embrace the hope of renewal.

For Catholics in Brisbane, the Jubilee Year 2025 offers numerous opportunities to participate and experience its spiritual benefits:

Pilgrimage to St. Stephen's Cathedral: The Holy Door at St. Stephen's Cathedral has been opened for the Jubilee Year. Pilgrims are encouraged to visit and pass through this door, symbolizing the journey of faith and the reception of God's grace.

Educational Programs: Workshops, seminars, and retreats focusing on the themes of hope and renewal are being offered to deepen understanding and spiritual growth. For example, ACU Jubilee Events.

Volunteer Opportunities: Engaging in acts of charity and service within the community aligns with the Jubilee's call to live out the message of hope through tangible actions.

Other recommended devotions: With the season of Lent about to commence, there is an imminent opportunity for Catholics to dedicate some extra time to prayer, such as through Eucharistic Adoration, attending a weekday Mass, pray the Rosary daily, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and make the Stations of the Cross regularly; personal reflection on areas in your life where you can grow spiritually and personally, seek opportunities to mend relationships and foster unity within your community.

The parish will also be announcing soon the Lenten prayer reflection series. These reflections will begin on the First Friday of Lent, following the Stations of the Cross, and will provide an enriching opportunity for spiritual growth during this penitential season.

Engaging in the Jubilee Year 2025 offers several spiritual benefits:

Deacon Hugo

(to be continued on next issue...)

LENT

The name 'Lent' comes from an old English word meaning 'to lengthen'. It was used to describe the 6-week period leading to Easter because in the northern hemisphere it coincided with the time when the short winter days were gradually growing longer.

Lent began as a brief period of preparation for those adults who were to be baptised at Easter. Eventually the rest of the Community showed their solidarity with the catechumens by also observing an intense period of prayer and fasting before Easter.

When adult baptism became the exception rather than the norm, Lent changed from focusing on preparation for baptism or renewing one's baptismal promises to being an intensely penitential period. The second Vatican Council restored the balance by describing Lent as being marked by two themes, the baptismal and penitential.

For those who will be baptised at Easter, Lent is a period of intense preparation called the "Period of Purification and Enlightenment". Together with those who are preparing for Christian initiation at Easter, we all look to a deeper conversion of heart during the weeks of Lent.

The Gospel readings for the six Sundays of Lent always follow the same pattern: the temptations in the desert; the Transfiguration; the woman at the well; the man born blind; the raising of Lazarus; the Passion.

Elizabeth Harrington

Symbols of Lent

Ashes

In the Jewish scriptures, ashes often suggest humility and human insignificance, as in the familiar "ashes to ashes, dust to dust". Ashes were also used as a purification offering to ritually cleanse the unclean and also to express mourning and sorrow. We continue the Jewish understanding of ashes as a symbol of humility, purification and sorrow when we are marked with ashes on the first day of Lent as a sign of our willingness to cleanse our heart through prayer, fasting and self-denial.

Cross

The cross is the primary symbol of Christianity and a central object in Catholic liturgy. The cross represents victory over death and salvation from sin. During Lent the cross leads the procession on Palm Sunday, is the focus of Stations of the Cross, and is venerated on Good Friday.

Purple

Purple or violet is the prescribed liturgical colour for Lent. Purple is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion. Because it is the royal colour, it also celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty. Purple vestments and hangings in Lent visually evoke a mood of simplicity and austerity, so added symbols are unnecessary and distracting. The colour is the symbol.