OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH ACACIA RIDGE

FATIMA NEWS

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 4 October 2026

Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION
Fr Dang Nguyen - Administrator
nguyen@bne.catholic.net.au
Dc Hugo Silva
silvah@bne.catholic.net.au
Virginia Sharpe - Parish Assistant (Volunteer)
Efren Altez - Newsletter/Website (Volunteer)
Seivland Poh - Safeguarding Officer
lsr.acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH OFFICE
Located in Presbytery
350 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge
Queensland 4110
PO Box 12 Acacia Ridge Qld 4110

OFFICE HOURS
Monday (Closed)
Tuesday to Friday -
9:30am to 3:30pm
Telephone (07) 3274 5513
Email
acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au
Website
www.fatimaacaciaridge.org.au

MASS TIMES
Tue. 5:30pm - Holy Mass
6:00pm - Eucharist Adoration
Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat 9:00am
Saturday - 4:30pm Vigil
Sunday - 9:00am & 5:00pm

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
Telephone 07 3275 1152
pacaciaridge@bne.catholic.edu.au
St. Stephens School Algester
www.ststephens.qld.edu.au
Telephone 07 3711 4911
palgesterbne.catholic.edu.au

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The Vineyard God Has Entrusted to Us (Matthew 21:33–43)

Have you ever wondered what God can do with the small things we place in his hands?

St Martin de Porres gives us a beautiful answer. Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, to a Spanish father and a mother who had been enslaved. He became a Dominican cooperator brother and devoted himself particularly to the poor and sick. He lived a humble life, quietly using the gifts and opportunities God had given him to serve others. His life was marked by deep humility, love and a particular care for those who were poor and sick.

Martin reminds us that we do not need to do extraordinary things to bear good fruit for God. We need to be faithful with what he has placed in our hands. Martin did not possess great wealth or worldly influence. What he had was a willingness to place his life in God's hands. He understood that what God gives us is not simply for ourselves; it is entrusted to us so that it can bear fruit for others.

And that is precisely the question Jesus puts before us in this Sunday's Gospel: What are we doing with what God has entrusted to us?

Jesus speaks about a landowner who carefully prepares a vineyard and then entrusts it to tenants. The vineyard does not belong to them. They have been given responsibility for something that ultimately belongs to someone else.

This image comes directly from our first reading from Isaiah. God describes his people as a vineyard that he has planted and cared for with great love. He expects good fruit but instead finds wild grapes.

Matthew's parable then points us towards God's plan of salvation. The Son is Jesus, sent by the Father and rejected by those who should have welcomed him. Yet his death is not defeat. Jesus says, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Through Christ's death and resurrection, God establishes the Church, the new people of the covenant. Our life of faith is centred on Christ, who gathers us into his people and calls us to bear fruit worthy of the Kingdom.

The tenants' great mistake was that they stopped thinking like stewards and began thinking like owners. That is a question worth bringing into our own lives.

Much of what we have has been entrusted to us: our faith, our family, our relationships, our abilities, our time, our possessions and our parish community.

So, what fruit is God asking of us? Perhaps it is forgiveness, patience, generosity, prayer or simply being there for someone who needs us.

The vineyard belongs to God, but he has entrusted a part of it to each of us. What will we do with it?

May God bless you and your family this week.

Deacon Hugo Silva

October: The Month of the Holy Rosary

October holds a special place in the life of the Catholic Church as the Month of the Holy Rosary. During these weeks, we are invited to draw closer to Jesus through Mary, reflecting on the joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of our salvation. The Rosary is a simple yet profound prayer: its familiar rhythm quietens our hearts, strengthens our faith and helps us place our joys, concerns and hopes in God's loving hands.

In our parish, October is marked by a cherished tradition: we gather together every evening to pray the Rosary. Night after night, parishioners come before the Lord as one family of faith. Children, young people, adults and seniors unite their voices in prayer, entrusting our families, our parish and the needs of the world to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Praying together reminds us that faith is not lived alone. Each Hail Mary becomes part of a shared offering, and each gathering strengthens the bonds among us. Whether we arrive carrying gratitude, worry, grief or hope, the Rosary gives us space to listen, to trust and to accompany one another in prayer.

We warmly invite every parishioner to take part in this beautiful October devotion. If you pray the Rosary regularly, come and share in the strength of communal prayer. If the Rosary is new to you, or if it has been some time since you last prayed it, you are especially welcome. No special experience is needed—simply bring an open heart and join us as you are.

Let us make this Month of the Rosary a time of renewed faith and deeper unity in our parish. By gathering every evening, may we grow closer to Christ, seek Mary's loving intercession and become a community ever more attentive to the needs of others. Come with your family, invite a friend or neighbour, and help us continue this treasured parish tradition throughout October. Fr Dang

Rosary times: Wednesday to Monday - 6pm,
Oct. 3 First Saturday - 4pm | Oct. 31st Culmination Day - 3:30pm Rosary, 4:30pm Mass then fellowship

Parish Youth Group Bible Studies

Our parish youth group is holding Bible study sessions every fortnight after the 9 am Sunday Mass. These gatherings are a wonderful opportunity for young people to grow in faith, reflect on the Word of God, and connect with one another in a welcoming and supportive environment.

All young people of the parish age from 15 or older who would like to be part of the program are warmly welcome to join. For more information, please contact our Youth Coordinator, Lawrence Auva'a, at auvaal@bne.catholic.net.au

FRIENDS IN GRACE

Friends In Grace

BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE AND A FRIEND.....

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 8 October 2026, 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/

Saint of the Week: St Faustina Kowalska

St Faustina Kowalska is remembered throughout the Catholic Church as the "Apostle of Divine Mercy." Faustina was born Helena Kowalska on 25 August 1905 in Głogowiec, a village in central Poland. She was the third of ten children in a poor but devout farming family. Her formal schooling was limited, and from a young age she worked as a domestic servant to help support her family.

Helena later wrote that she sensed a call to religious life from childhood. Despite initial resistance from her parents and the practical obstacles created by poverty, she persevered. In 1925 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw, receiving the religious name Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. During the next thirteen years, she served in several convents, mainly performing ordinary duties such as cooking, gardening, and working as a porter.

Behind this unremarkable outward life was an intense spiritual journey. Faustina reported visions and interior encounters in which Jesus entrusted her with a mission: to remind the world of God's limitless mercy and to encourage every person to approach God with trust. The heart of the message was not a new doctrine, but a renewed emphasis on a central Christian belief—that divine mercy is greater than human sin and is offered freely to those who turn toward God.

At the request of her confessors, Faustina recorded her experiences in notebooks later published as Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul. The work combines accounts of visions, prayers, personal struggles, and reflections on suffering, humility, obedience, and love. Its direct language reveals a woman keenly aware of her own limitations yet determined to place complete confidence in God.

A recurring theme in the Diary is that mercy must be received and shared. Faustina's spirituality therefore joins contemplation with responsibility: prayer should widen the heart, make a person attentive to suffering, and inspire forgiveness and service. This practical dimension helps explain why her message has resonated far beyond the walls of the convent.

Faustina suffered from tuberculosis and endured periods of serious illness. She died in Kraków on 5 October 1938 at the age of thirty-three. Her mission was not widely known during her lifetime, but devotion to Divine Mercy grew in the decades after her death, especially through the work of priests, religious communities, and lay believers who preserved and shared her writings.

Pope John Paul II beatified Faustina in 1993 and canonised her on 30 April 2000. On the same day, he established Divine Mercy Sunday for the universal Church. Her feast day is observed on 5 October. The Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Kraków-Łagiewniki, where she lived and where her remains are venerated, has become an important place of pilgrimage.

St Faustina's influence rests on a simple but demanding conviction: no person is beyond mercy, and those who receive mercy are called to become merciful. In a world often marked by fear, resentment, and division, her message offers a spirituality of trust without denying suffering or moral responsibility. It asks believers to face human weakness honestly while refusing despair.

Her short life demonstrates how an apparently hidden vocation can acquire global significance. Through faithful attention to prayer, daily work, and the needs of others, St Faustina Kowalska became one of the most recognisable Catholic saints of the modern era. Her enduring invitation—trust in God and show mercy to your neighbour—continues to speak with clarity and hope.

The Roles of Woman in the Church

The Church has always recognised the essential role of lay women in its life and mission. Since the Second Vatican Council renewed attention to the universal call to holiness, the Church has taught that every baptised person is called to live the faith fully in the world. Lay women share in this mission in a distinctive way by bringing Christ into family, work, culture, education, service, and public life.

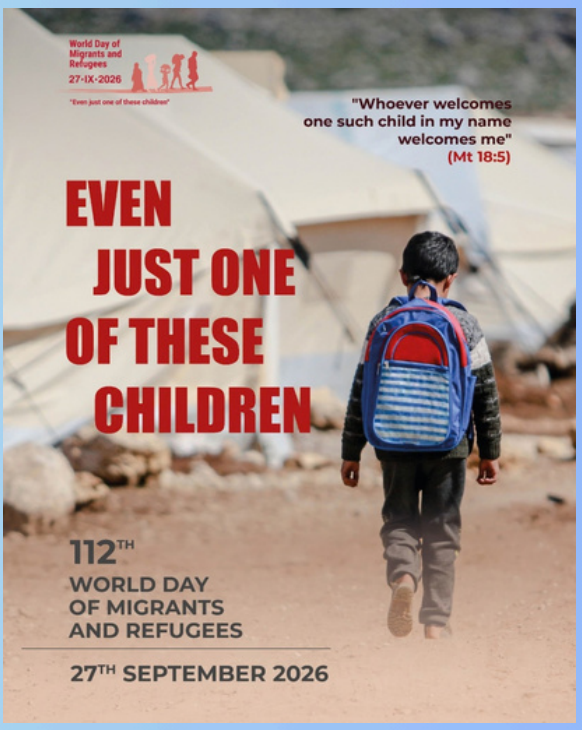
Through baptism, each of us is claimed by Christ and incorporated into His Body, the Church. Anointed with chrism, we share in Christ's identity as priest, prophet, and king. This baptismal dignity is deepened in confirmation, where we receive the strength of the Holy Spirit for witness and service. From these sacraments comes the mission of the laity: a mission related to, but distinct from, that of the clergy.

Every woman lives this mission through a particular vocation. Some are called to marriage and motherhood, some to single life, and some to consecrated life. No vocation is secondary or accidental. Each is a path back to the Father and a way of building up the kingdom of God.

The laity make up the greater part of the Church and stand on the front lines of evangelisation. They are present where priests often are not: in homes, neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, hospitals, civic institutions, and social settings. There they are called to make Christ visible, not only by explicit words about the Gospel, but also through patience, integrity, mercy, courage, and charity.

This mission must be rooted in the sacramental life of the Church. Pope John Paul II emphasised that any theology of the laity begins with the universal call to holiness. Lay women are called to be alive in Christ through full and active participation in Sunday Mass, regular confession, personal prayer, and openness to the Holy Spirit. These are not private habits disconnected from the world; they are the source of strength for living faithfully in the world.

Nourished by the sacraments, Catholic women are sent to evangelise through the witness of their lives. The faith they have received is good news meant to be shared. A woman who lives with her eyes fixed on Christ can draw others toward Him by the way she loves her family, serves the vulnerable, works honestly, forgives injuries, forms consciences, and brings Christian hope into ordinary conversation.

The Church also warns against two extremes. The first is to leave "religious work" entirely to clergy or religious, as though the lay faithful have no responsibility for evangelisation. The second is to neglect ordinary duties in pursuit of devotional practices. Holiness does not remove a woman from her state in life; it transforms the way she lives it. A mother of young children, for example, may serve God most faithfully by caring for her family, while an older widow may have more freedom for daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and works of charity.

In every circumstance, the spiritual life must be integrated into daily life. Prayer, worship, family responsibilities, professional work, friendship, service, and recreation are not separate compartments. They are places where the lay woman can respond to grace and give glory to God. Her vocation is not merely something she does for the Church; it is the way she lives as the Church in the heart of the world.