## Entering More Deeply into Prayer with the Rosary

Recently, I was asked by a lovely parishioner, “How can I pray the Rosary more deeply?” Her question stayed with me because I know how easily the mind wanders when familiar prayers are repeated. I have experienced that struggle myself. In this article, I just what to share with you what I have learned that the Rosary is far more than repetition. It is a path of contemplation—a way of staying close to Jesus with Mary as the mysteries of the Gospel move from the mind into the heart. Praying the Rosary is a living encounter with God.

Before making the Sign of the Cross, I have found it helpful to pause. Put aside what can wait, breathe quietly, and remember that you are entering God’s presence. Name the grace you seek—peace, courage, repentance, healing, wisdom, or simply a deeper love for Christ. This intention gives the prayer direction without turning it into a demand.

When a mystery is announced, do not hurry into the Our Father. Recall the Gospel event and remain with it briefly. Notice the place, words, and actions. Ask what Jesus reveals, how Mary responds, and where the mystery touches your life. The aim is not to invent an elaborate scene, but to let the event become present and personal.

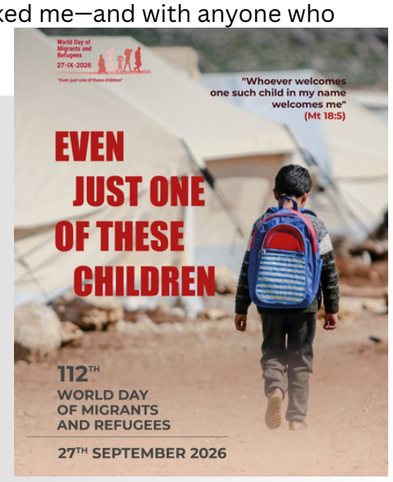
Pray at an unhurried, natural pace. I try to let the repeated Hail Marys become a gentle rhythm beneath the mystery rather than words to be completed quickly. Give special attention to the name of Jesus at the centre of each Hail Mary. If one phrase speaks to you, receive it quietly. The lips may continue praying while the heart rests with Christ.

A little silence keeps the Rosary from becoming only a recitation. Pause after announcing each mystery and at the end of each decade. Do not judge the prayer by the thoughts or feelings that arise. Simply stay available to God. A quiet conviction, a call to forgive, or a desire to change may be the grace you need. One lesson I continue to learn is that distraction is not failure. When you notice that your mind has wandered, return gently to the words, the mystery, or simply the name of Jesus. If the same concern keeps returning, place it deliberately within the decade and pray through it. Self-criticism creates another distraction; humility simply begins again.

Deep prayer should bear fruit beyond the time spent with the beads. At the end of a decade, ask what response the mystery invites from you. The Visitation may call you to serve someone promptly; the Crucifixion may lead you to forgive; the Resurrection may invite hope in a difficult situation. Choose one small, concrete response and carry it into the day.

Some days the Rosary will feel peaceful; on others it may feel dry or difficult. Depth cannot be measured by emotion alone. Faithful attention, even when little seems to happen, is an offering of love. It may be better to pray one decade slowly than to rush through five simply to finish. With practice, the full Rosary becomes more natural.

To enter more deeply into the Rosary is to let its mysteries shape our imagination, desires, and choices. We do not need perfect concentration or unusual feelings. We need only to come faithfully and begin again when distracted. This is what I hope to share with the parishioner who asked me—and with anyone who finds the Rosary difficult. In time, its familiar words can become a deeper silence in which the Gospel is not only remembered, but lived. Fr Dang



Our Lady of Fatima Parish Acacia Ridge

# FATIMA NEWS

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 11 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

Please check our parish Webpage and Facebook page for regular updates

LIKE US ON facebook

Greetings to all,

Another week brings us another compelling—and difficult—parable from the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus tells us about a king who prepares a wedding feast for his son. Everything is ready. The table is set. The celebration is waiting. All that remains is for the invited guests to come.

Yet their response is bewildering. Some simply refuse. They return to their farms and businesses as though the invitation means nothing. Others go much further: they seize the king’s messengers, mistreat them, and kill them.

Why would anyone react so violently to an invitation to a wedding feast? The reaction only makes sense only if the guests no longer see the king’s invitation as a gift. Somehow, they experience the invitation as an intrusion, a demand, even a threat. The offer of joy is misread as an attack.

That may sound absurd, but it is not far from our own experience. Denial, hurt, and prejudice can distort the way we see. They can make an opportunity for healing look like danger. They can turn an open door into something we feel compelled to resist.

Consider a family carrying an unresolved conflict. Everyone knows that something is wrong, but no one wants to name it. Then a spouse says, “We need to talk.” The words are an invitation—to honesty, to shared responsibility, perhaps to a way forward. Yet the response comes sharply: “Leave me alone. I don’t want to talk about it.” Because of denial, an opening for progress feels like a threat.

Or perhaps a friend or relative has wounde d us, and we have carried that pain for months. One day an invitation arrives to that person’s birthday celebration. We crumple it up and throw it away: “Not a chance.” The invitation itself is harmless, but hurt gives it another meaning. What might have become a first step towards reconciliation is rejected in anger.

Pre-judgment can do the same. Once we have made up our minds—about a person, a situation, or even about ourselves—we may close our hearts. When someone asks us to consider another point of view, we hear criticism rather than possibility. We defend ourselves before we have truly listened. The invitation to think again feels like a threat because our judgment has already been made.

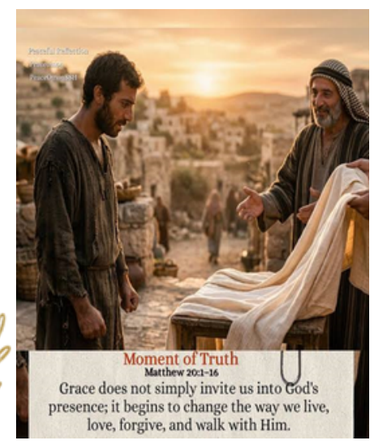
This is where the good news of the parable of this Sunday meets us. The king does not prepare a trap; he prepares a feast. God’s desire is to draw us into the joy of his kingdom. Again and again, God invites us—to speak honestly, to forgive, to change, to begin anew. Even when we refuse, the invitation continues.

Of course, God’s call can unsettle us. Grace does not always arrive in a form that feels comfortable. Sometimes it comes through the conversation we would rather avoid, the apology we do not want to make, the truth we are reluctant to face, or the opinion we are being asked to reconsider. At first, such moments can feel like threats. But they may be invitations from the One who loves us.

So the next time anger rises within us, perhaps we might pause before reacting. We might ask: “What am afraid of? What hurt am I protecting? Have I already closed my mind? Could there be a gift hidden in this moment?”

The table is set. The feast is ready. God is still calling. May we have the humility to recognise the invitation, the courage to accept it, and the grace to enter the joy prepared for us.

Have a Blessed Week,
Dang



# Youth Ministry

Our parish is blessed with many opportunities for young people to grow in faith, friendship, and community. I would like to extend a special invitation to all our youth and young adults to become involved in the vibrant activities taking place in our parish. We have several exciting events coming up:

### 🌹 Youth-Led Rosary – Friday, 16 October

Our young people will lead the Rosary, and everyone is warmly invited to join in prayer.

### 🙏 Youth Retreat – Wednesday 21 November

A wonderful opportunity to deepen your relationship with God, meet new friends, and renew your faith.

### 🎬 Youth Movie Night – Saturday, 24 October

Come along for an enjoyable evening of fellowship, fun, and reflection.

### 📖 Bible Study – Every fortnight after the 9:00 am Mass

Join us as we explore God's Word together and learn how it speaks to our daily lives.

To all young people in our parish age from 15 or older who would like to be part of the program are warmly welcome, valued, and an important part of our faith community.

Whether you have been actively involved for years or are just looking for a place to belong, we invite you to come and join us. Bring a friend, meet new people, and discover the joy of growing in faith together. We look forward to seeing you at these events. Fr Dang

## Friends In Grace

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

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 22 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 Teresa of Ávila

St Teresa of Ávila was one of the most influential spiritual writers and religious reformers of the sixteenth century. Teresa was born on 28 March 1515 in Ávila, Spain. Raised in a large and devout family, she was lively, imaginative and fond of books and conversation.

In 1535, despite her father's opposition, she entered the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation. Severe illness disrupted her early religious life, and poor health continued to trouble her for many years.

During this period Teresa began practising mental prayer, which she understood as a personal and attentive friendship with God. She wrote honestly about distraction, self-doubt and the difficulty of perseverance. Rather than presenting spiritual growth as easy, she described it as a relationship that deepens gradually through trust, patience and self-knowledge.

By the late 1550s, Teresa believed that Carmelite life needed renewal. She wanted smaller communities where simplicity, silence and freedom from social distractions would allow the sisters to focus on prayer.

In 1562 she founded the Convent of St Joseph in Ávila, the first house of the Discalced Carmelite reform. The word "discalced," meaning "without shoes," referred to the simple sandals worn as a sign of poverty and stricter observance.

Teresa valued friendship, good judgement and cheerfulness, warning against confusing holiness with severity. Her communities were built on humility, mutual support and prayer. Although civic leaders, church authorities and some Carmelites opposed her plans, she responded with persistence and diplomacy. Travelling across Spain in fragile health, she founded new convents and worked with St John of the Cross to extend the reform to Carmelite friars.

Teresa's major works became classics of Christian spirituality such as The Book of Her Life, The Way of Perfection, The Interior Castle. Especially, The Interior Castle is her masterpiece whichimagines the soul as a crystal castle containing many rooms, or "mansions." The spiritual journey moves inward towards the centre, where God dwells.

The early mansions involve conversion, self-knowledge and struggles with distraction. The deeper rooms represent increasing freedom, love and openness to God. Teresa insisted that mystical experience was not an escape from ordinary duties. Genuine prayer should produce humility, compassion and service; the transformation of character mattered more than extraordinary visions.

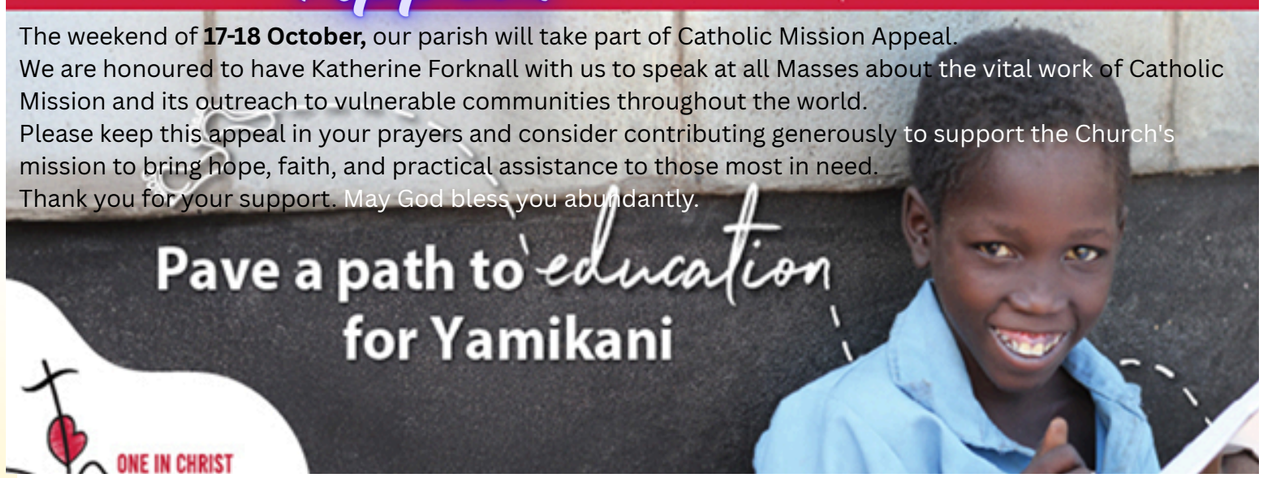
Her writing is direct, and conversational. Familiar comparisons—watering a garden, entering a castle and travelling a road—make complex spiritual ideas easier to understand. She acknowledged both frustration and grace, giving readers a realistic account of prayer.

Teresa died in October 1582. She was canonised in 1622, and in 1970 Pope Paul VI declared her a Doctor of the Church, making her the first woman to receive that title. Her feast day is celebrated on 15 October.

Her influence extends across theology, literature, art and the practice of prayer. Discalced Carmelite communities spread around the world, and artists drew inspiration from her mystical experiences. Yet her deepest legacy is her teaching that prayer is an attentive friendship with God, open to anyone willing to begin.

Teresa remains relevant because she joined contemplation with action. She understood that spiritual life unfolds amid illness, conflict, travel and imperfect communities. Through disciplined prayer, vivid writing and determined reform, she showed that seeking God can deepen courage, compassion and engagement with the world.

## catholic mission Appeal

Part of the global network of Pontifical Mission Societies

The weekend of **17-18 October,** our parish will take part of Catholic Mission Appeal.
We are honoured to have Katherine Forknall with us to speak at all Masses about the vital work of Catholic Mission and its outreach to vulnerable communities throughout the world.
Please keep this appeal in your prayers and consider contributing generously to support the Church's mission to bring hope, faith, and practical assistance to those most in need.
Thank you for your support. May God bless you abundantly.