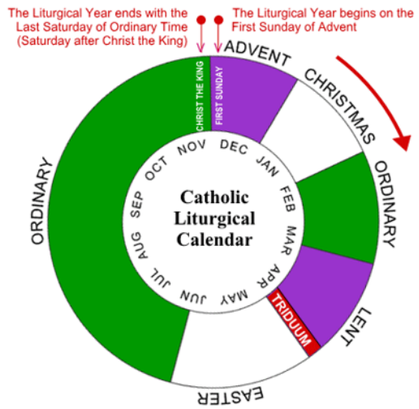
The Meanings of Ordinary Time in the Church Liturgical Calendar

Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church's liturgical calendar, yet it is often one of the least understood. The word "ordinary" does not mean dull or unimportant. Instead, it refers to the ordered or numbered weeks of the year in which the Church reflects on the life, teaching, mission, and glory of Jesus Christ. In this season, believers are invited to grow steadily in faith through worship, Scripture, prayer, and daily discipleship.

Ordinary Time takes its name from ordinal numbers: First, Second, Third, and so on. These numbers mark the Sundays and weeks as they unfold across the year. In the Roman Catholic tradition, this season is not focused on one single event, as Advent prepares for Christmas and Lent prepares for Easter. Rather, Ordinary Time highlights the fullness of Christ's ministry and helps the faithful follow him in the rhythm of everyday life. It is a season of spiritual growth, conversion, and perseverance.

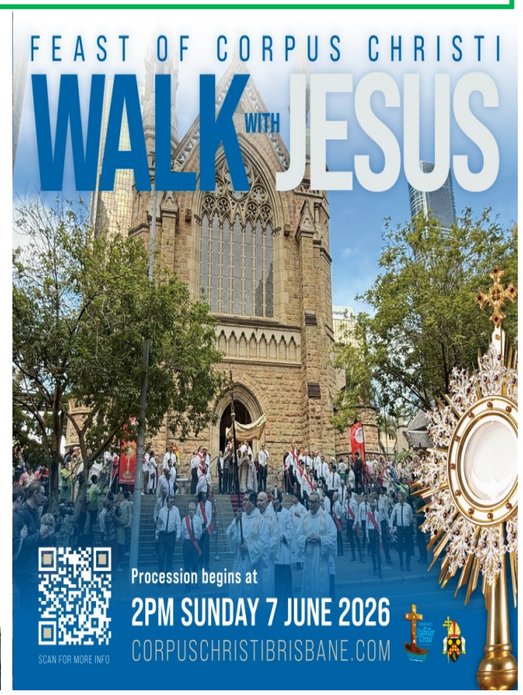


Ordinary Time is divided into two parts. The first begins after the Christmas season, usually following the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and continues until the day before Ash Wednesday. The second part begins after Pentecost and continues until the beginning of Advent. Altogether, Ordinary Time contains either thirty-three or thirty-four weeks, depending on the date of Easter and the way the calendar falls in a given year. Although it is interrupted by Lent and Easter, it is still considered one season.

The liturgical colour for Ordinary Time is green, a symbol of life, hope, and growth. This reflects the spiritual purpose of the season: to deepen Christian maturity. During these Sundays and weekdays, the Scripture readings often focus on Christ's public ministry, his parables, his miracles, and his teaching about the Kingdom of God. Rather than emphasizing dramatic moments alone, Ordinary Time shows how holiness is formed through faithfulness in daily life. The season encourages believers to recognise God's presence not only in great feasts, but also in the regular patterns of prayer, service, and community.

Ordinary Time reminds the Church that discipleship is not limited to the great festivals of Christmas and Easter. Much of Christian life is lived in ordinary days, through repeated acts of prayer, repentance, learning, and love. In this way, the season teaches that spiritual maturity is formed gradually. Week by week, the Church listens to the Gospel and grows into the likeness of Christ. Ordinary Time is therefore not a lesser season, but a vital part of the Church's journey through the mystery of salvation.

In the end, Ordinary Time offers a powerful reminder that God works through the steady rhythm of everyday faith. It is a season in which the Church learns to follow Christ not only in extraordinary celebrations, but in the ordinary path of daily holiness.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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Calamvale | Parkinson
| Larapinta | Pallara

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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
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www.ststephens.qld.edu.au
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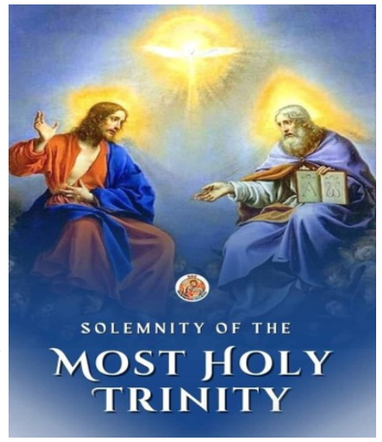
FATIMA NEWS
The Holy Trinity
31 May 2026

The Heart of the Trinity: God's Love Revealed in Christ

A reflection on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Gospel: John 3:16–18

Each year, after Pentecost, the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**, one of the deepest mysteries of the Christian faith. This feast does not focus on a single event from the life of Jesus, but on the very identity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Gospel chosen for the solemnity, John 3:16–18, takes the reader to the heart of this mystery: ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."***

The Gospel of John is unique among the four Gospels. Written near the end of the first century and traditionally attributed to Saint John the Apostle, it was addressed to Christian communities living in a time of **uncertainty and opposition**. These believers needed encouragement to remain faithful in a world marked by **confusion and division**. John's Gospel speaks deeply about who Jesus is — not only a teacher or prophet, but the **eternal Son of God** sent by the Father for the salvation of the world. Throughout the Gospel, John constantly points his readers towards one central truth: **God desires to bring humanity into communion with Himself**.



In this passage, the mystery of the **Trinity** is revealed not as an abstract doctrine, but through the saving action of God's love. The Father sends the Son into the world, and the Son comes not to condemn the world, but to save it. Although the Holy Spirit is not named explicitly in these verses, the Church understands that the **saving love of the Father and the Son is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** (CCC 733), who remains with God's people. The **Trinity**, therefore, reveals a God who is always reaching out to His people in love.

This matters because many people imagine God as distant, angry, or uninterested in human suffering. Yet the Gospel presents something entirely different: **"God so loved the world."** Not simply part of the world, nor only the righteous or the holy, but the world in all its brokenness and weakness. At the centre of the Christian faith is the conviction that God does not abandon humanity. The **Father** desires salvation, the **Son** accomplishes it through His Cross and Resurrection, and the **Holy Spirit** strengthens the Church to continue Christ's mission in the world.

The Trinity also teaches us something about ourselves. Because we are created in the image of God, the communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sheds light on our own vocation to live in truth, love, and communion. **Human beings cannot flourish in isolation, hatred, or division**. We see in our world today how easily **truth becomes distorted**, how quickly people **judge one another**, (cont. next page…)

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how often division replaces charity, and how often people harm the good name of others through gossip, false witness, and accusation. The mystery of the Trinity reminds Christians that we are **called to reflect the unity, truth, and mercy of God** in the way we live with others.

Saint Oscar Romero was part of my growing-up years in El Salvador, and his witness continues to inspire many Catholics throughout the world. In his preaching, he showed that the **Trinity** is not a distant doctrine reserved only for theologians, but a living reality present in the daily lives of God's people. Saint Romero reminded the faithful that when Christians truly live in communion with God, they become witnesses of truth, compassion, justice, and hope for others. His message reflects the heart of this Gospel passage: God's love is real, personal, and meant to transform the world through those who believe in Him.

Every time Christians make the **Sign of the Cross**, they confess this mystery: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is a simple yet profound reminder that the Christian life begins and ends in the God whose very nature is **love**. **Deacon Hugo**

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.

IN GRACE FRIENDS

Join us for a Morning Tea on Thursday, 11 June, 9:30am at Parish Office/Presbytery. Bring a plate of food to share and a friend.

WELL DONE PARISH YOUTH for raising $2000 + during last Sunday, 28 March Youth Car Wash

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:// brisbanecatholic.org.au/safeguarding/safeguard/

St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul winter appeal will be held on **the weekend of 20 / 21 June.** Your support is essential if we are to provide food for the poor families of our parish If you would like to donate on line our bank details are as follows

Name: SVDP Our Lady of Fatima

BSB: 064786

Account No. 100026094

You can be sure that 100% of your donation will go to the poor in the parish.

We have no administrative costs.

St Vincent de Paul said that "serving the poor is serving Jesus"

Saint of the Week: Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr

Saint Boniface was an English monk, missionary, bishop, and martyr whose life left a deep mark on the history of the Christian Church in Europe. He is often called the "Apostle of Germany" because of the way he preached the Christian faith, organised the Church in German lands, and helped bring many communities into closer unity with Rome. More than just a church leader, Boniface stands out as a man of courage, discipline, conviction, and sacrifice. His story is not only about missions and church reform, but also about a person who gave up comfort, status, and safety in order to follow what he believed God was calling him to do. His feast day is celebrated on 5 June, and he continues to be remembered as an example of bold faith and steadfast service.

Boniface was born around 675 in Wessex, England, probably in what is now Devon. From a young age he showed a strong interest in learning and religion. He was educated in Benedictine monasteries, first at Exeter and later at Nursling, where he became known for his intelligence, love of Scripture, and skill as a teacher. He could easily have remained in England and lived a respected and comfortable life as a monk and scholar. In fact, he had the ability and reputation to rise to important positions within the Church at home. Yet Boniface desired something more demanding. He felt drawn to missionary work, especially among people who had not yet fully accepted Christianity. This choice already reveals something very personal about him: he was not content to stay where life was easier when he believed he was meant to serve elsewhere.

His first missionary attempt took him to Frisia, but it was not successful. Rather than giving up, Boniface travelled to Rome, where Pope Gregory II recognised both his zeal and his ability. The pope gave him official support for his mission and gave him the name Boniface. With this encouragement, he returned to the continent and began years of labour in places such as Hesse, Thuringia, Bavaria, and Frisia. He did not simply preach sermons and move on. He built lasting foundations. He established monasteries, encouraged Christian education, helped organise dioceses, and worked to reform clergy who had grown careless or undisciplined. Later he became Archbishop of Mainz, an important sign of the trust placed in him and of the importance of his work.

In the final stage of his life, Boniface returned to Frisia, still committed to missionary work even in old age. In 754, while preparing converts for confirmation near Dokkum, he and a group of companions were attacked and killed. Tradition says that he did not meet violence with violence, but faced death with the calm of a man whose life was already offered in service. This is one reason he is honoured as a martyr. His death was tragic, yet it also gave even greater force to the witness of his life. His remains were later taken to Fulda, one of the great centres connected with his mission.

What makes Saint Boniface especially inspiring is not only what he achieved, but the kind of person he appears to have been. He was learned, but not proud; determined, but not idle; faithful, even when success was uncertain. He left behind security for service, and honour for obedience to his calling. In a personal sense, Boniface can be seen as a reminder that true greatness often comes through perseverance, sacrifice, and courage. His life challenges people to ask whether they are willing to stand for what is right, remain faithful through hardship, and use their gifts in the service of others. For these reasons, Saint Boniface is remembered not only as a bishop and martyr, but as a model of commitment, leadership, and faith that still speaks powerfully today.

In Transition

The parish received the sad news that **Margot Julia Mary Benstead** has recently passed away. Margot was a long-time parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima and served faithfully within our community, especially as a volunteer bookkeeper for Our Lady of Fatima Primary School and as a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society. We give thanks for her generous service and dedication. Please keep Margot and her family in your prayers during this time of loss.

Her Requiem Mass will be at 10 am on Tuesday 09/06 at our Church.