

REFLECTION: February 4, 2024- Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. He told them, Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come. -Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

REFLECTION: 11 February 2024 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. - 1 Corinthians 10:31
Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "God's" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?

Who is your grace friend?
None of us have to walk alone.

Let grace go
around and around.



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

PARISH LENTEN GROUP(S)

You are invited to prepare for Easter by joining with fellow Our Lady of Fatima parishioners at **Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent from 23rd of February 2024** at 5:30pm the church followed by a Lenten program. The book includes Sunday Scripture reflections, readings, responsorial psalms, prayers and reflection questions that are traditionally part of group Lenten programs. If you would like to join in the parish Lenten program, please sign your name at registered form which is available at the back of the church or please contact the parish office at: acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter Week 2 Term 1

It has been lovely to be welcomed back into the Our Lady of Fatima community once again, after spending some maternity leave with my son, Sebastian. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for my family while I have been away.

Staff and Students return to school

The OLOF teaching staff returned to work on Wednesday 17th January, to take part in some Professional Learning in the areas of English and Reconciliation. On Friday 19th January we spent some time at the St Stephen's Cathedral with Sr Denise, a previous OLOF Principal. There we learnt more about our Josephite Charism and attended Mass together in the Cathedral. All staff returned on Monday 22nd January to prepare for the year ahead.

On Tuesday 23rd January, the school was full of life with the students returning to school for a short week. They met their new teachers and were reacquainted with friends.

Our yearly theme

At OLOF school, our yearly focus follows the themes of Faith, Learning and Community. This year we return to Faith, with the theme Walking in Faith. Our staff and students will be looking at ways to follow in the footsteps of Jesus to spread the good news of the Gospel.

With kind regards,

Mrs Melissa Roberts, Assistant Principal,
Religious Education, Our Lady of Fatima



Give it up for Lent: We are grateful for your support to raise awareness and funds for thousands of children, women and men worldwide who endure extraordinary challenges daily to access basic necessities like food, water, education or health care.



Our prayers are with those who are suffering illness at this time.
May God's presence nourish and strengthen you.



Acacia Ridge | Algester
Calamvale | Parkinson
|Larapinta | Pallara

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

- Fr Dang Nguyen**
Administrator
nguyend@bne.catholic.net.au
- Steffanie Le**
Director of Ministries
- Ellen Tran**
Youth & Pastoral Coordinator
- Lizet Sanchez**
Parish Assistant (on leave)
- Virginia Sharpe**
Acting Parish Assistant (Volunteer)
- Efren Altez**
Liturgy/Newsletter (Volunteer)
- Bernadette Maguire**
Digital Media Communications & Ministry Development

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MASS TIMES

Tue | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat 9 am
Saturday 4.30pm (Vigil)
Sunday 9am & 5pm

CONFESSIONS (by appointment)

BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the month 10.15am

PIETY STALL

1st Sunday each month

AWAKEN IN CHRIST MINISTRY

admin@awaken.org.au
0437006264

RISING YOUTH | RISING HIGH MINISTRY

hello@risingyouthministry.org
0488220606 (Ellen)

SCHOOLS

Our Lady of Fatima School

Acacia Ridge
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

FATIMA NEWS

5th and 6th Sundays in Ordinary Time B, 4 February 2024

Greetings to all,

I have to say that I love the Gospel reading of this Sunday, because it is full of images. Firstly, we see the wonderful image of people bring Jesus to Simon Peter's mother-in-law who was in bed with a fever, in Capernaum. Secondly, the image of people bring all who were sick in Capernaum to Jesus.

what striking in these images is that in both cases people mediated between Jesus and those who needed him. We can see in that an image of our own calling to bring Jesus to others and to bring others to Jesus. The Lord looks to all of us to mediate between himself and others. If the Lord is to get his work done, he needs all of us.

At the end, we have another image which is an interesting interaction between Jesus and his disciples, early morning of the following day, Jesus went to a lonely place to pray, Simon Peter and his companions went out in search of him and when they found him they rebuked him saying. 'Everyone is looking for you', they said. these words seem to imply that, 'What are you wasting your time on your own when there are so many needy people in Capernaum looking for you' Yet, on this occasion, Jesus refused to go with them, because he had other places to visit, 'Let us go elsewhere', he said.

Yes, people could bring Jesus to others and bring others to Jesus, but they were not in control of him. Jesus was subject only to his heavenly Father, and his disciples had to learn to submit to him, to go after him, rather than insisting that he go after them.

I think this too is an important part of our calling. We need to yield to what the Lord wants to do and is doing; we are not in control or in charge of the Lord's work. Rather we try to allow the Lord to do his work in and through us. It remains his work rather than ours. It is above all in prayer that we attend to the Lord of the work, so that we can do the work of the Lord.

The Lord's God bless,

Fr Dang



Only few more days, my country and many other Asian countries will celebrate the **Lunar New Year**, also known for us as Tet Festival. Tet is the most important festival in Vietnam. It is a celebration of culture and traditions that are very special to us. Of course, with this special celebration, we do have many strange customs to follow.

For example, there must be no washing of hair on the first day of Lunar New Year. It can be before or after but not on the day itself. There should also be no sweeping or mopping of the house. All brooms and mops should be kept out of sight. It has something to do with the washing away of luck.

Also, like other Asian countries, Vietnamese believe that the color of red and yellow will bring good fortune, which may explain why these colors can be seen everywhere in Lunar New Year. People consider what they do on the dawn of Tet will determine their fate for the whole year, hence people always smile and behave as nice as they can in the hope for a better year. So, in the next few days if you see smiling a lot, not because I am crazy, but I have a reason behind.

Follow us on
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To receive the Parish eNewsletter, please email to acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 14th February is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. It is designated by the Church as days of fast and abstinence, as is Good Friday.

In current Catholic practice, fasting means having only one full meal a day. Smaller quantities of food may be eaten at two other meals 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 remind us of the need to repent our failings. - *Elizabeth Harrington*

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. - *Elizabeth Harrington*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCILIATION OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

If your child has completed their Confirmation and is now preparing for First Holy Communion and sacrament of Reconciliation, please be reminded that Our parish sacramental program will take place shortly.

If you haven't already registered, please remember to do so at your earliest convenience.

Registrations: Please contact the parish office through email at acaciari@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Program 2024 - First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation (For Grade 4 or older)

Parents Information Evening	6pm, Wednesday 31 st January
First Week: Class on Holy Communion	6-7pm, Wednesday 7 th Feb
Second Week: Class on Holy Communion	6-7pm, Thursday 15 th Feb *
Third Lesson: Class on Holy Communion	6-7pm, Wednesday 21 st Feb
Fourth Lesson: Class on Reconciliation	6-7pm, Wednesday 28 th Feb
First Reconciliation Celebrations	6-7pm, Wednesday 6th March
Fifth Week: Rehearsal and recap on HC	6-7pm, Wednesday 13 th March
First Holy Communion Mass	4:30 pm Saturday 16th March

Due to Ash Wednesday being on 14th Feb, the class for the 2nd week will be on Thursday 15th February



The members would like to express their sincere appreciation to all parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima parish for their most generous response to our Christmas appeal.

The students, parents and staff of Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, St Stephens and St Thomas More have also done a great job in collecting food for hampers

The Lions Club of McGregor also provided 20 hampers which were well prepared and presented and were worth over \$200 each.

The outcome of the Christmas Appeal is as follows;

- Church donations totaled in excess of \$2500
- Our Lady of Fatima Primary School - numerous food parcels plus \$1000 cash
- St Stephens Primary School - 50 food hampers
- St Thomas More High School - 50 food hampers

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

CLERGY AND PARISH BULLETIN

A RESURRECTED LIFE
DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

\$6 each BULK DISCOUNTS available for orders of 50 books or more.

PURCHASE NOW
By scanning this QR code or by visiting our website lentprogram.com.au

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE
Evangelisation Brisbane

With Lent beginning in just three weeks, now is an ideal time to order *A Resurrected Life*, a new 6-week prayer and reflection resource for Lent and Holy Week 2024. The pocket-sized companion is suitable for individuals and groups seeking to enter the liturgical season of Lent grounded in the hope that the Gospel bears. It will help guide readers through 5-10 minutes of daily contemplation inspired by a short text of Scripture from the day's Gospel reading, reflections on how to put the Word into practice, and prayer.

Visit lentprogram.com.au to purchase your copy today.

LENT 2024

ALL NEW PARISH MISSION
EVENT PRESENTED BY
THE CATHOLIC GUY

St John the Baptist Catholic church
131 South Pine Rd, Enoggera QLD

4 - 7 MARCH 2024

FREE ADMISSION

BE CHANGED...BE RENEWED...BE INSPIRED

The Kedron Brook Catholic Community warmly invites everyone to our special Lent 2024 Parish Mission, presented by The Catholic Guy. This is an opportunity for spiritual renewal and reflection as we journey through the Lenten season. Join us for a series of inspiring sessions that promise to enrich your faith and deepen your relationship with God. This event is open to all, and we encourage you to invite friends and family to experience this uplifting spiritual journey together.

For more information, please contact the parish office or visit our website. Let us embrace this time of grace and growth together during Lent 2024.

discere

10 FEBRUARY 2024
9:00AM - 3:00PM | MARIAN VALLEY

A VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT RETREAT

vocation
BRISBANE.com

Discere is a free, one-day retreat for young single Catholic men and women (18-35 years) to intentionally pause and ask the question "where is God calling me?" in a peaceful, supportive and safe environment. Scan the QR code to register for this event!

Discere is a free, one-day retreat for young single Catholic men and women (18-35 years) to intentionally pause and ask the question "where is God calling me?" in a peaceful, supportive and safe environment.

There will be time for prayer, reflection and group sharing, as well as opportunities to hear from priests, religious and married spouses about their discernment journeys.

The team from Vocation Brisbane will also provide information about the different Catholic vocations (Ordained, Religious/Consecrated, Single & Married Life), plus help shed light on what 'discernment' actually means and give practical tips about how to discern in your every day life.

For more information and to register, visit the website.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
Brisbane 14 February to 24 March, 2024

We believe in hesanctity of life from the moment of conception. That's why 40 Days for Life in Brisbane has been praying to end abortion through each Lent for the past 15years. We'd love for you to join us! This year we start on Ash Wednesday, 14 February 2024 and continue until Palm Sunday, 24 March 2024. We will again have our physical prayer vigil at 20 Abbotsford Rd Bowen Hills (outside Bowen Hills train station). For more details, please email [40 days Brisbane @gmail.com](mailto:40daysbrisbane@gmail.com).

WORD of GOD
Sunday 2024
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

The Gospel According to **MARK**

The Church in Australia celebrates **Word of God Sunday** on the first Sunday in February-February 4 in 2024(Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B).