



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

PARISH OFFICE

Located in Presbytery

350 Mortimer Road
Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

Hours Monday to Friday
9.30am to 4.30pm

Telephone 07 3274 5513

Email

acaciaridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Postal

PO Box 12 Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

Website

www.fatimaacaciaridge.org.au

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

RIISING YOUTH | RIISING 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

palgester@bne.catholic.edu.au



Join us in our next
Morning Tea on Febru-
ary 2024 (date to be
announced). Bring
your friends and a
plate of food to share.

FATIMA NEWS

Feast of Epiphany of the Lord, 7 January 2023

Greetings to all,

From the very beginning of the season of Advent until now, you probably notice that our liturgical readings have all centred on particular theme that that is **God's coming to us**. The underlying movement has been God seeking us out and offering Himself to us in His Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh.

However, in the feast of the Epiphany, there is an interesting shift in the movement. **Now it's about our seeking, our searching for God** specifically our seeking out God in the person of Jesus.

The theme of that searching, of that seeking is beautifully exemplified in the image of The Magi, the wise men in the gospel reading of this Sunday. The Magi were the representatives of all of us, of all peoples, of all humanity.

Interestingly, it is also a directive of King Herod to the Magi. **"Go and search diligently for the child."** When King Herod give this directive to the Magi is certainly not with good intention. And yet, his directive to the magi was *spot on*.

I think that they are words spoken for us and to us. We are to search diligently for the child. Where do we find him? Sometimes within us. Sometimes the search for God takes us no further than closing the eyes and the stilling the mind. We were created in God's Image, and God's Holy Breathe is within us. In our home. In our family. In our most beloved. In the joy and in the excruciating pain of life's experiences.

Sometimes outside of us. In the face of another, who is also created in the image of God. In serving those who are in need. In the sick, the dying, the distressed, the



depressed, the hungry, and the lost. In the Holy Scriptures, the Body and the Blood of the Holy Eucharist, the assembled Body of Christ in worship.

We search diligently in the most remarkable of places and in the most ordinary of places. In the magnificent cathedral and in the street corners. In the washing of the feet, and in the washing of the dishes.

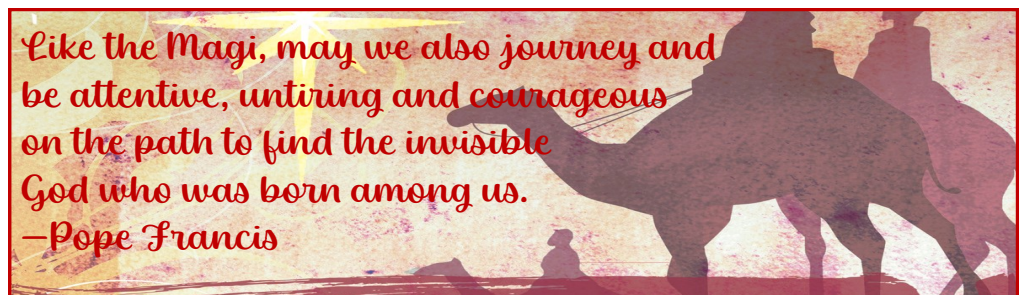
God is all around us, within us, above us, beside us, as our friend. Beneath us, as our rock and foundation. God is where we begin our journey, where we end our journey, and along the entire route of the path we take.

If Christmas is all about God coming to us **to seek us out**, then Epiphany is all about **our seeking out for God** who has come among us. But, if we aren't diligent, if we aren't searching or looking, we might miss to encounter with Him. **Let us go and search diligently for the child.**

God bless,

Fr Dang

Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.
—Pope Francis



CHRIST'S PRESENCE AT MASS

A key paragraph of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* says:

Christ is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of his minister, but especially under the eucharistic elements. He is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present when the Church prays and sings, for he promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them". (CSL #7)

During the Eucharistic Prayer, we pay attention to the words prayed on our behalf by the presider and join in the responses. The sacred species are handled with care and respect. Everything speaks of honour and reverence for Christ's real presence in the consecrated elements.

Because it is Christ himself who speaks when the scriptures are proclaimed at Mass, we must also give our full attention to the Liturgy of the Word. The lectionary (the book of readings) needs to be attractive and handled with reverence.

Christ is present in those with whom we worship, so we sit with others and acknowledge their presence, share the sign of peace graciously and join wholeheartedly in the responses, gestures and singing.

Actions speak louder than words. It should be clear in what we do and how we do it that we truly believe that Christ is present when we worship together, not only in the sacred elements but also in the assembly, in the word and in the priest presider.

LIFT UP YOUR VOICE

Music is an important part of special gatherings – singing "Happy Birthday to you", carols at Christmas, etc – and singing is integral to liturgy because it too is a celebration – a celebration of faith.

The hymns that we sing enable us to express our faith in a way that otherwise we might find difficult to do and words often take on a much deeper meaning when sung. Singing also offers a unique means for us to express joy and enthusiasm.

Singing is a way that everyone can fully participate in the liturgy as we are expected to do. We sing because we are people of prayer and, according to an ancient proverb, those who sing pray twice.

This personal story about people singing at Mass has an important message for us all.

"A few months ago I was feeling devastated after the death of my husband. I would go to Mass but found myself unable to join in singing the hymns or responses. But my spirits were lifted by the singing of those around me. It felt as if my fellow parishioners were singing for me when I couldn't. When my voice was silenced by grief, the community of the faithful carried me. Over time, they gave me back my voice and I was able to sing with them again."

God knows whose spirits you might lift and who you might help regain their lost voice by joining in the hymns, refrains and responses at Mass! - *Elizabeth Harrington*

First Holy Communion

Holy Communion, or Eucharist, is the last Sacrament of Initiation and often takes place following the Sacrament of Confirmation. The first time you receive Eucharist completes your initiation into the Church. The Eucharist is celebrated during Mass and is sometimes called the "source and summit" of the life of a Catholic. Unlike many other Sacraments, Holy Communion is not celebrated once. Each week, Catholics go to Mass to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, the ritual in which, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. We, who celebrate, are also transformed, becoming Christ's presence to others, and recognising the presence of Christ in others.

For Catholics, the Eucharist or Mass, is the most powerful way to encounter the real presence of Jesus Christ.

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 6 th March
Fifth Week: Rehearsal and recap on HC	6-7pm, Wednesday 13 th March

First Holy Communion Mass **TBC**

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

Registrations: Please contact the parish office through email at

acaciardge@bne.catholic.net.au

Prayer for The Sesquicentenary of the Cathedral of St Stephen

Down by the river, heavenly Father,
on this earth our mother,
where children of the Dreaming
long made a home before us,
our forebears in faith have built
this mother church of St Stephen,
a family home for you and us.

the stones have spoken of Easter,
of a life that is bigger than death,
of a love that has the last word.
Through one hundred and fifty years,
we have made the building
and the building has made us,
a temple of living stones.

Stone by stone and prayer by prayer
they have raised this holy house,
familiar forms on foreign land,
a place where Brisbane could know
Christ's sacrifice and feast,
where you could speak and we could listen,
where the tide of your mercy could flow.

Now we tell the story of your grace,
thankful as we remember.
By that same unflinching grace
may this cathedral never cease to be
a home for all at the heart of the city
and a house for you, God-with-us,
on this earth down by the river,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here saints and sinners have come,
bringing their young and their dead,
all their hopes and their dreams.
Through times of sorrow and joy

Amen.
- Mark Coleridge
Archbishop of Brisbane