



Spread the Word

Vol. 38 No. 38 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24 September 2023

The community of Our Lady of Graces acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish stands.

Reflection on Pope Francis' 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees Message "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay"

In this year's World Day for Migrants and Refugees Message, Pope Francis focuses on the theme, "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay."

In the message he points out that for a healthy society there should always be "the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land."

Migration movements throughout the world continue unabated. The Pope insists that we should always be "ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern."

We don't often reflect on this given our current understanding of refugees, but the Pope reminds us, once again, that there are Biblical examples of refugees. We think first of all of the experiences of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Pope notes, "The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt was not the result of a free decision." He then insists that, "The decision to migrate should always be free, yet in many cases, even in our day, it is not." He reminds us of St John Paul II who stated that there should be a real commitment "to safeguarding first of all the right not to emigrate, that is, the right to live in peace and dignity in one's own country."

The other example given in the Pope's message is the flight of Jacob and all his offspring with him (Gen 46:6). Due to a grave famine in their land of origin, it necessitated them "to seek refuge in Egypt, where his son Joseph ensured their survival." We are all aware that "Migrants flee because of poverty, fear or desperation." The Pope makes the very important point that the country of origin must make a commitment which "begins with asking what we can do, but also what we need to stop doing." He cites the example of "the arms race, economic colonialism, the plundering of other people's resources and the devastation of our common home."

For migration to be truly a choice that is free, "efforts must be made to ensure to everyone an equal share in the common good, respect for his or her fundamental rights, and access to an integral human development." In anticipating the Jubilee Year of 2025, Pope Francis recalls the important dimension of jubilee years as "an act of collective justice." Here people are able to return to their places of origin with the intention of "the cancellation of all debts, restoration of the land, and an opportunity once more to enjoy the freedom proper to the members of the People of God." In other words the right not to be forced to immigrate is "the chance to live in peace and with dignity in one's own country."

The Pope concludes his reflection by reminding us again that "the migrant is not simply a brother or sister in difficulty, but Christ himself, who knocks at our door." We are to construct "bridges and not walls, expanding channels for a safe and regular migration."

*Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Chairman, Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 8.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday - Thursday: 8.30am - 3.30pm
Friday: 8.30am - 12.30pm

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Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au

Website: www.carinacatholicparish.org.au

Facebook: Our Lady of Graces Catholic
Parish, Carina

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am & 5.30pm
10.30am (Italian)

Weekday: 6.30am & 9am
Monday - Friday
8am Saturday
& Public Holidays

RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 8.30am - 9.00am
5.30pm - 6.00pm
or by appointment

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Alex Vickers O.P.
Assistant Priest: Fr Maurice Keating O.P.
Pastoral Associate: Shelly Stone
Email: sc.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Secretary: Chris Larter
Email: carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Finance Officer: Chris Larter
Email: fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au
Italian Chaplain: Fr Luis Antonio Diaz
Lamus CS
Phone: 0403 948 967

PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday 24 September

- 8.00am Baptism Preparation – Church & Library

Monday 25 September

- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

Wednesday 27 September

- 9.45am Novena: OLPH – Library

- 6.30pm Legion of Mary – Front Parlour

Sunday 1 October

- 9.00am Baptisms in Mass – Church

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick Michael Dalton, Tracey Forrest, Jocelyn Bonney, Robert Balmer, Ciaron Ayres, Caroline Massa, Marie Atkinson, Elliott Jones-Perrin, Pamela O'Reilly, Noah Riley **those whose anniversaries occur around this time** Salvatore Pennisi, Ken Welsh, Angelo Vasta, Orazia Coco, Frank & Grace Levy, Robert & Rose Kahl, Queen Elizabeth II, Fr Paul Purcell, Fr David Lewis OP, **and the recently deceased** Veronica Ruth Carmody, Ernesto Rosa, Maria Tien, Mary Louise McLaws.

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home. The Season "Celebration" began on 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year we unite around the theme, "*Let Peace and Justice Flow.*"



Brisbane East Deanery Scripture Group

The Wednesday morning 10.30am BED Scripture Group, that is due to start this week at Our Lady of Graces, will now be held in the Parish Office Meeting Room at St Thomas' Parish, 31 Perth St, Camp Hill (car park entrance off Stephen St).

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Please note that Monday 2 October is the King's Birthday Public Holiday. Therefore, Mass on this day will be celebrated only at 8.00am and the parish office will be closed.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

A reminder to Parish Pastoral Council members that the next PPC meeting will be held on Monday 2 October, 7.00pm, in the Parish Library.

St Vincent de Paul Meeting

The next meeting of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Tuesday 3 October, 7.00pm, in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). New members are more than welcome to attend.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Repairs to the Church Skylights

The repairs to the Church Skylights will commence this Wednesday, 27 September. It is expected that these repairs will take approximately one week to be completed. Please note the following below.

- **Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (27, 28 & 29 September)**
6.30am & 9am Masses, as well as Prayer / Devotional Groups, will be held in the Parish Library.
- **Saturday, Sunday & Monday [public holiday] (30 September, 1 & 2 October)**
Masses will be held in the Church, as per usual.
- **Tuesday & Wednesday (3 & 4 October)**
6.30am & 9am Masses, as well as Prayer / Devotional Groups, will be held in the Parish Library.
- **Car Park Spaces Near the Parish Office**
Some, if not all, of the car park spaces near the parish office will be blocked off for the builders to store their equipment to complete this work.
Thank you for your patience and understanding while these repairs take place.

Domestic and Family Abuse: You are invited to a special meeting of our Social Justice Group, to trial a new resource for churches. This is an assessment tool to ascertain the level of acceptance, preparedness, welcome, awareness and resources parishes might have to address the needs of those experiencing domestic and family abuse.

- *Date & Time: Tuesday 3 October, 7.30pm*
- *Venue: Parish Library*

The session will be facilitated by parishioner, Carole Danby, on behalf of Queensland Churches Together, and at the invitation of Henry Gorniak, Chair of the Social Justice Group.

Parish 500 Card Group will meet at 7.00pm on Friday 6 October in the Aquinas Room (room underneath the Church). All are welcome.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will next be held on Sunday 8 October during 9am Mass. All primary school aged children are welcome to attend.

Sunday 5.30pm Kids' Mass

The 3rd Sunday of the Month 5.30pm Kids' Mass will be next held on Sunday 15 October.

Children can participate by reading, taking up the collection, handing out newsletters, or bringing up the 7 gifts. You need to be available to bring them to the church around 5pm for a little coaching. To take part, go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and using code **6tg2y**, register for the ministry of your choice.

St Vincent de Paul Carina Conference

St Vincent de Paul Our Lady of Graces Carina BSB: 064 786 Account Number: 100026584

To donate non-perishable food, you are welcome to leave in the baskets at the church door.

If you make a donation to SVdP Carina Conference with cash or via EFT and would like a receipt, please contact the Parish Office.

Special thanks to the Committee of Madonna Delle Grazie and Lucia Balzano for last Saturday night's function. The support of our Italian parishioners is greatly appreciated. May God bless you all.



Our Lady of Graces Multicultural Celebration Celebrating *OUR* Community

Saturday 21 October - 6.00pm Mass
followed by festivities

Bring a plate of your favourite food that celebrates your nationality

Tea, Coffee & Cordial provided

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Multicultural Celebration: Saturday 21 October

We are inviting the different nationalities which make up OUR Community of Our Lady of Graces to be part of the Multicultural Mass & festivities after Mass on Saturday 21 October. It would be wonderful to have as many different nationalities as possible involved.

We are looking for the following people for the Mass:

- Flag bearers for the Entrance Procession
- A nationality group to carry in the Book of the Gospels
- To read a Prayer of the Faithful in their own language
- A nationality group to bring up the Offertory gifts
- Those who want to lead a song in their own language during the Mass

If you are interested in being involved in the Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

After the Mass, we welcome any group who would like to perform a dance or sing a song while we enjoy the food from the different nationalities of our community.

We also invite everyone attending the Multicultural Celebration to come in national dress/costume.

Orders for 2024 Annuals

We are taking orders for the following annuals:

- Daily Mass Books \$28
- Break Open the Word \$28
- Ordos \$18

To order, please either contact the Parish Office or place your order and payment in an envelope and drop the envelope into the collection at Mass or to the Parish Office.

Orders are required by 12.30pm on Monday 30 October at the latest.

This allows for the books to be available before the start of the new liturgical year on Sunday 3 December.

Donation Terminal & Parish Giving App

No Cash? No Problem!

A tap & pay Donation Terminal is available near the main door of the Church. This is to provide an alternative way for parishioners and visitors to contribute conveniently to the financial well-being of both the Dominican Community and Our Lady of Graces Parish via credit or debit card.

You can also give via the *Parish Giving app*, by scanning the QR code for regular and one-off giving.



Volunteers for Camp Hill Aged Care

Camp Hill Aged Care have contacted the parish to see if there would be any parishioners who would volunteer to take Holy Communion to their residents.

Currently the residents of the facility celebrate Mass on the 1st Thursday of the Month. However, they would like Holy Communion on either a weekly or fortnightly basis.

If you feel you would be able to assist in this area, even on a monthly basis, please contact the Parish Office for further information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Going Deeper is a ten-session online series about the heart of the Catholic faith. It explores different aspects of what it means to live a Catholic life. Together we dive beneath the teachings and practices and instead ponder, 'what is this all for?' You can register any time in September and work through the course at your own pace. Whatever your faith background or experience, "Going Deeper" is for you. To find out more and to register: www.goingdeeper.org.au

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday 30 September, 11.30am, at the Cathedral of St Stephen followed by refreshments. To register to attend the Mass and for catering purposes, please RSVP to cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3030.

Pilgrimage of Prayer: Join in the annual pilgrimage to the Mother Teresa Shrine at Marian Valley. Saturday 7 October, 11am Mass followed by Procession to the Shrine. Bus leaving 8.15am from Star of the Sea, Cleveland, return 3pm. Bus Bookings: 3821 4902.

Healing and Deliverance Retreat

Would you love to experience God's power and love in a deeper way? You are invited to a life-transforming time with The Lord Jesus. Come and hear The Word of God, preached by Br Johnson with practical understanding. It will transform your loves. Bring your Bibles, notebook, and pen.

- Sat. 7 October, 9am-4pm, St Columba's Wilston
- Sun. 8 October, 10am-5pm, St Catherine's Moggill
- Mon. 9 October – Wed. 11 October, 6pm-8pm, St Flannans Zillmere.

The Grace of Baptism Retreat: Discover how precious you are in Christ, experience the Healing Touch of God, encounter the Holy Spirit. Presented by CCR Brisbane. Saturday 7 October, 9.30am-4pm, Guardian Angels Church, Wynnum.

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