

## This is the miracle that led to the Fatima children's canonization

The miracle involved a Brazilian boy named Lucas, who was miraculously healed through the intercession of the shepherd children.

Jacinta and Francisco became the youngest non-martyrs to be canonized. Sister Lucia, the third visionary, lived much longer, dying in 2005 at the age of 97. The Church is currently examining documents and collecting testimonies for her beatification cause.

"On March 3, 2013, before 8:00 pm, our son Lucas, who was playing with his little sister Eduarda, fell out of a window from a height of 20 feet. He was five years old." "His head hit the ground and he sustained a very serious injury, which caused a loss of brain tissue." Teetering between life and death, "he was given medical care in our city, Juranda, and given the severity of his condition, he was transferred to the hospital in Campo Mourao, Parana." "When we got there, Lucas was in a deep coma. His heart stopped twice, and they performed an emergency operation."

It was at that moment that "we began to pray to Jesus and Our Lady of Fatima, to whom we have a great devotion," Batista said. The next day we called the Carmelite convent of Campo Mourao to ask the sisters to pray for the boy," he said. But the community was observing a period of silence, and so the message did not get to them. As the days went by, Lucas became worse, his father recounted. On March 6, the doctors considered transferring him to another hospital. "They told us that the chance of the boy surviving was low, and if he did survive, his recovery would be very slow," likely dealing with "severe cognitive disabilities or even remaining in a vegetative state."

On March 7, Batista said, "we called the convent again." That time, they were able to get their prayer request to the sisters. "One of them ran to the relics of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, which were next to the tabernacle, and felt the impulse to pray the following prayer: 'Shepherds, save this child, who is a child like you'...she also persuaded the other sisters to pray to the little shepherds to intercede for him." "And so they did," Batista said. "In the same way, all of us, the family, began to pray to the little shepherds, and two days later, on March 9, Lucas woke up and began to speak, even asking for his little sister." On the 11th, he left the ICU and was discharged from the hospital a few days later.

Since that time, Lucas "has been completely well and has no symptoms or after effects," the child's father said. "He has the same intelligence (as he did before the accident), the same character, everything is the same."

"The doctors, some of them non-believers, said that his recovery had no explanation." Batista and his wife are grateful "for all the care given throughout this process." "We thank God for the cure of Lucas and we know with all the faith we have in our hearts, that this miracle was obtained through the intercession of the little shepherds Francisco and Jacinta." "We feel a great joy because this is the miracle that leads to their canonization, but especially we feel the blessing of the friendship of these two children who helped our child and who now help our family," Batista said.



## Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



*Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18*

**Pastoral Associate:** Br Denis Devcich | **Acolyte:** Denis Golden

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**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

### Mass Times

**Saturday:** - (Vigil) 6pm

**Sunday:** - 9:30am & 5:30pm

**Monday:** - 8am Mass

**Tuesday:** - 10am, Mass of Mercy, *2nd  
Tues of month Anointing of the sick*

**Wednesday:** - 8am

**Thursday:** - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

**Friday:** - 8am

**Saturday:** - 8am, Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

### Sacraments and Devotions

**Adoration:** - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

*Precious Blood - 10am*

**Rosaries:** - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

**Reconciliation:** - Thursday after Novena

Sat after 8am Mass & 5:30 to 5:50pm

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

**Baptism and Marriage:** - By appointment

**Legion of Mary Praesidia:**

**Mon:** 9:30am - Mystical Rose

**Thur:** 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

**Wed:** 8:30am - Mary Immaculate

### ~ Parish Notices ~

**SRE - Catechist:** On 7th June at 10am until 12 noon in the Marian Centre, Victoria Kirley will be training catechist in classroom management followed by (optional) Bible study 1hour 45 minutes.

**Leadersnow fundraiser:** A reflection on 10 years of leadersnow in Albury will be celebrated with a high Tea at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Marian Centre, Thurgoona. Ladies aged 12 and up are most welcomed - 3 until 5 pm, Saturday 27th May. Cost \$10.00 donation per head. Please contact Kathleen Horsfall.

**The offertory at the canonization Mass:** the gifts were brought up by the family of the young boy whose miraculous healing was attributed to the intercession of two of the Fatima shepherd children, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, paving the way for their canonization. Pope Francis hugs Lucas Baptista during a mass at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima



## Sixth Sunday of Easter, 21 May 2017

**Collect:** Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### First reading Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

### Second reading 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong. Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

### Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

*Alleluia, alleluia!* All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. *Alleluia!*

### Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one



who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

### Communion Antiphon Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**Feast of the week:** *Wed:* Our Lady, Help of Christians  
*Friday:* St Phillip Neri, priest

### Lord hear our prayers for the:

**Sick:** Matthew Cameron, Noel Glasgow, Ray Curtis, Fr Con Croese, Kieran Clifford, **Departed:** Pat Coleman, George Honey, John Murray, **Anniversaries:** Marie Ryan, Lorna Wilson, Helen McCrohan

**Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Damien Tocher Sun 9.30am - Gwen Abikhair**

### Readers & Cleaners Roster - 27/28 May 2017

**Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Lucy Findlay Sun: 9.30 am - Steve McCrohan**

**Cleaning: Group 5 - Kathleen Horsfall**

**Financial Report:** Please make cheques payable to "Thurgoona Catholic Parish" or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer. First Collection: \$374.20, Envelope: \$370.00+ Direct Debit: \$320.00, Loose: \$174.80

### Alive in the Spirit: Scott Hahn

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans". He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father.

The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons, proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our sacrament of Confirmation, by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son.

We celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle. This is the reason for our hope—the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake.

