



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



## Parish Priest

Fr Joson Antony MCBS

## Office Staff

Dot Lomax

## Pastoral Coordinators

Rachel Marchesini

Yolanda Apelt

## Churches

St Joachim's Church

41 Yuletide Street

Holland Park

St Agnes' Church

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt

## Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

## Parish Details

P O Box 281

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Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

E: [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

Fax: 07 3349 1558

Pager: 07 3834 8507

Website:

[www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au](http://www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au)

## Parish Schools and College

St Agnes' School

07 3349 5130

St Joachim's School

07 3397 9087

Seton College

07 3291-5333

## St Vincent de Paul Welfare

1800 846 643

## Safeguarding Officer

Dot Lomax 0428 172 224

(Safeguarding purposes only)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Year A

8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

### ***Prepare a way for the Lord...***

Dear Friends,

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of ours and wilderness or desert features powerfully presented in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or re-evaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kingdom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kingdom is both present and yet still approaching.

The first reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kingdom. John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (metanoia). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around from those who listen to the call for metanoia. The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.

*Veronica Lawson RSM*

### **Readings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

## **WE REMEMBER**

We remember Donna Meadowcroft and Ricardo Cabrera.  
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

## **PARISH HAPPENINGS**

### **COUNTERS**

Alison's team.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in the Parish Centre.

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DAILY REFLECTIONS**

This book of reflections is available in the churches this weekend at a cost of \$3.

### **GOD'S WORD 2020**

This book of daily reflections is now available from the churches for \$12 each.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS**

Christmas Cards are available this weekend; Pack of 8 - \$3.  
Columban Calendars - \$9

### **HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH WEBSITE**

The Parish now had its own website and it is accessible on the link below:

<https://hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au/>

Go online and check it out.

The more often is visited the higher it rates on the search engine. It is continuing to develop.

### **Farewell to our Students**

Hearty congratulations to all our graduating students from Seton College, St Joachim's and St Agnes' Primary Schools. We wish the students well and pray that God may continue to journey with them on their new pathways. Some of our teachers are also moving on; we remember them with gratitude and wish them well in their new schools. We wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you again in 2020.

Wherever you are this Christmas please include Christmas Mass in your holiday celebrations.

With God's blessings, Fr Joson

## **HOLY LAND + INDIA TRIP - SEPTEMBER 2020**

Departing September 17<sup>th</sup>, the tour will be conducted over 15 nights/16 days. Cost: \$6499pp on twin share in Luxury hotels. Return economy airfares on premium airlines. 7 nights Holy Land Tour includes tour to Petra, 4 nights North India visiting Taj Mahal, other major attractions & 4 nights in Kerala, South India including day cruise on houseboat - Alleppey, Elephant Safari. Includes all meals, government licensed guides, all entry fees, daily mass in Holy Lands, Catholic priest and tour manager accompanying tour from Australia. Excludes Travel Insurance and Indian Visa.

A full brochure is now available by contacting the Parish Office on 3349 2280; [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au) or through Flyworld at [holidays@flyworld.online](mailto:holidays@flyworld.online)

## **Parish Diary**

### **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Benediction 5:30pm  
Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
*(Includes Anointing of the Sick)*  
St Joachim's

### **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

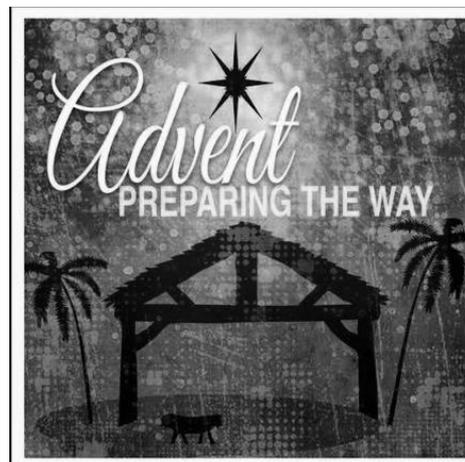
### **2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

### **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

### **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's  
Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes  
Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes



Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish  
LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON

Advent Prayer and Christmas Drinks (includes Penitential Rite) - MONDAY 16 DECEMBER, 6:30pm, St Agnes'

CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

6:00pm St Agnes' - carols from 5:45pm

7:30pm St Joachim's - carols from 7:15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY - WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

8:00am St Agnes' - carols from 7:45am

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1 JANUARY

9:00am St Joachim's

St Joachim's Church  
41 Yuletide Street  
HOLLAND PARK

St Agnes' Church  
1227 Logan Road  
MT GRAVATT



**FROM  
AROUND  
THE  
ARCHDIOCESE**

Gather on the lawn at St Stephen's Cathedral to celebrate the joy of Christmas with an extraordinary sound and light show. The Lights of Christmas is a free event open to the public that will delight families with music, food and childrens' activities every evening 11 - 24 December, 6.30 - 10.30pm.



**CCR BRISBANE HEALING PRAYER CENTRE**

Catholic Charismatic Renewal will be offering training on Healing Prayer Level 1 at CCR Brisbane Centre, 688 Nudgee Road, Northgate in 2020. This level 1 course will be completed over 3 full Saturdays - 29 February, 28 March, 18 April with attendance at all three training days required and is **open** to all. For more details, fees and registration email [secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au](mailto:secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au) or telephone 0435 558 390 or 3202 6856

**THE CATHOLIC LEADER**

**COST: \$2.00**

- Four married Catholic men were ordained permanent deacons
- The Catholic Leader commemorated 90 years of journalism,
- Plastic bottles has become a tool to raise money for the poor
- Eddy Delsorte to reflects on the day his home went under
- Former refugee Anthony Gawlu escaped persecution and violence to become a seminarian
- St Paul's Book Centre could shut its automatic door forever without immediate assistance.
- Catholic teacher Luke Thomsen wanted to help others "intensely develop" their relationship with Jesus

Available in the churches this weekend.

**ADVENT EVENTS**

Back by popular demand you are invited to our

**Ecumenical Taizé Prayer Evenings**

to prepare spiritually for Christmas.

- Mon 9th & 16th Dec, 7.00 pm  
St Catherine's Church, Wishart

**Advent Reconciliation Services**

- Tues, 10th Dec, 7.00 pm  
St Catherine's Church, Wishart
- Wed 11th Dec, 7.00 pm  
St Martin's Church, Eight Mile Plains
- Tues, 17th Dec, 7.00 pm  
St Bernard's Church, Upper Mt Gravatt



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Thomas Antony : 0478911089

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**St Joachim's**  
Catholic Primary School HOLLAND PARK PREP - 6

Faith - Respect - Service

**Cr Krista Adams**  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor for Holland Park  
Chair of Finance and Economic Development

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**Denny Electrical**

**Samuel Denny**  
Electrical - Communications - Maintenance

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