



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



## Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Joson Antony MCBS

Dcn Des Neagle

## Office Staff

Adrian Prendergast

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)

Pager: 07 3834 8507

Website:

[www.hollandparkmtgravatt](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt)

[catholicparish.com.au](http://catholicparish.com.au)

Facebook:

st joachim's & st agnes' parish

## 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 0474 297 201

(Safeguarding purposes only)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Yr C

December 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> 2021

## What, then, must we do?

In last Sunday's Gospel reading, John the Baptist issued a ringing call to prepare the way for the Lord.

He proclaimed a baptism of repentance leading to forgiveness of sins. In today's reading, John spells out what repentance looks like: when peoples' hearts and minds are changed, their actions change too. Words are empty if they don't result in deeds. Fruitless trees will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

John's challenge to fruitful living prompts a series of questions from his repentant hearers. "What then shall we do?" The first question comes from the crowd in general, and John replies to the whole group. Do you own two shirts? You have more than you need. Do you have food? Give some away. He leaves no wiggle room for those who might be tempted to say, "But I'm not rich." The command is absolute: some people in your community don't have enough to survive, so if you have anything at all, share it.

The next two queries, from the tax collectors and from the soldiers, move beyond sharing to address behaviours that cause poverty. John tells the tax collectors and soldiers to stop abusing people in order to make more money. Don't take more than the minimum, don't shake people down, and don't blackmail them. Be content with your wages.

John's words show that he views poverty neither as an accident nor as the fault of the poor. In his time, as in ours, the earth produced more than enough goods to feed and clothe everyone. The problem then and now is that the resources have been grabbed up by a very small percentage of the population. John called not only the wealthiest but also the merely comfortable to treat their accumulation of goods as directly related to the seriousness of their repentance. How we get money and how we use money exposes what we value. Economic issues are spiritual issues. If we ignore God's commands to practice social and economic justice, how can we claim that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength? If we prioritize our pleasures above our neighbours' basic necessities, how can we claim to love our neighbours' as we love ourselves?

Though John's message seems radical to his hearers, he is quick to remind them that he is merely a messenger preparing the way for the stronger one. That one will baptize in the Holy Spirit and in fire. The imagery suggests not only the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost, but the refiner's fire prophesied in Malachi 3:1-5. But what will the fire burn up?

"The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being." Which one of us can claim truthfully to be all wheat and no chaff? When the stronger one winnows the wheat and burns the chaff, he will sift out and destroy the impurities within every person (cf. Luke 22:31). Like the water of baptism, the promised fire is a gift that cleanses.

John calls his hearers to let God burn up our selfish desire to hoard our food and clothes even when our neighbour is hungry and shivering with cold. All that gets in the way of love for God and neighbour must go. Then we can live as God's own people, aflame with love and committed to justice

Judith Jones

Readings: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-44

READINGS FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading**

Zephaniah 3:14-

18 Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response: Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel..**

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading**

Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

## Parish Diary

**Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am

St Joachim's

Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite

St Agnes' 6:30pm

**Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm

St Joachim's

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm

St Joachim's

**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

**Rejoicing in God, Our Saviour.**

Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus Christ.

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Margaret MacDonald, John Kevin (Kev) O'Neill and Mark Tiainen. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE REJOICE

With the Gibney and Doughan families as they celebrate the baptism of Ciara and Riley in the parish this weekend.

### COUNTERS

Alision's team.

### ADVENT PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Don't forget the Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite this Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> commencing 6:30pm in St Agnes' Church. This will be followed by supper and Christmas drinks.

### GOD'S WORD 2022

This book of daily reflections is a companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the word of God. It includes the scripture readings of the day along with a reflection. \$15.

### BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Readers please collect your copy of Break Open the Word from the sacristy this weekend.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

### ADVENT PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

(includes Penitential Rite)

Monday, December 13 6:30pm St Agnes'

### CHRISTMAS EVE – FRIDAY DECEMBER 24

#### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN CHURCHES

5:30pm St Joachim's Carols from 5:15pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/BWDFD>

7:00pm St Agnes' Carols from 6:45pm

<https://www.trybooking.com/BWDEZ>

### CHRISTMAS DAY – SATURDAY DECEMBER 25

8:00am St Agnes' Carols from 7:45am

<https://www.trybooking.com/BWDEZ>

#### BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.

Booking site will open on Monday, December 6th.

### Feast of the Holy Family - Sunday December 26

7:30am St Joachim's

9:00am St Agnes'

**NB:** Please note there is no 6:00pm masses this weekend for the Feast of the Holy Family.

### The Epiphany of the Lord - January 2

6:00pm (Saturday) St Joachim's

7:30am St Joachim's

9:00am St Agnes'

6:00pm St Agnes

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS AND COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Christmas Cards and Calendars are available this weekend at the churches. Cards are \$5 for Pack of 5 and Calendars are \$10. If you would like to make a purchase, please see:

6:00pm St Joachim's Margaret Bopf

7:30am St Joachim's Roen Robinson

9:00am St Agnes' Sr Karen Risson

6:00pm St Agnes' Ted Kelly

### ST JAMES COLLEGE, SPRING HILL

A progressive multicultural Catholic Co-Educational Secondary College in the tradition of Edmund Rice (EREA) is still welcoming enrolment enquiries for vacancies in 2022 in Years 7 – 12. Welcoming students from diverse backgrounds and abilities so they can flourish in their learning and realise their potential. ENQUIRE NOW online or call Maria Young, Enrolments Officer on 3230 8600, MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au - the college office closes Friday 10 December and reopens Monday 10 January. [www.stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](http://www.stjamescollege.qld.edu.au). Applications can also be submitted to

[school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au)

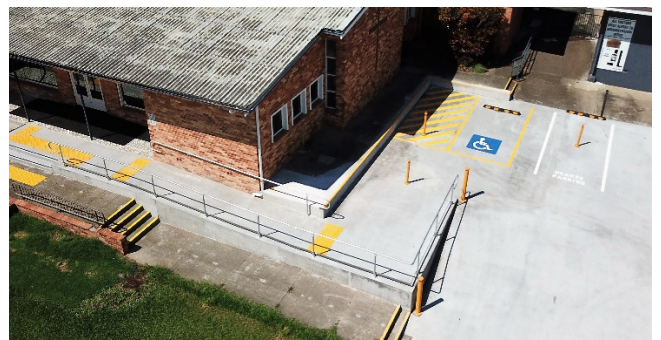
### POSITIONS VACANT WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE

#### Position Vacant – Parish Secretary

Applications are open for a position at the St Mary's, South Brisbane, and Dutton Park Parishes. A person with excellent administration and time management skills required for a full-time position of Parish Secretary working 38 hours a week. For additional information, please visit the Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://tinyurl.com/6hsy2ams> Applications close: 19 December

### St Agnes' Disability access

We are pleased to announce that the new Disability access ramp and carpark at St Agnes' Church has been completed. This project took a little longer than anticipated due to wet weather, but now that it is complete it will be a welcome addition to the Church.







*For however you choose to say goodbye...*

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- \* Carpentry \* Decks \* Patios
- \* Kitchen and Bathroom Renovations
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**Domestic | Commercial**



**St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care**

**41 Yuletide Street Holland Park 4121**

**07 3847 9820**

**0418 355 431**



The Holland Park Mt Gravatt Catholic Parish acknowledge the Jagera people, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY**

*... for it is to such as thee that the kingdom of God belongs.*

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

This means that everyone in the church must ensure that the fundamental rights of children, young people and vulnerable adults are respected. This will be achieved through the development of respectful relationships and a commitment to safety embracing appropriate boundaries, behaviours and practices, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Code of Ethical Behaviour and adherence to legislative imperatives of the State. This policy applies to Clergy, Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Volunteers, Students on placement and Visitors to our sites.