



## Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Jason 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)

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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)

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

Yr C

December 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 2021

## **Prepare the Way.**

Do you have company coming in the next few weeks? Or are you the company that other people will be hosting? The holidays are upon us, and for many people, this means getting ready for the arrival of company. We clean the house! On top of all of the other things we try to accomplish between now and Christmas, if we have company coming, it's time to get the house ready.

So in this story, John is preparing the way for Jesus to start his ministry. We tell this story at Christmas time because Advent is a time to get ready for an arrival. It's like he's getting the house ready so Jesus can come in and do the real, deep spiritual work.

John's message to "Repent & Be Baptized" includes two parts – a "no," and a "yes."

Repentance is the "no." Repentance isn't a word we use in everyday language. To repent is to turn the other way. We all make mistakes and have regrets, when we repent we turn from sin and move toward making things right. You can think of repentance as a big "U-Turn" sign on your life.

It's worth pointing out that the people in the crowd John was talking to weren't caught up in big sins, causing trouble. Their biggest problem was that they were beginning to be settled in their faith, just resting on the fact that they were "born" into the faith & just going through the motions of faith. For me, this description hits a little too close to home. It's tempting to sometimes claim the identity of "Christian" and then not think much about it.

The problem is that being a Christian isn't always supposed to be comfortable, feel-good stuff. We are not called to a comfortable, lukewarm, safe faith. John knows that when Jesus starts his ministry, people will have to have a deep faith. Jesus is going to start a new world order. So John's call here to repent is designed to make us uncomfortable when we want comfort. We need to turn from ways that keep us from God.

Repentance means asking ourselves tough questions like "How deep is my faith? Are my actions in line with my beliefs? Is my faith expectant, alert, growing, and serving? Or is my faith small, tired and lukewarm?"

John is preparing the house, getting ready for company. When Jesus arrives, we can't have Lego and dirty socks on the floor – we need to be ready. But we're not left in the dark feeling sorry for ourselves – there is a second part to John's message that's really important.

The Be Baptized part – the life as a follower of Jesus – it's a "Yes!" It's not that John is trying to bring us down by telling people to repent, he's trying to direct us to a new life that is richer, fuller and more meaningful.

To have a life of richer faith, it begins with discerning what actions you need to take. Advent is a time to get ready for an arrival. Advent reminds us – we have an adventure ahead. We need a light to our path on this adventure. May the light of God lead us to prepare our ways and as we pray in the collect no earthly undertaking hinders those who set out in haste to meet your son.

With God's Blessings,

Fr Jason

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

**Zephaniah 3:14-18**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

**Luke 3:10-18**

## READINGS FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### First Reading

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

### Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

## Parish Diary

### Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

### Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Prayer to St Joseph

You were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary, and the head of the Holy Family. We ask your intercession...

Protect our Pope and all who labour for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life, and grant that all peoples of the world may follow Christ.

Protect us from every disease present in our world.

Remove all fear from our hearts. Fill us with confidence.

Dear St. Joseph, accept the offering I make to you. Be my father, protector and guide in the way of salvation. Amen

## PARISH NEWS



### ABUNDANCE YOUTH

It is with regret that I advise the parish that Nick Kelly, our Youth Coordinator has resigned from the position. Nick has been wonderful as our youth coordinator for the last two years.

I would like to thank Nick as he moves on with the next phase of his life. We will really miss him.

Wishing him and his family our prayers and blessings.

Fr Joson

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Melva Stenhouse and Madeleine Connolly. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE REJOICE

With the Brouder and Roche and the Teggins families as they celebrate the baptism of Lexi and Amelia in the parish this weekend.

### COUNTERS

Vince's team.

### COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> please join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza (Coles end of plaza) commencing 10:00am. If you would like to attend or need more information please contact Barbara, 3349 6334 or just turn up. Everyone is welcome.

### 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 PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Our annual Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite will be on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> commencing 6:30pm in St Agnes' Church. This will be followed by supper and Christmas drinks. All parishioners are invited. Please rsvp to the Parish Office by December 9<sup>th</sup>

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### 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 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. Applications can also be submitted to school@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au

### 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

### ST VINCENT DE SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND



Who are the voices that cry in the wilderness today? John the Baptist came to make a straight path for the one who will initiate the coming of the Kingdom.

As Vincentians, we too are influenced by voices crying out in the wilderness. Our founders, our patron saint, St Vincent de Paul and today Pope Francis all cry out a very passionate but clear message: serving Christ in the people affected by poverty through love, respect, justice, hope and joy.

There is an uncomfortable message in a secular society focussed only on looking after ourselves. This year our appeal captures a quintessential Christmas story of need, hope and joy. So as we prepare for the birth of the Christ-child may we continue in faith to hear the voices that influence our mission offering hope for the hopeless, shaping a more just and compassionate society.

If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal there are envelopes in the churches this weekend or you



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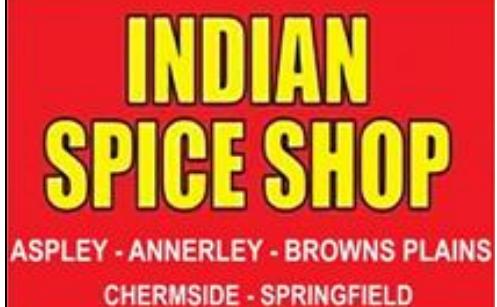
\* Carpentry \*Decks \* Patios  
\* Kitchen and Bathroom Renovations  
\* Carports \* Garages

**Domestic|Commercial**



**Catholic Early EdCare**  
WATCH THEM GROW

**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.