



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

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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)

4th Sunday of Lent

Yr C

March 26th/27th, 2022

The Joy of forgiveness

Today, we have one of the most famous parables in the entire Bible.

It's the story of the man with two sons. It is one of Jesus' most original tales. We normally refer to it as the Parable of the Prodigal Son or sometimes as the story of the Forgiving Father. Actually, it could better and more properly be called the Parable of the Prodigal Father. His prodigality is much more evident than is that of his son. The father was extremely prodigal with his money when he so easily handed it over to his wayward son. Generally, the inheritance would have been conferred on him only after his father's death. The father's "prodigality" is also shown in his total forgiveness of his son when at last he decided to return. It's one of Sacred Scripture's most wonderful commentaries on the relationship of God to his people.

No one is rotten to the core. Every person instinctively responds to God's call. There is no helpless soul, for the soul is God's implanted hope. Jesus sees promise in his strange friends; He was not blind to their needs. The prodigal son, the tax collector and the sinners were in fact lost ones. But Jesus befriends them; He comes in search of the sinners, awaiting their return. God has become incarnate to seek us in our looseness. He comes out like a Father who waits for the return of his beloved son. God's love is so great; His forgiveness is unbelievable. It defeats all human calculations. God wants to reclaim every prodigal son and rejoice over him at his return. But do we ever take the risk and pain of going to the other side of the track when we falter? Can we, like the prodigal son, make a return to the Father?

As we read again this parable of divine mercy and forgiveness, we are reminded of the lyrics of a modern religious song: "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have loved you and you are mine." We may have spent much time, effort and money getting ourselves into trouble as did the son in today's parable. Regardless, we can be assured that God will gladly spend much more to get us out of it. He is truly a Prodigal Father to us all.

Questions to ponder:

How do you interpret the term 'Prodigal Father' in your words? Have you ever been in such experience? Is your love unconditional?

(Taken from the catholic reflections on gospel.)

Congratulations to our First Communicants as we welcome you to the table of the Lord

At the 6:00pm Saturday and 9:00am Sunday Masses this weekend we welcome our Sacramental Program candidates and their families as they as they celebrate their 1st Communion. We welcome Eden Ascough, Harvey Barber, Siena Bartholomeusz, Nina Beattie, Naomi Brosnan, Finlay Brosnan, Mia Mackay, Evie Marshall, Diesel Lachlann McKay, Mariah Meela, Audrey Power, Lucas Scodellaro, Ida Taylor, Nicholas Walsh, Harry Whiting, Lucas Davidson, Charlie Cookman, Antonio Foti, Dante Foti, Josephine Goodwin, Anna Jungmann, Annabelle Knight, Chase Lysaght, Bronte McCoola, Sasha Recher, Henry Rigby, Thomas Treloar, Emilia Tucker, Eve Rimmer, Sam Miller.

Readings: 5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Phillipians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Parish Diary**Monday, March 28th**

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 30th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 31st

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, April 1st

Stations of the Cross 8:45am
Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, April 2nd

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday, April 2nd
Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, April 3rd

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

**Fear not, all who repent of their sins,
for the Father is merciful and will
welcome you with open arms,
bestowing His limitless grace on you.**





Fourth Sunday of Lent



Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Jo and Harry Steinheuer. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF WORD ASSISTANT TO LEADER



We would like to recommence CLOW at the 9:00am Mass at St Agnes on a monthly basis. In line with Child Safety we require a team of 2 to enable this to happen, we currently only have one of previous teams available.

CLOW runs in conjunction with our regular 9:00am mass at St Agnes'. Children leave the church after the opening prayer and move to the Parish Centre where they are led in prayer and listen to the readings of the day. Materials are prepared for you, you are in a team of 2 and are supported by Parish staff. No experience is required.

If you would like to assist in this ministry we would love to hear from you. Please speak to Fr Joson after mass or contact Rachel at the Parish Office.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Agnes' next roster day is Thursday, March 31st. Please advise the MOW kitchen on 3397 9150 of your availability.

MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday, April 1st will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by a hospitality.

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, April 4th please join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt 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. If you are new to the parish or would just like to get out and meet new people, this is a great avenue to meet other members of our parish.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY – CAN YOU HELP

In this Sunday's Gospel the prodigal son repents, finding forgiveness and compassion in the heart of his father. In Vinnies, our mission is to help shape a more compassionate and just society. In the prayerful space of the Lent, perhaps consider if God is inviting you to be an instrument of compassion and love to those suffering hardship? If you would like to talk to someone from Vinnies in our parish about how you can help, call Dot Lomax, 3349 2280 or email dorothy.lomax@svdpqld.org.au.



HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ST VINCENT'S HOSTEL

You are again invited to donate **new** clothing (underwear, T-shirts, sweat shirts etc) for the men and women of St Vincent's Hostel, South Brisbane. One of the great symbols of Holy Thursday is the washing of feet, a symbol of service and friendship. We show this service and friendship in many ways, our Holy Thursday collection is a communal way to live out the command of Jesus to do what he did. Please bring donations along to Mass on Holy Thursday evening or place them in the baskets that will be in the churches from next weekend.

Holy Week Timetable

Monday	Mass of Forgiveness	Monday April 11	6:00pm	St Agnes'
Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Thursday April 14	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	Friday April 15	10:00am	St Joachim's
	The Lord's Passion	Friday April 15	3:00pm	St Agnes'
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	Saturday April 16	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Easter Sunday	Mass	Sunday April 17	7:30am	St Joachim's
		Sunday April 17	9:00am	St Agnes'

(Please note there will not be a 6pm Mass on Easter Sunday)



Holy Cross
FUNERALS

For however you choose to say goodbye...

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An Outreach of the Catholic Church

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0408 640 008

enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi



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.