



Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Jason Antony MCBS

Dcn Des Neagle

Office Staff

Adrian Prendergast

Dot Lomax

Pastoral Coordinators

Rachel Marchesini

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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

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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)

5th Sunday of Lent

Yr C

April 2nd/3rd, 2022

Go and sin no more

There is a tough phrase at the end of the Gospel we have just heard; 'Go and sin no more.' It's like a sting in the tail, standing in contrast to the compassion of Jesus in his encounter with the woman. Yet, on closer inspection, it is the most important phrase in the story. And that's saying something because this dramatic event is the only one in the Gospel where Jesus confronts sexual sin, where only the woman is dragged from the scene of the crime to answer the charge of adultery. Is it any wonder that in some early manuscripts of John's Gospel this story was left out, its authorship questioned? The dangerous memory of Jesus' compassion toward the woman was too strong in the minds of John's community for it to be excluded, however, and so it remains as an inspired text for us to make our own. It is sometimes very important to hear Jesus say to us, especially in the area of our sexuality, 'I do not condemn you.'

So often, however, we want Jesus to leave it at that. But Jesus goes further. He tells it as it is. If any of us want life and want it to the full, we have to stop doing the destructive things that get us into trouble in the first place. It does not matter if it is drinking, gambling, eating, working, stealing, sexual dysfunction, being into pornography, being violent at home or any other type of obsessive compulsive behaviour, there is little point in being sorry for the consequences of our weaknesses and not changing the pattern of behaviour that leads us to ruin each time.

Twelve step programs enshrine the wisdom of today's Gospel in how they help us to own up to the destructive behaviour of our lives and yet give us hope to live beyond our worst moments. Steps four to ten say:

Step 4. I have made a searching and fearless moral inventory of myself.

Step 5. I have admitted to God and to another the exact nature of my wrongs.

Step 6. I am entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step 7. Humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings.

Step 8. Made a list of all persons I had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Step 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except where to do so would injure them or others.

Step 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when I was wrong promptly admitted it.

The thing I like best about these is that they are pro-active. They alert us to the fact that the best pathway to know healing and forgiveness is not to be passive, but to be active and admit our own faults and work to heal them. Some of us may have been given a tough hand from life's deck of cards, but we do not have to be passive victims, never able to change the cycles of destructive behaviour. If the steps work and we trust today's Gospel then we can be happy, healed and forgiven because we heal and forgive others.

Jesus bestows great dignity on the woman by saving her from being condemned to death, but even more so he knows that it does not have to be like this and so challenges her to turn her life around.

May we hear the same challenge in this final week of Lent. No matter what we have ever done, sexually or otherwise, we are greater than our worst moments. Jesus loves us enough not to condemn us, but to give us this Eucharist so that we might find the strength and hope to stop doing the things that destroy us and to live a life that leads to peace and joy.

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Readings: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

READINGS 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT**First Reading**

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

Isaiah 43:16-21

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

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 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers and sisters, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin anymore.'

Parish Diary**Monday, April 4th**
CANCELLED**Wednesday, April 6th**

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, April 7th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, April 8th

Stations of the Cross 8:40am
Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, April 9th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**Saturday, April 9th**

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, April 10th

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

**The Grace
of God's
Forgiveness**



Fifth Sunday of Lent



Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province which has limited educational and job opportunities – and one of the country's highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

With your generous support, Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water for its students.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities For All Future Generations.

PARISH NEWS

COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

COFFEE AND CHAT

This Monday, April 4th please join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. 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

Tuesday, April 5th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will commence at **8:40am** on Friday.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS

Our next Youth and Family Mass is happening as usual on the second Sunday, April 10th at the 6pm mass at St Agnes Church. We would like to especially invite those that have recently celebrated their 1st Communion. A light dinner will be provided.

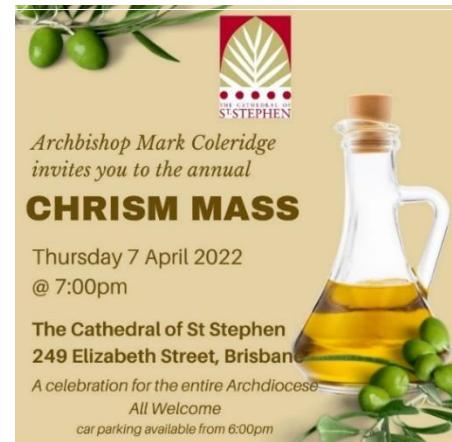
THE CATHOLIC LEADER

The April issue of the Catholic Leader is available now for \$4

- * Easter speaks of a love which is stronger than death; and that love can never be just "once upon a time", Archbishop Mark Coleridge writes.
- * Easter messages of hope & faith from Queensland bishops.

ST JAMES COLLEGE

A progressive multicultural Catholic Coeducational Secondary College in the tradition of Edmund Rice. An expanded campus in 2022 means additional enrolments are open in 2022 and beyond in all year levels. Students from all backgrounds and abilities welcome so they can flourish in their learning and realize their potential. St James is also offering Bursaries for Year 7 and Years 10/11 for 2023. The school Open Day is on 13 May from 10am to 1pm. Enquiries to: Maria Young, 3230 8600 or MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.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)



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

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Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

**INDIAN
SPICE SHOP**
ASPLEY - ANNERLEY - BROWNS PLAINS
CHERMSIDE - SPRINGFIELD



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.