



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

Parish Details

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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)

The Ascension of the Lord

Yr C

May 28th/29th, 2022

My Parish, My Dream....

Dear Parishioners and friends;

As you may be aware, the **National Centre for Pastoral Research** conducted a mass attendance count across every catholic parish in Australia in May 2021. The result of this showed the significant impact COVID-19 has had on mass attendances. Our parish mass attendance decreased by about 30-40%. This is a comparatively good result and it speaks of our ability to continue to engage with our parishioners in difficult times.

The number of people attending our Masses regularly is important because it reflects on the continuation of our faith and faith is reflected in people. As your parish priest, **my mission is people**. The **Pastoral Council** is currently working on a Parish Plan covering the next three years. The Council and I agree that if we don't plan for growth now, our numbers may well shrink further, and our Parish may eventually be forced into closure. Fortunately, we are blessed with the presence of our two primary schools and a college being great resources of faith and support....but that may well not be enough.

I am certain that you would want to join with me in wanting our parish to remain alive, strong, and well. As such I am now asking for your assistance in the planning for our future.

My question to you is simply this:

How do you think our Parish can prosper and grow stronger?

This week we will begin a process that will lead our parish towards the development of a 3-year strategic plan. **Planning** is the most important initial task in our development as we look more intently at becoming a centre of building a culture of welcome and mission. We all want a parish that is growing, that is thriving, a place where everyone belongs. A place where everyone is loved. A place where many hands are at work, sharing the tasks, sharing individual strengths, and people sharing the passion of their faith as servants of God.

And so now, I ask you all... please, be involved! As an integral part of our Parish planning, we are partnering with **Evangelisation Brisbane (EB)**, one of the agencies of the Archdiocese, for the drawing-up of our strategic plan. The first step in this process asks us all - what should be possible in each of the ministries requiring support.

To assist us with this there will be a "Dreaming Video" at each weekend Mass over the next 6 weekends. The purpose of this is to explore with you what could be possible. In summary, let us remember that every parish from time to time requires 'refreshing'. Now is our time.

For many, the challenges of involvement may not be easy.

But if done properly and with the right intention and support, it will bring new life, new growth, and new hope to our community.

Continued over...

Readings: Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11

Romans 8:8-17

John 14:15-16, 23-26

READINGS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

1st Reading

Apostles 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:24-28. 10:19-23

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

Parish Diary

NO Weekday Masses

Saturday, June 4th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, June 4th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, June 5th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'



Ascension of the Lord

Lord Jesus Christ,
Right before your Ascension
into heaven
you told your apostles
to be His witnesses
to the ends of the earth
upon receiving the Holy Spirit.

May I be similarly inspired
to spread your Gospel message
in word and deed,
according to your will for me.
Amen

....continued from front

Parish Council members and others have already had a couple of meetings with EB to discuss the process of planning for our parish. It has been decided to redirect our focus from '*maintaining our parish*' to becoming a '*missionary parish*'. In this way you are all cordially invited to take a more-involved and active part in our parish life and thus experience anew the presence of God within us. I do appreciate and thank all parish volunteers and supporters who are already contributing.

But we are now seeking *your involvement as well*.

Let us pray together that a vital, positive, and spiritual dream will become a reality for our parish! On Saturday July 16, a forum will be held for all interested parishioners to consider all suggestions. We will then finalise the list of Parish Ministries, and record the people prepared to help move these suggestions forward.

I invite you to contribute to this important experience with much love, generosity and enthusiasm in your heart,

With every blessing
Fr. Jason MCBS

PARISH NEWS

BAPTISM PREPARATION

WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE, 7PM IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM

COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, May 31st at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS

Our next Youth and Family Mass is happening as usual on the second Sunday, June 12th 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.

Fr Jason will be on holidays for the next 4 weeks. He will be returning for Mass on Friday 1st July.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CATHOLIC MISSION – MAY ROSARY PRAYERS

Join Catholic Mission online to honour Mother Mary during the month of May through praying the rosary. Monday – Friday commencing 2:00pm. Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/rprayers>. Meeting ID: 857 2970 0836. Password: prayers

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT - PRAYER PILGRIMAGE FOR THE PLENARY COUNCIL

People across the country are invited to participate in a national prayer pilgrimage as the Catholic Church in Australia prepares for the Second Assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia in Sydney from 3-9 July. We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace for the Members who will gather and also for ourselves and the Church, that we may have the courage to follow where God is leading us.

Access Walking in the Spirit Prayer Resources at: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit

A MORNING'S PRAYER

Saturday, June 4th from 9:00am – 12noon
Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

A 3-hour Saturday morning retreat to get away and spend some quality time with God. It will be facilitated with a time of input, prayer, reflection and faith sharing and aims to provide a prayerful respite from the busyness of life. Cost \$20. For bookings go to:

https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/amorningsprayer3?mc_cid=6dfbcff834&mc_eid=13b5147ab4

AUSTRALIAN PILGRIMAGE – IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 18 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 29 October 2022. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. For full details visit the following website:

<https://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

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

- Bishops call for a 'better' kind of politics in Australia
- ACU highest honour awarded to Sr Melissa Dwyer
- Archbishop's message - Making schools more Catholic
- Transforming ordinary olive oil to a holy sign at Chrism Mass
- PNG Archbishop highlights challenges facing the Church
- The links between pornography and domestic violence continue to grow
- What do you really want in life? This desire comes from the centre of your soul

My Parish, My Dream.

This week we begin a process that will lead our parish towards creating a 3-year strategic plan. The creation of this plan is a part of our effort as a Parish to plan for the growth and thriving of the Parish. The first step in this process is to **dream** as a parish about what could be possible in each of the ministry areas we are seeking to build up. On Saturday 16th July the whole parish is invited to gather for a Parish Summit where together we will take the next step dreaming together for the future of our parish.

We will be showing a different "Dreaming Video" at each Mass in the parish over the next 6 weekends, to explore with you what you think could be possible for this Parish?

This weekend we listen to Deacon Peter Pellican (Executive Director at Evangelisation Brisbane) dream about what a **Liturgy ministry** could look like in a parish.

Do you have a dream for the Liturgy ministry? If yes, we want to hear from you! Follow the link below to complete a quick 2-minute survey.

<https://bit.ly/HPMGSurvey1>



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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.