



# 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**

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Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

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

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Year A**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Dear friends and parishioners**

So here we are. Almost Christmas, most of us have spent the last several weeks getting ready. Trees bought and decorated. Gifts bought and wrapped. Holiday parties. Family gatherings. Cookies left out for Santa. Cards and letters sent far and wide. All wonderful.

It is that time of the year again where all of us can hear carols on the streets, see a bountiful feast served on our tables and receive a lot of gifts that can be seen under the tree. There is a song which goes....

Little Baby in a Manger, I love you,  
Coming down to Earth a stranger, I love you,  
Wise men saw the star and answered I love you,  
Little baby in a manger I love you.

The song was childlike, but the truth was evident, Jesus, a baby born of humble stature was unknown by the very world He helped to create. He was there when God created all things, yet he chose to step down out of heaven to live a human life. Hence The Word became flesh and dwelt among us!

When it says we have seen His glory it reminds me that His glory is all around. The sky, stars, moon, nature, all growing things all shout that a divine creator made them. The wise men saw the star and the glory of God. We too can look all around us and see God's glory from the cry of a newborn child to the strength of a thunderstorm. His power and glory are evident.

Saint Chrysostom says "But if 'He gives light to every person coming into the world,' how is it that so many continue unenlightened? For not all have known the majesty of Christ. How then does He give light to every man? He gives light to all as far as in him lies. But if some who are unwilling should close the eyes of their mind, and refuse the rays of this light, their darkness is not from the nature of the light, but their own wickedness when they turn themselves away from the light."

Christmas is the season of celebrating the birth of our Saviour and our Light, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God who can save us from all darkness. Saint Gregory of Nyssa: "We shall become as the light, in our nearness to Christ's true light, if we leave this dark atmosphere of the earth and dwell above; and we shall be light, as our Lord says if the true light that shines in the dark comes down even to us - unless, that is, any filthiness of sin spreading over our hearts should dim the brightness of our light." United are those who believe in Him and His teachings. Christmas is also remembering His example and giving thanks to His sacrifices – He died on the cross and was resurrected so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Rejoice in Him, thank Him and Remember His love for mankind always.

So God with us. Not God over us. Not God judging us. Not God condemning us. God with us in this wonderful, complex, sorrowful, joyful thing we call life. God with you and me. God with us and them. God here. God now. Just as you are. Just as we are. Just as they are.

Gods blessings,  
Joson

**Readings: The NATIVITY of the LORD**

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:1-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

### 1st Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of people  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Response: Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

### Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

## Parish Diary

### Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### The NATIVITY of the LORD

### Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Mass 5:00pm  
St Joachim's

Mass 7:00pm  
St Agnes

(Outdoor Mass, weather permitting)

### Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Agnes



*The Candle of Love  
Love is a gift; a gift from God  
Waiting for the Son*

Continuing on our faith journey during changed times; when our faith will sustain us through our challenges.

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Madeleine Connolly and Roley Brennan. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE REJOICE

With the North and Gerry, the Mowen and Wood and the Mowen families as they celebrate the baptism of Pippa, Theodore, Daisy, Penelope and Madison in the parish this weekend.

### COUNTERS

Cheryl's team

### MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, December 20th.

### GOD'S WORD 2023

God's Word is available in the churches or Parish Office - Cost \$15

### CONGRATULATIONS TO SR KARI

In February 2023 Sr Kari will take up her appointment as the Provincial of the Ursuline's in Australia. Her wealth of knowledge and experience in pastoral leadership and liturgy will be greatly missed throughout the Archdiocese where she has continued her ministry since leaving our parish; almost as much as her deep witness and warm friendship.

Congratulations and all the very best for your new role.

### THE CATHOLIC LEADER AND CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

The December edition of both are available in the churches this weekend. The Leader - \$4 Catholic Magazine - Free.

There will be a special Christmas edition of the Catholic Leader which will be available next weekend.

## Office Closure - Christmas/New Year

The Parish Office will be closing from the end of business on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will remain closed through January 4<sup>th</sup>. It will reopen for business on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the case of an emergency during this period please contact the office by using the Pager Service, 07 3521 8025. A staff member will get back to you as soon as possible.

## ADVENT APPEAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE RETIRING COLLECTION TODAY

THERE WILL BE COLLECTORS AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCHES THIS WEEKEND TO TAKE DONATIONS. PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO SUPPORTING THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting this special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. This appeal will support *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: [www.catholic.au](http://www.catholic.au)

## CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

### CHRISTMAS EVE – SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

5:00pm St Joachim's Carols from 4:45pm  
7:00pm St Agnes' Carols from 6:45pm  
(Outdoor Mass, weather permitting)

### CHRISTMAS DAY – SUNDAY DECEMBER 25

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

### Solemnity of Mary - Sunday January 1

Saturday, December 31st

6:00pm St Joachim's

Sunday, January, 1st

7:30am St Joachim's

9:00am St Agnes'

There will be NO 6:00pm Mass Sunday evening

### 7:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE OUTDOOR MASS



The Mass at St Agnes' on Christmas Eve will be an outdoor mass. Those that are able to, we ask that you please bring a chair or a rug to sit on.

There will be a limited number of chairs available.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – OUR LADY OF VICTORIES PARISH

Tuesday 27 December commencing 7pm. Share a relaxed evening of Christmas music and carol singing together on the lawn in front of Bowen Hills church, overlooking the Brisbane River. Kids, come dressed up in your favourite Bethlehem costume! Light refreshments will follow. Everybody is welcome! All details on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or our [website](https://www.ourladyofvictories.org.au)

### YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO GIVE BEYOND CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

### ST JAMES COLLEGE SPRING HILL – MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTION 2023

St James' College is pleased to announce that they will be offering a Catholic Coeducational Middle School Option for Grades 5 and 6 in 2023. As a progressive multicultural college in the tradition of Edmund Rice, families can now enjoy Catholic coeducational primary school learning with high school opportunities in inner-city Brisbane, providing more resources, more support, and more options. Students from all backgrounds and abilities welcome so they can flourish in their learning and realise their potential. Bursaries available. Direct Expressions of Interest to Maria Young, Enrolment Officer, [MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:MYoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au), 3230 8600. Visit [www.jta.link/SJC56](http://www.jta.link/SJC56)



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PHOTOGRAPHY**

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**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**

**Harvey & Co  
Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

- ❖ Property
- ❖ Wills & Estates
- ❖ Commercial

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[stagnes.qld.edu.au](http://stagnes.qld.edu.au)



**St Joachim's**

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PREP - 6

**Faith - Respect - Service**



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SETON.QLD.EDU.AU



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.