



Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Jason Antony MCBS
Dcn Des Neagle

Office Staff

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)

3rd Sunday of Lent

Year A

March 11th/12th, 2023

Dear Friends

We listen fascinated to the story of the meeting by the well of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Her history reminds us of our own frailties; her finding of faith and a new life encourages us. Thirst and hunger are such elemental experiences that they come immediately to mind, as we try to express the restless quest that shapes every human life. Though her life's searching has led her to make serious mistakes, we warm to the spirited woman from whom Jesus asks a drink. Jesus is thirsty; but what he seeks before all else is that this woman and those like her find true peace. In their memorable exchange he responds to the woman's searching. As she comes to recognise that she has found what her heart has been seeking, she 'puts down her water jar', and runs off to share the good news with the villagers she has been avoiding – by coming to the well at midday when few people are about.

This narrative has been written for a community that has meditated deeply upon basic themes of Christian faith – themes as relevant for us today as they were when the gospel was written. The Saviour is progressively presented as the one in whom humanity's long and troubled search will find what it has been looking for. He is 'greater than Jacob', the ancestor of Israel; he is not only 'a prophet'; he is 'the Christ' of Israel's hopes. In fact – as in many texts of John's gospel – he intimates a claim to the divine name itself, 'I AM he'.

His coming inaugurates a new order, 'worship of the Father in Spirit and truth' – something far beyond what has been known to Jews and Samaritans. He brings 'living waters, welling up to eternal life'. John's community would have heard in these words overtones of the wonder of their baptism.

The woman's reaction to her enlightenment was a reminder to those who had found faith in Christ that they too were called to be missionaries. And this reminder has a sharp edge. It is not easy for us, today, to appreciate the bitterness of the estrangement between Jews and Samaritans – though the shocking conflicts of recent times may help us to understand the violent attitudes that divided these two groups. Of the Synoptic Gospels, Luke alone – the gentile convert - shows any sympathy for the Samaritans. A missionary outreach to these people, therefore, must have seemed almost unthinkable to early Christians, most of whom were from a Jewish background. The attitude of Jesus, and the success he had in this chance meeting with Samaritans, was an encouragement for them to take up the Church's mission, even though the difficulties seemed insurmountable.

This lesson is hammered home for them - and for us - in the words of Jesus to his bewildered disciples: ' My food is to do the will of the one who sent me'; the harvest is 'ready' – 'grain for eternal life'. His final lesson is a call to humility – the saving plan he is inaugurating is God's work – among God's workers, 'one sows, another reaps'

John Thornhill sm

PARISH GATHERING

As we know, Fr Jason Antony MCBS will conclude his time as Parish Priest of Holland Park Mt Gravatt parish after Easter this year.

The parish was entrusted to the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in 2014. It follows that Fr Jason's replacement will be a priest from the MCBS Congregation. It is our usual practice, when there is a change of Parish Priest, to hear parishioners' thoughts on the mission, vision, and unique charism of the parish. This information assists the Archbishop and is also shared with the new Parish Priest. In this context, you are invited to a parish gathering to share your thoughts with two senior advisors to the Archbishop.

We hope you can attend.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr Dan Ryan, Vicar for Clergy

Readings: 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

READINGS FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

1st Reading

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;

give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Parish Diary

Monday, March 13th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 15th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 16th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, March 17th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, March 18th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

4th Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 18th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, March 19th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes

LIKE HE DID FOR THE WOMAN
AT THE WELL, JESUS GENTLY
TURNS OUR GAZE FROM
THE SIN OF THE PAST
TO THE HOPE
OF OUR FUTURE
IN HIM.



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

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember David O'Halloran. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – 1ST EUCHARIST

In readiness to celebrate 1st Communion candidates must attend the Celebration of God's Mercy on Wednesday evening at St Joachim's at 6:30pm. This will also incorporate a practice session.

The program culminates with 1st Communion Masses being held at the 6:00pm Mass at St Joachim's and 9:00am Mass at St Agnes' on the weekends of March 18/19th and 25/26th.

ANNUAL HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Once again we will be conducting our annual collection of jocks and socks for the homeless. As the facilities are now available to both men and women, men's and women's underwear will be greatly appreciated. Collection baskets will be put in the churches on the weekend of March 25/26th.

FAREWELL FOR FR JOSON - DATE CLAIMER

On Friday, March 31st Fr Joson will celebrate a Thanksgiving Mass for the Parish which will be held at St Agnes' Church commencing 6:00pm. As a Parish we will take this opportunity to come together and offer our thanks to him for his ministry to our community over the last 6 years.

Following the mass, we will gather for supper.

Further details in next week's newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH SECRETARY - ADMIN / SECRETARIAL / OFFICE SUPPORT

Part-time (30 hours per week) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am - 4.30

The Upper Mount Gravatt Wishart Parish invites applications for position of Parish Secretary - [Careers - Archdiocese of Brisbane \(brisbanecatholic.org.au\)](https://careers.archdioceseofbrisbane.com.au/brisbanecatholic.org.au). For any enquiries, please contact Debbie James (Parish Manager) at umg@bne.catholic.net.au

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS

The Annual St Patrick's Day Mass, organised by the St Patrick's Day Parade Association, will be celebrated again this year in the Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth Street at 10.00am on Friday, March 17th. Fr Gerard McMorrow will be the celebrant.

All are welcome to attend. And, for those who may be unable to do so, the Mass will be live-streamed through the Cathedral website on this link - [Archbne.org/bzw](https://archbne.org/bzw). You may wish to pass the link on to someone overseas.

ANNUAL CHRISM MASS

Parishioners are invited to attend this year's Chrism Mass on Thursday, March 30th commencing 7:00pm in St Stephen's Cathedral. Car parking will be available from 6:00pm.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The period of Lent is a more intense time of preparation for those seeking baptism at Easter. We are in Year A and for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent we have the great teaching Gospels vital to the preparation for those to be baptised. This week we hear of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan Woman, next week with the Man Born Blind and then finally with Lazarus who is raised from the dead.

After the homily each of these weeks, there is a simple prayer ritual called the Scrutiny ... not because Judy, who is preparing for Baptism, is getting interrogated but the Church at this time is very intentional about letting the Gospel scrutinise our lives. Of course, this is what we are doing whenever we hear the Word. We are placing the life, attitudes and teaching of Jesus in front of our lives so that we may contemplate him and be inspired and enabled to live like him.

The prayer over Judy is for her strength for the journey, now and for life.



HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT CONFERENCE

Are you able to assist?

The Mt Gravatt / Holland Park Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society provides a "hand up" to people in our community, who need assistance by way of food, clothing, furniture or other matters. We are a group of volunteers who provide this assistance over three days each week with a pair of Vincentians visiting the people in need. We meet fortnightly to review cases, share information and support each other spiritually.

If you would like any additional information regarding the work of our conference or to discuss what is involved in being a Vincentian, please contact Michael via email on sjsa4121@svdpqld.org.au



MAY 18–20, 2023

RIVERLIFE CENTRE

Seventeen Mile Rocks

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT

It runs from 4:00pm on the Thursday to 4:00pm on the Saturday. Would you like to attend all or part thereof? If so Fr Joson would like to hear from you. He would like to send a parish delegation.

The event is for all who belong to the faith community of the Archdiocese; parishioners, educators, parents, support staff, catechists, lay leaders, religious and clergy, this event is for everyone.

The Summit is intended to empower, inspire and equip delegates to engage in the mission of the Church.

If you are interested, please speak to Fr Joson or ring/email the office.

Want to put your faith into action?



Tereesa, a Gamarlai woman from Western Sydney has struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Once Tereesa became pregnant with her first child at the age of 16, she left school. A single mother, struggling with homelessness, her only concern was finding stability for her children.

Seeking a better future for her family, Tereesa joined Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia. Baabayn helped Tereesa access housing and psychological support. Through Baabayn, Tereesa was also able to hear stories from Indigenous Elders and reconnect with her culture.

Today, Tereesa is studying a certificate in Community Services so that she can strengthen her skills and give back to her community. Tereesa now works at Baabayn, providing support to young mothers and mentoring the next generation of young people.

Donations can be made online at www.caritas.org.au/donate or by using the Project Compassion envelopes available in the churches.



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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.



We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**