



Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



Parish Administrator
Fr Pat Moloney

Deacon
Dcn Des Neagle

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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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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)

Ascension of the Lord

Year A

May 20th/21st, 2023

What does the Church celebrate on Ascension Day? We are being invited to have faith in an important aspect of the Risen Lord's Paschal Mystery. The Saviour was present to his chosen disciples after the Resurrection, laying the foundations of the Church's faith. That extraordinary presence was of limited duration, and soon gave way to another manner of presence - as the Saviour guides the Church through the blessings of his own Spirit. Today's liturgy gathers three passages of the New Testament that give expression to the faith of the first Christians in this phase of the Paschal Mystery.

The concluding passage of Matthew's gospel is deceptive in its brevity. It is in fact a masterly summary of the teaching of the whole gospel - as the Risen Lord himself sends his disciples on mission with words of encouragement. He gives expression to the fullness of the divine authority that 'has been given to him' by the Father. He sends them on a mission that is universal: 'Make disciples of all the nations'. They are to teach them to 'observe all his commandments' - the New Law of his Sermon the Mount. They are to carry out their mission by preaching the Good News and by baptising 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. And, as he echoes the words of the covenant that was the foundation of Israel's faith - 'I am with you' - he assures them that he is truly Emmanuel.

Luke's account, in the opening passage of the Acts of the Apostles, is the work of a skilful teacher - concerned to help his readers understand the mystery of the Lord's new manner of presence. Luke alone in the New Testament speaks of the Lord's dealing with his disciples as lasting 'forty days' - a round number frequently used in the scriptures; though it may be linked with the fifty days between Passover and the Pentecost celebration of old Israel. It is made clear that this period is a time of preparation and anticipation - the disciples can look forward to 'what the Father promised'; not many days hence they 'will be baptised with the Holy Spirit'. Luke's account is centred in Jerusalem. (In fact he has omitted any reference to the disciples' withdrawal in discouragement to Galilee.) Though the divine plan that shaped the Old Testament is being fulfilled, a new era is beginning - shaped, not by false messianic hopes of 'the restoration of the kingdom of Israel', but by the Father's mysterious authority. It is the era of the Church's earthly pilgrimage. The Acts of the Apostles (like a second volume of Luke's gospel) will present the Church as carrying out its mission through the blessings of the Holy Spirit - 'You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth'. Luke, the careful teacher, sketches a graphic word picture for his readers: the Lord is 'lifted up', and a 'cloud' (Old Testament sign of God's presence) takes him from their sight. Perhaps the mystery of the Saviour's heavenly exaltation (see the early hymn of Philippians 2) has given rise to this kind of description in some circles. But Luke subtly modifies the crudeness of such a presentation. The two heavenly messengers make it clear that what is taking place is not an event of this world. Their advice to the disciples is not to stare into the sky, but to give themselves to the Church's earthly mission until the Lord returns.

The reading from Ephesians is an eloquent testimony to the way in which the Church understood this mission, carried out under the authority of the Risen Christ, who has made himself 'the head of the Church which is his body'.

John Thornhill sm

Readings: Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

READINGS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

1st Reading

Acts 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

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Parish Diary

Saturday, May 27th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 27th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, May 28th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes

This week we welcome

6:00pm Sat	Fr John Lai
7:30am	Fr John Lai
9:00am	Fr John Gillen
6:00pm Sun	Fr Regi Gervasis

Archbishop Mark's Apostolic Priorities for the Archdiocese

**Lamps Ablaze: Apostolic Priorities
for the Archdiocese of Brisbane**

Priority Six: Implementing Integral Ecology

Natural and human ecology interact in mysterious and unmistakable ways. To interfere with one is to interfere with the other; to promote the good of one is to promote the good of the other. Fratelli Tutti (a recent Papal Encyclical) focuses more upon human ecology in speaking of the radical interconnectedness of all human beings at a moment when alienation and polarisation are making disconnectedness seem the norm. The Church is called in such a moment to be a sign of contradiction, speaking in a way that rises above politics and economics so that a genuinely biblical and Christian voice can be heard.

WITH
LAMPS
ABLAZE

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Bryan Fitzpatrick, Madeline Beaton and Shirley Gooley. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

HPMG PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Our next gathering is being held on Saturday, May 27th.

Joining together through faith, fun and food at the 6:00pm mass at St Joachim's on the 4th Saturday of the month. Led by staff from St Joachim's School, students and siblings from all schools are welcomed. Dinner and drinks are provided after mass.

NEW GUIDELINES - COMMUNION FROM THE CUP

The Archdiocese of Brisbane announced on 28 March that it is reintroducing communion from the cup from Holy Thursday in 2023 and has asked, the practice of receiving communion in both kinds be re-established in parishes.



In line with this request, I am preparing to reintroduce the cup in the near future and over the coming weeks will be addressing the shortage of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.

Any parishioner who stepped away from their ministry during the pandemic and would now be prepared go back on roster or any parishioner who would like to take up the ministry could you please contact the Parish Office via email hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au or by phone 3349 2280.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GROWING THRIVING FAMILIES

Parents and educators are invited to an engaging workshop on supporting children with Managing Big Emotions, Anxiety and Anger. Judy Butler, an experienced educator and counsellor will present the workshop on Wednesday, June 7th in the Chapel at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 71 Newnham Road, Mt Gravatt East commencing 7:00pm. Cost: \$10 Please register at onlyimagineone@gmail.com or by phoning 0412 799 489.

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Teaching Meditation and Prayer - Online unit presented over 4 Saturdays 17, 24 June; 7, 14 October. Lecturer: Dr Christopher Morris. To enrol or for further information: Dr Christopher Knauf, Registrar: registrar@ctc.edu.au

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

The Catholic Charity Aid to the Church in Need has launched their "Nigeria: Young. Faithful. Crucified" global campaign. Did you know that in 2022 a total of 5,014 Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria? These were not Nigerians who happened to be Christian, but rather, their allegiance to the Lord saw them face a brutal death. This is a Church being crucified with Christ. To watch testimonies and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/nigeriaglobal

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY

An Australian Pilgrimage led by a Sister of St Joseph and the Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre commencing in Melbourne on October 17. Travel by coach to Hamilton, Portland, Port McDonnell, Penola and Robe before heading north to Adelaide and then flying to Sydney for 3 nights at the Mary MacKillop Centre, finishing on October 28th. For further information go to www.marymackillopplace.org.au or to make an application, please contact the Australian Co-Ordinator on 02 8912 4818 or by emailing national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au



On behalf of the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish Community, I would like to thank all volunteers for the wonderful work they do in their community and particularly those who volunteer in our Parish. Your generosity with your time and talents is truly appreciated.

Week of Prayer For Christian Unity

*"Do Good;
Seek justice"
(cf Isaiah 1:17)*



Image: Invasion by John "Munser" Hammond AT'lang

PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday 21st May 4pm
St Andrew's Uniting Church
299 Ann Street
ALL WELCOME



CATHOLIC MISSION

WE ARE HIRING

Donor Relations Officer
(full-time, based in Brisbane and supporting dioceses in QLD)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY, 2023

For more information regarding the role, pls visit our website below.
<https://www.catholicmission.org.au/jobs-at-catholic-mission>





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Samuel Denny

Electrical - Communications - Maintenance

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St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care

41 Yuletide Street Holland Park 4121

07 3847 9820

0418 355 431



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



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

... 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.