



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



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Churches  
St Joachim's Church  
41 Yuletide Street  
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St Agnes' Church  
1227 Logan Road  
Mt Gravatt

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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  
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07 3291-5333

St Vincent de Paul Welfare  
1800 846 643

Safeguarding Officer  
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(Safeguarding purposes only)

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

July 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice.

'You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, "and finally..." people take out their car keys!' The second was, 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.' I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace. Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality.

Today's Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens. They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ. No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.'

Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it.

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile.

What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest. Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

This type of spiritual sanity reminds me of the story of the nun who was teaching the communion class, and drew an analogy about how food is essential to life. She asked the class,

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?' To which there was bemused silence. So Sister tried again. 'What's small and furry and eats nuts?' There was now stony silence. Sister then picked out Billy and asked him for the answer. After several awkward moments, Billy tentatively replied, 'Sister, I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, because the answer to all your questions is always Jesus but, I have to tell you, it sounds like a bloody squirrel to me.'

Sometimes the answer is not simply 'Jesus'. As we all know, for some of our difficulties, there is no spiritual quick fix. There is no cheap grace. The answer is not simply Jesus. In confronting issues, however, it is necessary for spiritual and mental health to take time out, to be as gentle with ourselves as possible, to know that the burden of life is shared so that we can make the decisions that will ease the situation.

I don't underestimate the burdens some of you have walked into this church with today. Whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment's rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ's peace.

@ Richard Leonard SJ

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.

READINGS FOR 14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading**

Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

‘Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!  
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!  
See now, your king comes to you;  
he is victorious, he is triumphant,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will banish chariots from Ephraim  
and horses from Jerusalem;  
the bow of war will be banished.  
He will proclaim peace for the nations.  
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,  
from the River to the ends of the earth.’

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever.  
I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you,  
O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down.

**Second Reading**

Romans 8:18-23

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, ‘I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.’

# Parish Diary

**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Readings

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11  
Romans 8:9.11-13  
Matthew 13:1-23

## *This week we welcome*

6:00pm Sat	Fr John Lai
7:30am	Fr John Lai
9:00am	Fr Frank O'Dea
6:00pm Sun	Fr Regi Gervasis

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28



### Shoulder my yoke

Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them.



## PARISH NEWS

### WE REJOICE

With the Jorgensen, McMullen and Donsky and Slattery and Llorca families as they celebrate the baptism of Frankie, Henley and Corwyn in the parish this weekend.

### HOSPITALITY AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

Refreshments will be held after 6:00pm mass and a cuppa after the 7:30am mass at St Joachim's this weekend.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS

Hospitality will be on offer after the Youth and Family Mass on Sunday evening. Everyone is welcome.

### COUNTERS

Alison's team.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

## RECLAIM PLUS

A chill Saturday morning, good breakfast and coffee with live music and some inspiring formation with a safe space for the kids to play too? Reclaim Plus is a new initiative for the millennials (25-40 years old) of the Catholic Church which aims to provide a space for young parents, professionals, and young adults to have community and a place to receive. We'll have trained child minders ready to supervise and run a couple of activities for them.

The Youth & Young Adults and Adult Formation Teams at Evangelisation Brisbane recognise that there is often a gap in our Church between young people and the older folks. Finding time to pray, hear a good talk, socialise can become less frequent as young adults enter into full-time work, married life, parenthood and faze out of being 'youth'.

The idea of Reclaim PLUS was formed out of wanting to provide a space for you to connect with others in the same life stage, have community be formed and be kid-free (briefly!) in a suitable environment.

Reclaim Plus commences on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-10am (arrive to order your coffee, check your children in, formalities start at 8:30am) at Jugar (<https://www.jugar.com.au/>), 71 Jane St West End. Cost: \$20pp, \$45 per family. (The ticket price covers food (for adults and children) and coffee.

RSVP: Tuesday 15th August. Registration is essential, book via <https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/Reclaimplus>.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### UPPER MT GRAVATT WISHART PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Parishioners are invited to an evening discussion, so you can make an informed decision on the Voice to Parliament referendum, on Monday July 10<sup>th</sup> commencing 7:00pm in the Aspinall Centre, St Bernard's Catholic Church, Upper Mt Gravatt. Br Jim D'Arcy cfc from the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education will be the guest speaker.

### FR JAMES SPENCE

Although already officially retired, Father James Spence is finally retiring from pastoral work with the Italian community at St Thomas More Church, Petrie Terrace! He has worked within the Brisbane diocese for 55 years. He will be farewelled at the 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 16 July at The Italian Catholic centre, St Thomas More, cnr Chapel Street, Caxton Street and Hale Street Petrie Terrace. Light refreshments will follow at the church from 10.15am. Please rsvp (for catering purposes) to [lucyvaleri@hotmail.com](mailto:lucyvaleri@hotmail.com) or message 0417615923 by 9 July. Limited parking at church or parking at The Barracks, Caxton St Petrie Tce. Monetary contributions towards a farewell gift can be brought to the church on the day.

### CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The Carmelite Sisters invite you to celebrate, with them, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Carmelite Monastery, Ormiston. Visit [www.carmeliteormiston.com](http://www.carmeliteormiston.com) 10.30 am Mass. Stay for a picnic lunch - tea, sandwiches, cake available Piety stall. Sisters' craft works on sale. 2.00 pm Evening Prayer - Benediction - Scapular enrolments

### CLAIRVAUX MACKILLOP COLLEGE 2023 TOUR

Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am - 10:30am

This event will provide you with a comprehensive insight into the life of the College and will allow you take a tour with our Student Mentors, our Principal, Mr Wayne Chapman and senior members of staff. Please register online: [www.cvxmck.edu.au](http://www.cvxmck.edu.au) via the enrolments tab or telephone 3347 9275.

### WOMEN'S NIGHT OF SPIRITUALITY

Women's Night of Spirituality will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July in St Ignatius Church, Kensington Tce, Toowong. The event will take the format of a panel to discuss "Nurturing the nurturer" - how does a person in a nurturing role, sustain their own spirit? Entry by donation & supper provided. See further details on event flyer available on parish website [www.stignatiustoowong.org.au](http://www.stignatiustoowong.org.au). This event will be livestreamed on the night and the link will be available via parish website [www.stignatiustoowong.org.au](http://www.stignatiustoowong.org.au)

### ST JAMES COLLEGE TASTER DAY EXPERIENCES

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Tailored to students across all levels, enjoy finding out more about design and technology, physical education and science in middle and high school. These fun and interactive sessions are a great way to visit the college and participate in a regular day. To book your child in contact Maria on 3230 8600 or [myoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au](mailto:myoung@stjamescollege.qld.edu.au)

### A MORNING'S PRAYER

A 3-hour Saturday morning retreat to get away and spend some quality time with God is being held on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm at the Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre in Ormiston. Through input, personal prayer, meditation, and fellowship in a space designed to facilitate an encounter with God, this morning will hopefully allow God to speak to participants and revitalise them on their journey. Cost: \$25 Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/3s2fvu93>

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH FUNDRAISER - PRELOVED MARKETS

You're invited to grab a bargain, a hot cuppa and a sausage sizzle and support Our Lady of Fatima parish, 350 Mortimer Road, Acacia Ridge on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am - 3:00pm.

## THE CATHOLIC LEADER Cost \$4 Available in the churches this weekend.

- Timor full of faith.
- Archbishop's view - Welcome to 'Time of the Spirit'.
- Join youth in fighting for the poor and the planet.
- War against creation must stop.
- Pope Francis explains why we make the sign of the cross.
- Thousands march through CBD for Corpus Christi day.
- Inside Catholic Education - promoting 'distinctive mission and ethos'.
- Precious Blood of the Lamb.
- Bishop Ken Howell ready to take the reins in Toowoomba.



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*... 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.