

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Varkey

Deacon

Dcn Des Neagle

Office Staff

Dot Lomax

Kate Waymouth

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

P O Box 281

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

E: hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

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)

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**Year A****August 19th\20th, 2023****Lord help me**

Until quite recently in many cultures around the world events or experiences that had no ready explanation were put down to evil forces. This was certainly true in Jesus' day. Diseases, physical deformities, mental illnesses, accidents, bad weather patterns and defeats in battle were attributed either to God's vengeance or the work of a demon. Although we no longer hold this to be true, we still hear this line from some people today.

The Syro-Phoenician woman considers herself cursed for having a daughter who is tormented by a demon. It is very unlikely that her daughter is possessed by the devil. She probably had a chronic illness that could not be cured. Furthermore, the woman is also considered cursed by others because she is a Gentile, a non-Jew. In fact this story is unsettling and rather unflattering to Jesus on several levels.

Because of her ethnicity and religion the disciples do not think she should ask for anything from Jesus. He seems to concur with them. If it wasn't for the woman's courage and persistence, she would never have got what she wanted. And by Jesus referring to them as dogs, he seems to agree with the contempt with which the Jews held the Gentiles.

Again it is the woman's quick wit and faith which turns the situation around. She domesticates the racial slur and argues that if she is to be considered a dog she is not a wild one but of the house variety where she should be able to enjoy the leftovers. The power of her insight and the rightness of her cause catches Jesus off-guard, her daughter is healed and everyone is taught a lesson about how the Kingdom of God breaks through in the most extraordinary ways.

This story also tells us of the power of intercessory prayer. The woman goes through her ordeal not for herself but for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is the vehicle by which someone else's life is enriched. So too for us. As Christians many of us regularly tell others, whom we know are in need, that we will pray for them. Often these people, some who do not share our faith, are touched by this kindness.

When we make our prayer intercessory, either at home or in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, it can be our finest hour. We can learn a lot about a parish from its intercessions. It can be the time when we forget about ourselves and our needs for a while and ask for the needs of someone else, even if we don't know them. This type of prayer has the possibility of helping us place our lives in context and reminding us that while we have a seat at the world's table, others are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we have to get down and get dirty and work to raise up all of God's children to the places of honour which everyone deserves.

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READINGS FOR 20TH IN SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness, you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him..

Second Reading

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Parish Diary

Monday, August 21st

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, August 23rd

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, August 24th

St Bartholomew
Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, August 25th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, August 26th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 26th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, August 27th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

"Lord, help me."

Matthew 15:25



Readings – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Madeleine Evans and Doug Hansen. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Crunkhorn and Schulte families as they celebrate the baptism of Elsie in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, August 22nd at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

HPMG PARISH YOUTH GROUP

There will be no Youth Group next weekend due to a St Joachim's school event. The next one will be held on October 28th.

PARISH HOSPITALITY

Hospitality will be held after the 6:00pm Saturday mass and the 7:30am and 9:00am Sunday masses next weekend.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

This weekend we commence our new Planned Giving year. If you would like to join our PG program, please contact the Parish Office.

Giving by envelopes, credit card or direct debit can be arranged through the Parish Office.

If you would like to contribute by internet banking our details are: BSB: 064 – 786; A/c No: 100013625; A/c Name: Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish.

The Parish Giving app has been set up specifically for parishioners to be electronically connected to their parish for regular and one off giving. Download the app at: <https://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au/auth/login>

There is also the option of the Tap Machines. These are located at the main door to the churches. Simply tap your credit card and wait for the beep to make your donation. The tap is set at \$10 per tap for your donation to our Parish.



2023 ANNUAL

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

This year has been challenging and rewarding in many ways, and while there is much to worry over, there is so much to be grateful for. The face of the Church can seem ordinary enough, as can the face of each of us. But if we open the door of faith and allow God's mercy to flow through us into the lives of those in need, people will see in the Church and in each of us the face of Christ.

There are many who need our care, and this campaign reaches out to those who need our support most. The Annual Catholic Campaign reminds us that we are part of the larger Church. Our parishes work together to support vital ministries and services.

With the support of the faithful over the past years, our priests have been able to retire with dignity. You give them the care they needed to make their senior years meaningful and joyful.

With your support, Holy Spirit Seminary continues to be a place of formation for young men to become ordained ministers of Christ's mercy.

Through your gift, you serve and care for destitute families who can only dream of Catholic education for their children. Your gift will provide bursaries to allow these children to attend their local BCE School.

Your gift to Centacare provides care to families in distress, to victims of domestic violence, to those suffering mental illness, to those in prison and to hospital chaplaincy. Much of this work is hidden but these ministries are some of the most important outreaches of the Church.

When making your gift, please put your donation inside the envelope provided so it remains separate from the parish collection. Alternatively, you may like to click <https://catholicfoundation.org.au/give-now/> or scan the QR code and donate securely online. If you add your details to the envelope you will receive a tax receipt in the mail.

Over the past years, our parish has given generously and together we have made a lasting impact on the lives of so many people in our community. Thank you for your generosity and for making sure our Church is here to help in times of need.

May God, who is the giver of all gifts, bless you in every way.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the commencement of Dr John Billings' research in finding a natural, reliable method of Fertility Awareness for couples. On Monday 21st August at 7.30pm AEST a special, free webinar in recognition of Dr John Billings' work, entitled "*Understanding Couple Fertility: the Male Perspective*" will be held. As well as highlighting the male perspective in using the Billings Ovulation Method®, couples will reflect on how it has helped them in understanding their joint fertility, as well as benefiting their relationships and family life. Please follow the link to register for the Webinar on Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-couple-fertility-the-male-perspective-webinar-tickets-678382479257?aff=odddtcreator>

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

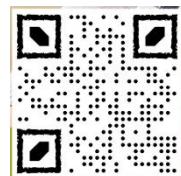
There will be an information session on marriage annulments in the Catholic Church, given by staff of the Regional Tribunal for Queensland. What is an annulment? Who needs one? What is involved? FAQ's answered and the chance to have your own questions answered. Tuesday 22 August 2023, Mary Mac Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley @ 7:45pm. Parking available. Enquiries to tribbris@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3033.

LAUNCH OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2023-2024

"Listen, Learn, Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples will be launched on Wednesday, August 23rd commencing 7:00pm in St James' Parish Hall, 92 Kirkland Ave, Coorparoo (gold coin donation to SVdP). Br Damien Price will speak in response to the Statement. RSVP: https://app.tickets.org.au/eb/sjstatement_2023

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CATHEDRAL GUIDES AND WELCOMERS

The Guides and Welcomers of St Stephen's Cathedral celebrate their 25th anniversary on August 27th at the 10:00am mass on Sunday, August 27th and afterwards with a function in the Francis Rush Centre. Please rsvp by August 21st to cathedralguidesandwelcomers@gmail.com.





For however you choose to say goodbye...

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QBCC:15 113 118
ABN: 82 674 256 581

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enquiries@harvelawyers.com.au

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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**