

**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

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Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

E: hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.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)

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**Year A****August 26th\27th, 2023****Who do you say that I am?**

A furore broke out in a country diocese some years ago about the retreat style of priest who was taking Catholic students in their last year of high school or who were attending university away for weekend retreats. On the Friday night of the retreat this priest would tell the young people that by the end of the weekend they should make a decision about their Christian faith.

Some parents were shocked that their young people were given an ultimatum that included the possibility of rejecting their faith. The priest replied that Catholic youth have to make all sorts of decisions regarding career, lifestyle, residence, studies and relationships. Religion, he contended, often fell by the wayside, either not important enough on which to make a decision, or relegated to the personal shelf of neglect to be possibly taken down and dusted off years later for a hatching, matching or dispatching.

The priest argued that this wasn't good enough. After 12 years of Catholic education or many years of catechetics the Church had to take the risk of calling for a personal decision for faith. Some of the young people consciously chose membership in the Church. In making such a profession of faith many reported having a deep encounter with God and an experience of their faith in Christ. Other students made decisions against belonging to the Church, which is, of course, never irrevocable.

The entire retreat process was based on the question in today's Gospel: 'Who do you say that I am?'

The disciples, reflecting on their experiences with Jesus, offer various possibilities, but it is Peter who says that Jesus is the revelation of God for the world. This is the great profession of faith and the basis on which the Church comes into being.

And what was true then, is true now. At some point, if we want our faith to move from being a code of law, a concept, or some excellent ideas to something we can experience, we must take the faith of the Church, which has nurtured us up to now, and make it our own. In doing so, when we encounter Christ, we contribute to the re-founding of the Church in our generation.

Just being part of the 'Catholic crowd' is hardly the challenge Jesus presents to the disciples in today's Gospel. We are commissioned like the disciples to bear witness to Christ's personal love in the workplace, with our friends and in our families.

It's always helpful to be reminded that we might be the only face of Catholicism, or even Christianity, that another person may encounter. The way in which we bind them up or set them free might be the measure by which they judge if the Church is the face of Christ in today's world and whether they could find a home with us.

And it all hinges on that great question which is asked of each of us today: 'Who do you say that I am?' How we answer this question reveals so much, including whether Christ is an idea we like, or the object of our passion.

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First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
 I dismiss you from your office,
 I remove you from your post,
 and the same day I call on my servant
 Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
 I invest him with your robe,
 gird him with your sash,
 entrust him with your authority;
 and he shall be a father
 to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
 and to the House of Judah.
 I place the key of the House of David
 on his shoulder;
 should he open, no one shall close,
 should he close, no one shall open.
 I drive him like a peg
 into a firm place;
 he will become a throne of glory
 for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; you have heard the words of my mouth.
 Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.
 I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you.
 On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.
 The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar.
 Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
 You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
 the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
 Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Parish Diary

Monday, August 28th

Mass 8:00am
 St Joachim's

Wednesday, August 30th

Mass 6:00pm
 St Agnes'

Thursday, August 31st

Mass 9:00am
 St Agnes'

Friday, September 1st

Mass 9:00am
 St Joachim's

Saturday, September 2nd

Reconciliation 5:30pm
 St Joachim's

22nd Sunday in Ordinary TimeSaturday, September 2nd

Mass 6:00pm
 St Joachim's

Sunday, September 3rd

Mass 7:30am
 St Joachim's
 Mass 9:00am
 St Agnes'
 Mass 6:00pm
 St Agnes'

WHAT ARE YOU DOING
 WITH YOUR KEY?



Readings – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Ray McMahon. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after the 6:00pm Saturday evening and the 7:30am and 9:00am masses this weekend.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Agnes' next roster day is Thursday, August 31st. Please advise the MOW kitchen on 3397 9150 of your availability.

MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday September 1st will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

All primary school children are invited to attend CLOW at St Agnes' Church - Sunday, September 3rd at the 9:00am Mass.

HOSPITALITY AFTER 9:00AM MASS

There will be hospitality after the 9:00am mass next Sunday, September 3rd.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PALMS AUSTRALIA – MICHELE AND ANJELICA RANKIN

Palms Australia, an organisation offering opportunities for placements overseas is hosting an online webinar on **Thursday 14th September at 6pm (AEST)**. Michele and Anjelica, two Mt Gravatt locals and parishioners of the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish will be joining the webinar live from Balibo, Timor-Leste to talk about their experiences as a Palms participant. There may be a position that calls you. To register, follow the link <https://palms.org.au/event/discover-global-mission-webinar/>

CLAIRVAUX/MACKILLOP 40TH YEAR REUNION

Students that finished Year 12 in 1983 or Year 10 in 1981 or past students with a close affiliation with students that finished in those years a reunion will take place at The Lawn Bar, Kangaroo Point on Saturday 14 October at 5.00 pm. Tickets are \$30 each (to cover catering costs). Drinks can be purchased from the bar. Further details can be found via Facebook – please friend request Clairvaux-Mackillop Reunion or telephone Benitta 0412 855 045. Tickets available via <https://bit.ly/3WPccWs>

CALLING ALL SINGERS

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to be part of a massed choir to sing at **St Stephen's Cathedral on Friday, Sept 29 at 5:30pm** as part of the National Liturgy and Liturgical Music Conference taking place here in Brisbane. Archbishop Mark will preside at this special Mass which will be attended by delegates from around the country. Please complete the registration form at <https://lbservery.weebly.com/conference-choristers.html> where you will be able to download the list of music tracks. For enquiries phone Liturgy Brisbane on 3324 3321.

ANNUAL SEASON OF CREATION ECUMENICAL LITURGY

Join with our Christian brothers and sisters to recognise the importance of, and celebrate together, our care for our common home at the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens Lychee Lawn on Wednesday, 6 September commencing 12 noon. Christians from all denominations are invited to gather together in unity to celebrate this Season of Creation – Let Justice and Peace Flow. The liturgy is followed by a guided contemplative walk. Cost: Free

FAITH IN ACTION TOGETHER UPDATES

As we move closer to the Voice Referendum, you may want to check out the following events/resources to gain more knowledge and understanding of the issues at hand.

THE VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH EVENT

A forum and Q&A session hosted by MP Corrine McMillan and featuring guest speakers Noel Pearson and MP Lance McCallum

Date: Tuesday, 26/09/2023 Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: Newnham Hotel Function Room

516 Newnham Road, Upper Mt Gravatt

Tickets: Free, but bookings are essential (go to www.eventbrite.com.au, click on the 'Search events' box and type *Voice Treaty Truth* next to the magnifying glass in the field that states 'Search for anything'. If you need help booking tickets, please text Jo at 0413 092 477 with your first name, surname, email address and number of tickets required so that a booking can be made for you.

KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION (ORGANISED BY CATHOLIC MISSION)



KITCHEN TABLE CONVERSATION

Let's take *One Journey, Together*. Join us as we listen, learn and reflect ahead of the referendum.

Save the Date!

Please join us for a Kitchen Table Conversation!

Date: 17 August, 29 August, 11 September, 28 September

Time: 3:30-4:45pm

Location: Online via Zoom

What is a Kitchen Table Conversation?

A Kitchen Table Conversation is a wonderful opportunity to join with others and listen, learn and reflect on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum that will be held in the coming months.

To find out more, email adultformation@catholicmission.org.au

2023 – 2024 SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

This year's Social Justice Statement is entitled 'Listen, Learn, Love – A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples'. To read the statement, go to www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au, click on [Resources of Social Justice statement 2023-24](#) and click on

[DOWNLOAD STATEMENT](#)



2023 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

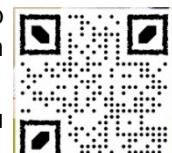
Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

Last weekend our parish held an appeal for the Annual Catholic Campaign in support of the important Catholic ministries in our Archdiocese. Thank you to everyone who responded generously to the Archbishop's call for support.

If you didn't get a chance to make a gift last week, there is still time. If you took the envelope home, please pop it in the mail or leave it here on your way out after Mass. 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.

Your tax-deductible gift will be put straight to work by funding the vital Catholic agencies in our local community.

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





For however you choose to say goodbye...

**Burial, Cremation, Church or Chapel
Pre-arrangements & Funeral Bonds**

An Outreach of the Catholic Church

Phone: 07 3293 0555

www.holycrossfunerals.com



St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care
41 Yuletide Street Holland Park 4121
07 3847 9820
0418 355 431



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info@tgcmaintenance.com.au

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Kieran Harvey, Principal

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Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi



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**