



# Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



## Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Varkey

## Deacon

Dcn Des Neagle

## Office Staff

Dot Lomax

Kate Waymouth

## Pastoral Coordinators

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](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

Pager: 07 3521 8025

## Website:

[www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au](http://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)

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

Year A

September 23<sup>rd</sup>\24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **'The last will be first and the first last'.**

These words of Jesus, with which today's reading from Matthew concludes, occur in different contexts in all three synoptic gospels – God's ways constantly overturn our human expectations. And that is the lesson of the parable in today's gospel. Of all the parables of Jesus, the story of the labourers in the vineyard is probably the most puzzling for Christians of successive generations. That means that it is a great success, that it achieves what Jesus intended. A plausible story, reflecting the common experience of his hearers begins to unfold. It was normal for day labourers seeking employment to gather in public places. One denarius would have been a normal day's wage. We are given a hint where the story is leading however; Israel, the Lord's vineyard, was a familiar theme of the scriptures. An element of suspense holds the attention of the listeners – what is the unusual behaviour of the landowner leading to? Then the conclusion of the story comes as a shock, leaving us unsettled, as our reasonable expectations are not fulfilled.

That is the purpose of the parable, to invite us to leave aside the human logic and predictability with which we shape our world, and to enter the Kingdom announced by the Saviour, the new world shaped by God's generous and merciful ways. This parable may have been directed originally at the Pharisees' refusal to hear the Good News of God's ways brought by Jesus; but the fact that we still find ourselves challenged by the story indicates that it has a lesson that is valid for every generation.

'Did we not agree? Take yours earnings'. God will never be unjust. But the Lord's great plan for the human family has a measure that goes far beyond our human calculations of what is appropriate and just – designs of generosity and mercy conceived in the eternal depths of the divine freedom. 'Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways'.

Jesus is calling us to bow down before the mystery of God's 'grace'. 'Why be envious because I am generous?' 'Grace' is the term used by the scriptures, for this new world of God's generosity announced by Jesus. In a sense, 'grace' is the essential message of the New Testament - where the term occurs countless times: 'God's grace has been revealed to save the whole human race' (Titus 2:11); 'It is by God's grace you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own ... so that nobody can claim the credit' (Eph 2:8). The 'grace' or favour of God announced in the Christian gospel is God's generous outreach to each one of us determined before time began. Because God's will is effective and all-powerful, 'grace' also refers to the many blessings of our new life in Christ. Our Catholic upbringing has stressed these created effects; but we should have given more attention to the folly of divine love made known to us through these blessings. This, we could say, is the point of Jesus' parable: 'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ' (Eph 1:3).

John Thornhill sm © The Emmaus Series 2021

**READINGS FOR 25<sup>TH</sup> IN SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES****First Reading**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.  
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts..

Isaiah 55:6-9

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.  
the Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.  
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.  
The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

**Second Reading**

Philippians 1:20-24; 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

**Parish Diary****Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

St Matthew, apostle  
Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time****Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**

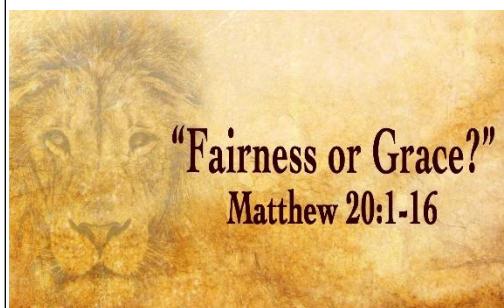
Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



**"Fairness or Grace?"**  
**Matthew 20:1-16**

## Readings – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 22:28-32

## PARISH NEWS

### COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

There will be NO CLOW at St Agnes' next weekend due to the school holidays.

### SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality next Sunday after the 9:00am mass.

## FAITH IN ACTION TOGETHER

### THE VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH EVENT

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

Date: Tuesday, 26/09/2023

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: Newnham Hotel Function Room

516 Newnham Road

Upper Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122

Tickets: Free, but bookings are essential (go to [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://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.

## A Message from Pope Francis



**Let Justice and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

Let us add to the flow of this mighty river by transforming our lifestyles. Starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation, let us repent of our "ecological sins", as my brother, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has urged. These sins harm the world of nature and our fellow men and women.

With the help of God's grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable.

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

The Holland Park Mount Gravatt Parish is seeking applications for the position of a Remunerated Sacramental Coordinator. This is casual position offering flexible hours.

To view full details of the position please go to [Careers - Archdiocese of Brisbane \(brisbanecatholic.org.au\)](http://Careers - Archdiocese of Brisbane (brisbanecatholic.org.au)). For more information about the position, please don't hesitate to contact the parish on 3349 2280.

## DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY REVITALISATION

In these challenging times, Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society become the hands behind the help for many in our local community who are experiencing difficulties. Whether it be an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, financial support and much more.

We would love to hear from anyone who can spare a couple of hours a week to help us continue this important work. Visits are always conducted in pairs.

St Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660) was a French Catholic priest who cofounded the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity. He is the patron saint of charities and all charity work. It has been 190 years since the founding of the Society in France in his name and today we have the honour of being the hands that help. The St Joachim St Agnes' Conference would like to thank you, the parishioners, for your continued support of Vinnies. The Society relies on people to give so generously: through material donations, volunteering time or supporting the Society financially.

To find out more about the work of our conference please reach out to one of our local SVDP representatives – Michael and Lynda Tathem, Margaret Bopf, Paul Gallagher, Sr Karen Risson, Dot Lomax. Alternatively, you can contact Dot on 3349 2280 or email [sisa4121@svdpqld.org.au](mailto:sisa4121@svdpqld.org.au).



## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CLAIRVAUX/MACKILLOP 40<sup>TH</sup> 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



Do you have questions about life, faith, meaning, or God? Would you like to explore what the Christian faith is all about in a relaxed and fun environment?

Then come along and try the ALPHA course!

**When:** Starting in the evening on Tuesday 10 October

**Where:** The Avocado Room at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 121 Mains Rd, Sunnybank

**To find out more or to register,** please contact the Sunnybank parish office on 3345 3766 or [sec.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sec.sunnybank@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Please note: Numbers are limited**

## AustralianCATHOLICS

- Climate for Change
- Fast fashion is a horror show
- Kinchela Boys find their voice
- Many faiths, one humanity
- How is the church embracing gender equality



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<b>Binh Nguyen</b>
<b>Mob: 0452 162 656</b>
QBCC:15 113 118 ABN: 82 674 256 581 <a href="mailto:info@tgcmaintenance.com.au">info@tgcmaintenance.com.au</a>

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07 5554 6994 0408 640 008 <a href="mailto:enquiries@harvelawyers.com.au">enquiries@harvelawyers.com.au</a>

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

Let your Light Shine
 <b>St Agnes</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL   <a href="http://stagnes.qld.edu.au">stagnes.qld.edu.au</a>

 <b>St Joachim's</b> Catholic Primary School HOLLAND PARK PREP - 6 Faith - Respect - Service
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 <b>SETON COLLEGE</b> Celebrating life & learning <a href="http://seton.qld.edu.au">SETON.QLD.EDU.AU</a>
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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**