



# 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.hollandparkmtgravatt](http://www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au)

[catholicparish.com.au](http://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)

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

Year A

October 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

## Give to God what belongs to God

©Mary Coloe PBVM

Religion and Politics – always a volatile brew! Today's Gospel shows that this is not a modern dilemma but one faced by Jesus and his first disciples. While we try to live out the values of God's reign, we are not divorced from the realities of this world, in fact it is this world that we are missioned to, and living in this world demands that we are political – that is we are part of the society we live in. Vatican II expressed it like this, 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age ... are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.' Jesus has been preaching revolutionary values about the treatment of the poor and the outcast. His message had the possibility of turning society upside-down and so some saw him as a social revolutionary. At that time, some groups within Judaism were looking for ways to throw off Roman rule and return to having their own independent kin-dom. The Pharisees in the gospel set a devious trap to see if Jesus will align himself with such anti-Roma ideals.

Jesus turns the tables on his opponents with his response – Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. This pithy saying makes me wonder what belongs to God in my life? Does God truly get what rightfully belongs to God, or just the leftovers in my busy schedule? If only giving God what belongs to God was as simple as paying taxes. My God asks more of me than that.

## STATEMENT ON THE VOTE

Now that the referendum result is known, it's time to look forward rather than look back. There will be a time for looking back, but a cooling off period may be needed if we are to see more clearly. Now is the time to ask not how we got here but where this result leaves us as a nation, where we need to go from here and how we might get there.

One thing is clear: the nation is more divided than ever and in many ways. It's ironic that a process supposed to unite the nation has done just the opposite. There's an urgent need now to create a new kind of national unity, and that can't be left to the politicians, because there's more to this than politics. The task belongs to all of us.

A second thing is still clearer and more urgent: the search for reconciliation based on truth and justice must continue, even if the referendum process and result have made that more difficult. This too is something that can't be left to the politicians, because again there's more to it than politics.

After this result at Federal level, the focus will have to move to the States. But it will also have to move to non-government organisations like the Churches. The Australian Catholic bishops have spoken of the need for a new engagement with Indigenous peoples, and that now becomes more pressing. In the Archdiocese of Brisbane we will commit ourselves more resolutely to our Reconciliation Action Plan and keep asking what else we can do. Fine words and symbolic gestures are not enough.

The process leading to this vote has been a highly politicised slog that has changed Australia, and not for the better. Now the real work begins. It's up to all of us to ensure that what we do from here serves national unity and racial justice, because we'll never have the first unless we have the second.

The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge

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.

**First Reading**

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** Give the Lord glory and honour.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness.

**Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in  
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from  
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and  
constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith  
in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus  
Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen,  
because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as  
words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what  
he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to  
say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God  
in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's  
rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay  
taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You  
hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay  
the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this?  
Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give  
back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

# Parish Diary

**Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Feast of St Simon and Jude, apostles*

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

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

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

*Fr Thomas' Installation*

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



"Let the attacks and weapons cease,  
please, because it must be  
understood that terrorism and war  
bring no solutions, but only the  
death and suffering of many  
innocent lives. War is a defeat;  
every war is a defeat. Let us pray  
for peace in Israel and Palestine."  
- Pope Francis



## Readings – 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

### PARISH NEWS

#### COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

#### ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The parish will hold its annual Mass of Remembrance on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> commencing 10:00am at St Agnes' Church. Mass will be followed by morning tea. Everyone is welcome. If you have lost a loved one during the last 12 months and would like their name included please inform the parish office.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED – THAT CATHOLIC SHOP

That Catholic Shop is the on-line shop of Aid to the Church in Need. ACN is an international charity and is dedicated to the spiritual and pastoral support of suffering and persecuted Christians. Visit their website [www.thatcatholicshop.com](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com) to see their full range.

#### A MORNING'S PRAYER

Evangelisation Brisbane's Adult Formation team will host its final A Morning's Prayer Retreat for 2023 on Saturday, 28 October with a focus on the road to sainthood and what God is calling us to in this lifetime. The 3-hour retreat will include personal prayer, meditation, input and fellowship, providing a revitalising opportunity to get away and spend some quality time with God before the end-of-year busyness begins. It will run from 9:00am - 12:00pm at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. Cost: \$25 RSVP: Friday 27 October by registering online at [tinyurl.com/amorningsprayeroct2023](http://tinyurl.com/amorningsprayeroct2023)

#### GUIDED MEN'S RETREAT

Evangelisation Brisbane's Adult Formation team is excited to host a three-day guided retreat for men this November: 'Awake, Attentive, Called'. The weekend-long retreat from 6:00pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November to 12:00pm Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November will provide opportunities for personal prayer and reflection, as well as time to explore the breathtaking grounds and outdoor meditation activities of the Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre. Participants will also get the chance to meet other men walking the faith journey and take part in occasional group discussions.

Join with other men from across the Archdiocese for this transformational weekend of fellowship, prayer, reflection and faith sharing at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. Cost: Live in individual - \$425 (includes all meals and accommodation); live out individual - \$230 (includes morning teas, lunch and dinners). RSVP: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, register online at: [tinyurl.com/guidedmensretreat2023](http://tinyurl.com/guidedmensretreat2023)

#### DIOCESE OF BROOM – KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The Diocese of Broome requires volunteers to assist in the working with the local Church in various locations. There is a variety of important voluntary tasks in administration, building and vehicle maintenance, gardening, hospitality, general cleaning, etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus. In return for being part of the team, we offer accommodation, living expenses and small weekly allowance. For further details and an application form please contact: 08 9192 1060 or email [volunteers@broomedioocese.org](mailto:volunteers@broomedioocese.org) Website: [www.broomedioocese.org](http://www.broomedioocese.org)

## HPMG Parish Youth Group



**Saturday 28 Oct 2023, 6-7 pm**

Holland Park Parish, Yuletide St, Holland Park West

**Joining together through Faith, Fun & Food**

HPMG Youth Group is teacher-led by Mrs Quincey, Mr Hull, Miss Green, and Miss Ansley through interactive, fun activities. Youth Group welcomes all student's & siblings.

We are excited to welcome Fr Thomas Varkey to Youth Group this month and have him lead us in prayer prior to the children's activities.

A BBQ dinner (sausage sizzle) & beverages follow Mass, making for an easy dinner and fun evening for our community to gather and grow together whilst **ENJOYING** our Parish's hospitality!

HPMG Youth Group - fourth Saturday of each month - same time, same place!



### ANNUAL CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL – OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>/29<sup>TH</sup>



Hearts on Fire  
**FEET ON THE MOVE**



Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor)

Tuberculosis, malnutrition and maternal mortality are conditions all too familiar for the people of Timor-Leste. In two weeks' time you will learn about the work of the Salesian Sisters, including nurse, Sister Carolina, who desires to see better outcomes for her community. We will also share the story of Petrolina and her daughter's desperate need for medical attention.

**You have the opportunity to partner with this life-giving work, and your prayers and generosity are crucial in ensuring this program can continue.**

This opportunity is a great way to commit to the missionary movement, as He reminds us in Luke 24:13-35, the fire of Christ burns within us and encourages us to take action for those in most need.



*For however you choose to say goodbye...*

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**St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care**

**41 Yuletide Street Holland Park 4121**

**07 3847 9820**

**0418 355 431**



**Binh Nguyen**

**Mob: 0452 162 656**

QBCC:15 113 118

ABN: 82 674 256 581

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Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

Let your  
**Light  
Shine**

**St Agnes**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL | [stagnes.qld.edu.au](http://stagnes.qld.edu.au)

**St Joachim's**  
Catholic Primary School HOLLAND PARK PREP - 6

**Faith - Respect - Service**

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## 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.