



# 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)

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

Year A

October 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Canadian theologian Bernard Lonergan had a major impact on philosophy and theology last century. Sometimes his language was so complex we had to buy a companion book to help us read the original work! Surprisingly, however, his most important insights were very simple and expressed in very simple language. One of them was that we regularly have 'ah-ha' moments, where we get an insight into God, the world or ourselves. These moments make sense of things we have previously only seen as problems.

Matthew's Gospel is filled with 'ah-ha' moments. Written for a generally Jewish audience it reflects on Jesus in light of the history of Israel, the Hebrew Scriptures and the expectations of the Messiah. Jesus was for Matthew's community, and is for us, the 'ah-ha' in world history. By Matthew reflecting on his life, death and resurrection, things he had previously only wondered about now made sense.

The phrase 'the stone rejected by the builders' originally referred to Israel. In Psalm 118 and, more generally, in the Book of Psalms, the trials and defeats of Israel are seen to be tests of strength, love and endurance. Despite everything Israel has gone through, the people continue to sing of God's fidelity to them and what marvels God has done before their eyes, making them into a more faith-filled people.

Matthew, however, reflects on what happened to Jesus at the hands of the Chief Priests, Scribes and Romans. In a great 'ah-ha' moment he sees that it is Jesus, not Israel, who is the stone rejected by the builders which has now become the key building block of a new edifice.

Doing exactly the same as Matthew does with this passage, we can apply it to our own lives as well. There are often facets of our personality or character of which we are ashamed or about which we despair. From gossip to greed, past hurts to anger, sexuality to broken relationships, we can often get discouraged at how un-together our Christian life is.

Even though we have worked hard to overcome our worst traits, we often think nothing good will ever come of them. In such a context we need to hear today's Gospel, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

The parts of our character we most despise could be the most marvellous moments of amazing grace. Nothing is irredeemable to God; nothing has gone too far or become too entrenched. In the Christian life there is no room for shame, only for repentance and starting over. Looking at things we have thought of as only being problems provides us with the greatest potential for 'ah-ha' moments, where the healing and love of Christ enables us to turn our lives around, to demolish all the negative and defeatist self-talk in which we can indulge and rebuild ourselves with Christ, the master builder.

Once we get into the habit of doing this, it's amazing how many 'ah-ha' moments we have as our history ceases to be a problem to be overcome but turns into a challenge to be harnessed for the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth.

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## READINGS FOR 27<sup>TH</sup> IN SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES

### First Reading

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,  
I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
  
Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel,  
and the men of Judah that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Isaiah 5:1-7

### Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. (R.)

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

### Second Reading

Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.  
This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

# Parish Diary

### Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

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

### Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

### Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



## PARISH NEWS

### COUNTERS

Alison's team.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS

Youth and Family Mass will be held this Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> at the 6pm mass at St Agnes Church. Mass will be followed by hospitality.

### Invitation to Fr Thomas' Installation

His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge will install Fr Thomas as the leader of our faith community on Sunday, October 22nd at 9:00am Mass at St Agnes' Church. Mass will be followed by morning tea.

Come and celebrate this joyous occasion in the life of our faith community in welcoming Fr Thomas. If you are unable to attend the mass, you are welcome to join us afterwards for the morning tea.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by ringing the Parish Office 3349 2280 or by emailing [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au). We look forward to a great Celebration.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region. We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2024 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Send an enquiry – [Ihichaaba@salesians.org.au](mailto:Ihichaaba@salesians.org.au) or visit our website [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au)

### CALL TO GLOBAL MISSION WITH PALMS AUSTRALIA MISSION

Transform Lives- theirs...and yours.

Go to <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/> to find positions available or phone 02 9560 5999 or 0422 472 567.

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

That Catholic Shop is the Australian 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. Passionate about evangelising through beauty, curiosity and wonder they are wholehearted in their endeavour to find products, that are authentically Catholic. Visit their website [www.thatcatholicshop.com](http://www.thatcatholicshop.com) to see their full range.

### ST DON BOSCO'S RELIC VISIT TO BRISBANE OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup>

The Salesians of St Don Bosco are celebrating 100 years since they arrived in Australia to work in the spirit of St Don Bosco. The Relic is touring Australia to give people the opportunity to pray to St Don Bosco in a special way with the relic.

Fri 13th	Cathedral of St Stephen,	8am - 6pm
Sat 14th	Stella Maris, Maroochydore	9am - 6.30pm
Sun 15th	Mary Immaculate, Annerley	6.30am - 7pm
Mon 16th	Mary Immaculate, Annerley	8.30am - 11am
		3pm - 8.30pm
Tue 17th	Holy Spirit, Bray Park	11am - 9pm
Wed 18th	Little Flower, Kedron	8am - 7pm
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>	Guardian Angels, Wynnum	4pm - 7pm
Fri 20th	Our Lady of Victories, Bowen Hills	4pm - 9pm
Sat 21st	Our Lady of Victories, Bowen Hills	6.30am - 10am
		1pm - 3pm
Sun 22nd	Marian Valley Shrine, Canungra	9am - 6pm

Up-to-date info at [www.stdonboscobrisbane.weebly.com](http://www.stdonboscobrisbane.weebly.com)



## Voice Prayer

Dear Lord

We invite all Australians to join us, their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Brothers and Sisters in prayer.

We pray for a bright and just shared future for all who call Australia home.

We ask that Your grace of acceptance and compassion will guide us.

Let the Creator Spirit lead our journey with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of this land.

May we share Your Spirit more deeply & celebrate the gifts You have given us.

Help us appreciate true harmony and peace just as our Old People did;

Keep us strong, make us resilient and remember us in this time.

Now is an opportunity to change our Nation's history for the better.

Walk with us as we write a new chapter together and

may we be one in Your love.

Amen.



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

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**St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care**  
41 Yuletide Street Holland Park 4121  
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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**