

**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)

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time****Year A****November 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, 2023****The bridegroom is here! Go out to meet him.**

The last section of Matthew's gospel, before the narrative of the passion and resurrection, is a collection of Jesus' teachings urging readiness for death and judgment. The gospel readings for the liturgies of today and next Sunday (the last Sundays of the year's cycle) are from this section. Today we hear the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. The stern tone of the parable should not obscure for us the festive background this story would have called to mind for the original audience. The wedding customs of Palestine – different from our own – have not changed much over the centuries. They come to a climax with the arrival of the bridegroom and his friends at the home of the bride. Upon his arrival, the friends of the bride, who have been waiting with her, go out to join the groom's party for a ceremonial entrance. Those who heard the parable would have recalled that in the Old Testament, Israel's God was called the bridegroom of Israel. The rabbis used the espousal imagery of the Song of Songs in recalling this theme. The members of Matthew's community would have recalled that Jesus referred to himself as 'the bridegroom' (cf. Mt 9:35). The whole emphasis of the parable story, it is clear, is readiness for the coming of the Bridegroom. The 'cry' that goes up when he arrives, capturing the festive joy of the occasion, tells us of the eagerness with which the first Christians looked forward to the Lord's return. All the bride's friends are asleep – the Saviour's return, whether in the moment of death or at the end of the world's history - will come as a surprise to all. Though they are asleep, the wise bridesmaids are ready. Like the lover in the Song of Songs, they can say, 'I sleep, but my heart is awake'. We should not be distracted by their abrupt refusal to share their oil. Remember, in their original form the parables have one point to make. The foolish bridesmaids are removed from the scene to emphasize the point that only those who are ready will join in the festivities.

The first reading, from the book of Wisdom, is well chosen. In his story, Jesus calls the maidens who are ready 'wise'. Wisdom is greatly prized by the traditions of the world; it is a knowledge that helps us understand the things that really matter. Wisdom belongs to a set of Old Testament writings that give expression to a spirituality nourished by an outlook that comes from living one's life in harmony with the ways of God. As the parable invites us to ask ourselves whether we are ready to meet our Lord, and to review the loyalties and values that shape our lives, we may well ponder what is offered to us by God's Word in the first reading: the joy and peace that come from being in tune with God is there to be 'found by those who look'.

The first Christians looked forward eagerly to the Lord's return. With the passing of time, it became clear then to their period of waiting would be long. With the Saviour's resurrection, the last moment of God's plan has come; but as the second letter of Peter reminded those concerned about this delay, 'With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years' (3:8). These developments are echoed in the reading from 1Thessalonians. It seems that when they embraced the faith and rejoiced in the union with Christ brought by baptism this community thought that they would not see death before the Lord's return. Some have died, however, and Paul is instructing them to remove their confusion. With them we can look forward to festivities in store for us. 'The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! ... Come, Lord Jesus' (Rev 22, 17, 20).

John Thornhill sm

**First Reading**

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.  
By those who love her she is readily seen,  
and found by those who look for her.  
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.  
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;  
you will find her sitting at your gates.  
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;  
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.  
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her  
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,  
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.  
On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

**Second Reading**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Wisdom 6:12-16

**Parish Diary**

**Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Prayer for the Peace**

Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Pope Francis



## Readings – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Margaret Klemm. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

### COUNTERS

Alison's team.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, November 14th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

### LOST PROPERTY

A pair of sunglasses have been found in St Joachim's Church and are on the table at the front door if anyone is looking for them.

## LET US CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES IN OUR COMMUNITY



Annual Multicultural Mass  
Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

9:00am Mass - St Agnes Church

Mass will be followed by morning tea

Parishioners, you are invited and encouraged to consider attending this multicultural celebration even though it may not be your regular mass time.

Please wear the national dress of your ancestors and bring a plate of traditional food to share.

We would also appreciate hearing from you if you could provide some entertainment in the way of national dance or a song in your native language while people are enjoying a cuppa.

## THE CATHOLIC LEADER

From 2024 the print edition of the Catholic Leader will move to a subscription-only model. Once you have subscribed, the paper will be conveniently delivered to your door each month. Subscribe now to take advantage of the special offer of receiving the remaining papers for 2023 free and also to go into a weekly prize draw! Call us on (07) 3324 3555 or log onto <https://catholicleader.com.au/subscribe/>

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL

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FEET ON THE MOVE

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### NOVEMBER MASSES

It is our Christian tradition to make a special effort to offer masses and pray for our deceased family members and friends during the month of November. We should also pray for those who have died and have nobody to pray for them. If you would like to have those who have gone before us remembered in all Masses in November, could you please write their names on the Book of Remembrance. Mass envelopes are also available at both churches for Fr Thomas to offer a mass for you.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### CATHOLIC MISSION 2023 APPRECIATION OF THANKS CONCERT

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Church of Twelve Apostles at Jindalee. Cost: free

You are invited to a celebration of music by Brisbane Catholic Schools, parishes and communities. Tickets are available at <https://www.trybooking.com/CKZIE>

### GUIDED MEN'S RETREAT – AWAKE, ATTENTIVE, CALLED

Evangelisation Brisbane's Adult Formation team is hosting a three-day guided retreat for men from 6:00pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November to 12:00pm Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Join with other men for a weekend of fellowship, prayer, reflection and faith sharing at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston. Cost: Live in individual - \$425; live out individual - \$230 (includes all meals) RSVP: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, register online at: [tinyurl.com/guidedmensretreat2023](https://tinyurl.com/guidedmensretreat2023)

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It's right that those who have made a mistake pay for their mistake, but it's even more right that those who have done wrong should be able to redeem oneself from their mistake.

POPE FRANCIS

PRISON SUNDAY 2023

NOVEMBER 12

[catholic.au/s/article/Prison-Sunday](http://catholic.au/s/article/Prison-Sunday)



Thank you for your generous partnership with life-changing mission programs, like supporting Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters and their work through the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste.

Your gift is helping the Sr Carolina continue to provide life-saving treatment and access to resources on health and well-being. Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need.

To learn more about the impact of your support, visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://catholicmission.org.au/our-work), where you can also sign-up for our regular newsletter.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor). Your action will make a real, lasting impact.



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

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**Binh Nguyen**  
**Mob: 0452 162 656**  
 QBCC:15 113 118  
 ABN: 82 674 256 581

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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**