

**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

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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)

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**Year A****November 18th/19th, 2023****Everyone's contribution is precious and worthy**

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact, we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. Its world is a vastly different one to ours. This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense.

Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. They were expected to serve and shut up.

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith. In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire.

And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should equally look for in a capable husband.

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways. From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

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READINGS FOR 33RD IN SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIMES

First Reading

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.
Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.
Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers and sisters, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers and sisters, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Parish Diary

Monday, November 20th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, November 22nd

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, November 23rd

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, November 24th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, November 25th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, November 25th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, November 26th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

**NO MASS 6:00pm
St Agnes'**

Your talent is
Gods gift to you
What you do
with it
is your gift
back to God

Readings – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

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

COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, November 21st

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

With Expectant Hearts, a 22day pray and reflection book for Advent is available in the churches this weekend. Cost:\$6 each

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Readers are asked to collect their 2024 Break Open the Word from the sacristies this weekend. They will be required for reading on December 2nd/3rd.

NOVEMBER MASSES

It is our Christian tradition to make a special effort to offer masses and pray for deceased family 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 Masses in November, 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

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Aid to the Church in Need has produced Prayer Cards for Peace in the Middle East. These are on the tables in the churches. Please take one and pray that peace will soon be restored.

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL BRISBANE

St Vincent's is in need of Eucharistic Ministers/Volunteers in its Pastoral Care Department to assist with the care of patients. Shifts would be only 1-2 hours per week. For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator: Maureen Hansen on maureen.hansen@svha.org.au

KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE 2023

Truth and Peace: Timeless Twins by Dr Susan Connelly RSJ Tuesday 28 November @ 7.30pm. Live videostream via Zoom. Susan will reflect on the critical challenges to truth telling in public life, in the light of Catholic social teaching on justice and peace. To book go to: www.trybooking.com/CMYVM Enquiries: 03 9412 3333 or email: vi.panganiban@ctc.edu.au Website: www.ctc.edu.au

INVITATION TO WITNESS OF FAITH TOUR

ACN will be touring around Australia & NZ with International Guests for our 2023 Witnesses of Faith Tour. The guests include: His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church - Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and all the East Mr Xavier Stephen Bisits, ACN Head of Projects, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt Sr Majella Dogonyaro OP, Dominican Sister, Northern Nigeria. The event will be held in Brisbane on Friday 24th of November, 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Australian Catholic University, Banyo Campus. Find out more and or register you interest at www.aidtochurch.org/2023-tour

SERVICE OF SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA AND THE HOLY LAND

Monday, 27 November from 3:30 - 4:00pm

In a time of deep sorrow and anguish for us all, we look for hope and healing. Let us come together in love, prayer and support. Let us acknowledge the reality that impacts us all as we share messages of hope. The Australian Catholic Bishops have said: 'Peace can come only from justice. We call people of faith to pray with us for a lasting peace and the triumph of human dignity.' Everyone is welcome. Please register in advance for this webinar:

https://caritas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DWj-zzzhRogn8Q0ifg61Zg

COMMUNICATING WITH THE GOD WHO COMES TO US

Friday 15 December @ 6pm – Sunday 17 December @ 3pm OR

Friday 12 January 2024 @ 6pm – Sunday 14 January @ 3pm At Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston.

This quiet weekend, hosted and facilitated by Grace Harwood of Dragonfly Ministries is an opportunity to reflect upon the God who constantly chooses to come to us in loving relationship.

Cost: \$400 (\$380 for concessions) includes all accommodation, meals (an additional fee for complex special diets), resources, spiritual direction and facilitation. To register or enquire: grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409 524 283

LET US CELEBRATE

THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES IN OUR COMMUNITY



Annual Multicultural Mass

Sunday, November 26th 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.

6:00PM MASS NOVEMBER 26TH CANCELLED

Due to the Multicultural Mass next Sunday morning the 6:00pm mass at St Agnes' will be cancelled. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the 9:00am mass and celebrate the diversity of our parish.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL – DECEMBER 2ND/3RD

The past 3 years have been difficult for everyone due to natural disasters, COVID, interest rates, energy price hikes and high inflation rate. This Christmas more families are experiencing poverty and are on the brink of homelessness. After struggling with the escalating cost-of-living crisis, they barely have anything left to hold on to. As the crisis deepens, so does their desperation.

For people, like Anna, Vinnies provides support and reassurance that she will not be alone during hard times. For Grace, a volunteer, she finds comfort in the knowing that the society can provide the necessary support.

Without your generous and ongoing support Vinnies cannot support those with the greatest needs in our community.

All monies raised stays with the local conference to help those in the Holland Park Mt Gravatt community.



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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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**