



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

Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

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)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B

December 9th/10th, 2023

Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know the time will come...

The vestments change, the Gospel changes as the Church moves into a new cycle recalling and celebrating God's coming to our world in Jesus. This year we will hear the earliest written Gospel, that of Mark. These were years of conflict for the early Christians. The Emperor Nero had begun to persecute Christians and they were considered to be practising a new and superstitious cult. In Palestine things were no better for there had been a Jewish uprising against Rome that had led to the destruction of Jerusalem. Mark's community was under threat and beside all these external factors, Jesus had not returned to them as they had been expecting. For forty years, they had kept faith but as time passed the waiting became harder.

The Gospel speaks into this situation. Be alert. Stay awake. The Master will return. Living now, so many centuries distant from the Gospel events, these words take on a special urgency. Complacency and routine can replace alertness and watchfulness. After such a long time perhaps, we run the risk of failing to recognise the Master. Last week's Gospel revealed this difficulty. 'When dis we see you hungry and thirsty, sick or naked?' 'Of course we would have welcomed you – but we didn't know it was you.' This is the alertness that we are called to; to recognise God's coming.

As the carols ring out around the shopping centres, watch out; be alert. You never know the time when God will come to you.

© Mary Coloe PBVM

Francis' Focus

Advent is a season best lived in a wakeful way. Pope Francis has characterised it as 'a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history.' Every year we prepare for Christ's final return by preparing to celebrate his birth, all while reminding ourselves that he is already present.

This season is therefore a time in which every Christian is called 'to listen to the Lord who knocks', as the Pope put it. Jesus is knocking already; it is we who need to wake from our slumber and spring into action. The Church isn't a waiting room. We need to do more than sit and wait. While a season of expectation, Advent is also an annual reminder that the Christian adventure is already underway!

Which is what being 'on guard' really means. It is not a negative sort of guardedness, closed off from the world. Rather, the gist of Jesus' message is about readiness, preparedness, awareness. As Pope Francis says, this means we should strive to avoid being 'overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality'. Admittedly, there is much to be distracted by at this time of year. Yet, in the end life is not measured by Christmas presents but by being truly present. As the Pope says, Jesus wants each one of us to be a person who 'lives in a full and conscious way, with concern first and foremost for others.'

© Nick Brodie



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.

READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,

a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Parish Diary

Wednesday, December 13th

Memorial Service – Jill Zilf
St Joachim's Church 11:00am

Saturday, December 16th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 16th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, December 17th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

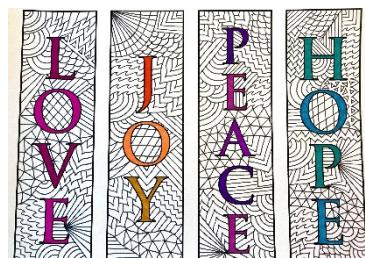
ADVENT PRAYER

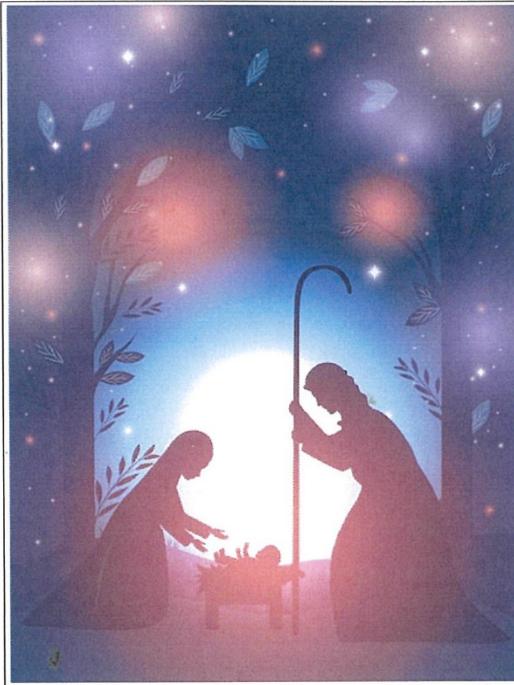
Almighty God, grant us the grace to hope in you with unwavering trust. As we begin this season of Advent, may our hearts be filled with the hope that comes from knowing your promises are true.

Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquillity that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities.

Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with joy that comes from knowing your love. May we rejoice in the good news of salvation and share that joy with others during this season of Advent.

God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your son, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world. Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.





Christmas Mass Times

Sunday, December 24th

4:45pm	Christmas Carols	St Joachim's Church
5:00pm	Vigil Mass	St Joachim's Church
6:45pm	Christmas Carols	St Agnes' Church
7:00pm	Vigil Mass	St Agnes' Church

Monday, December 25th

7:45am	Christmas Carols	St Agnes' Church
8:00am	Mass	St Agnes' Church

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Jill Zilf and Mark Tiainen. May they rest in the peace of Christ

WE REJOICE

With the Vellalan family as they celebrate the baptism of Xavier in the parish this weekend.

WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be **NO** weekday masses this week as Fr Thomas will be on retreat.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, December 12th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

ADVENT PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite Monday, December 18th at 6:30pm in St Agnes' Church. Supper will follow. All parishioners are invited. Please let the parish office know if you are attending on 3349 2280 or hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

God's WORD 2024

God's Word now in the churches or Parish Office. Cost \$15

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2024 calendars are available. Cost is \$9.

DATE CLAIMER – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish will be hosting the 2024 World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PARISH COMMUNITY GARDEN

The parish office is currently applying to become a recipient of a cultivating community gardens grant from the Brisbane City Council. If successful, the parish office would like to purchase a rainwater tank and mobile garden beds to set up an area where a produce garden can be planted and tended to. As this is an exciting initiative that can benefit both the environment and the parish community, the establishment of a working group is needed to assist in the ongoing running of the garden. Please contact Kate Waymouth at the parish office on 07 3349 2280 to express your interest in this project.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Sunday 10 Dec, 1:00pm at Cineplex South Bank

Emmanuel Community hosts the screening of the greatest story ever told and comes to life on the big screen this Christmas. Tickets start from \$14, family discounts available. Tickets must be pre-purchased, they will not be available at the door. Buy your tickets at www.ec.org.au or contact events@ec.org.au.

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.

The 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

THE BACH SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

Join the Bach Society of Queensland as it celebrates nearly 50 years of annual performances of Handel's Messiah for Brisbane audiences, at 2.00 pm on Saturday December 16th, in the Dron Auditorium at St Peter's Lutheran College Performing Arts Centre, Lambert Road, Indooroopilly. Tickets (\$50 Adults; \$45 Concessions; \$40 Groups 6+; \$20 Secondary Students; children free) are available via www.bachsocietyqld.org.au or phone Tina at 0438 971 951 (please leave a message) or at the door. As seating is allocated at the time of booking pre-booking is preferred.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

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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**