



# 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**

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Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

[www.hollandparkmtgravatt](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt)

[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)

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Year B**

**December 16th/17th, 2023**

## He came as a witness to speak for the light.

This Sunday again focuses on John the Baptist and the question continues – who are you? This is the question being asked in the early communities. Who was John? How can we understand his mission and its connection to the mission of Jesus? The questioners put to him the names of key Jewish figures who were expected to come in the final days – the Christ, Elijah and the Prophet. “The Christ” is a Greek translation of the Hebrew title, ‘the Messiah’. This was someone in the line of David who was expected to restore the kingdom of David. Elijah was one of the great prophets who was believed to have been taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot and would return at the end of time. The Prophet refers to a promise made to Moses that God would raise up in the future, a prophet like Moses to lead the people. Some thought John fitted one of these hoped-for figures. But John turns down these roles.

John knows his place in God's scheme. He humbly attests that there is another, even greater, who is coming. This is John's greatness, to know and accept the particular role his given for the Kingdom. For some this can take years of searching and pondering. We don't know what John was doing before this ministry, and it seems that Jesus only began his mission around the age of thirty. As Christmas draws near, may it be a time of quiet reflection on the particular gifts God has given to me, and in what particular way I may further God's kingdom.

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## Francis' Focus

Munching insects and honey in the wilderness, John the Baptist was clearly a memorable figure. But as noteworthy as his camel shirt clearly appeared, John did not want attention for his own sake. John's core message, the Gospel of Mark tells us, is that we need to respond to the God who approaches us.

Pope Francis says something that echoes John's approach. In one of his apostolic exhortations, he encourages us as follows: ‘Your life ought to be a prophetic stimulus to others to leave a mark on this world.’ What Pope Francis means is that we are all meant to be voices in the wildernesses of our time.

During Advent, therefore, we are all called to be welcoming voices singing a prophetic tune. As Pope Francis has often encouraged us, we should be good stewards for all creation. Christians should take the lead in caring for the earth and the poor who inhabit it. Similarly, the Pope has encouraged us to be a synodal people, learning to walk and talk together in harmony as the People of God. Christians should not cling to divisive nostalgias, but cherish what matters and face the future with openness and confidence.

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The Holland Park Mt Gravatt Catholic Parish acknowledge the Jagara 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 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Response: My soul rejoices in my God.**

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God,  
because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think  
before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe  
and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God  
has called you and he will not fail you.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests  
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but  
he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are  
you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they  
said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us.  
What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question  
to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the  
prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you –  
unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his  
sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John  
was baptising.

# Parish Diary

**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Advent Prayer 6:30pm  
St Agnes' Church

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

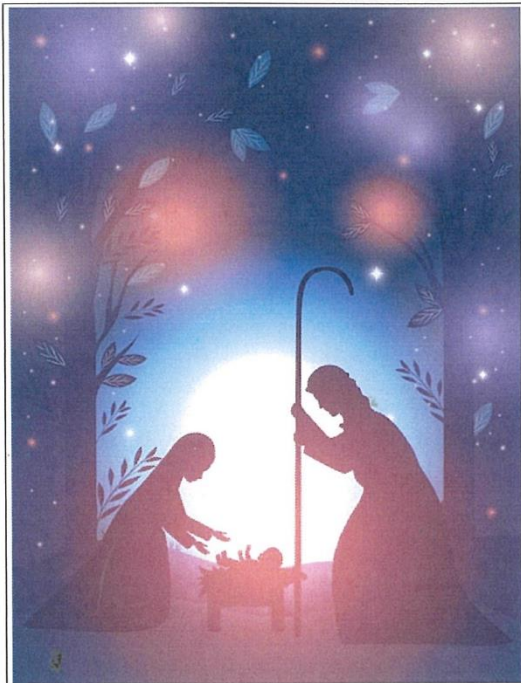
**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

the Spirit of the  
Lord God is  
upon Me  
Isaiah 61:1





## Christmas Mass Times

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

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 25<sup>th</sup>

7:45am Christmas Carols St Agnes' Church

8:00am Mass St Agnes' Church

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

Jill Zipf, Les and Ruby Richards, Keith Dwyer and Allan Tiainen.  
May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE REJOICE

With the Shelton and Dawes families as they celebrate the baptism of Charlotte, Oliver, Aura-Ann and Lathan in the parish this weekend.

### COUNTERS

Maureen's team

### ADVENT PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite will be held on Monday evening commencing 6:30pm in St Agnes' Church. Christmas drinks and supper will follow. All parishioners are invited. For catering purposes please let the parish office know if you are attending on 3349 2280 or hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

### MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

### GOD'S WORD 2024

God's Word is available in the churches or Parish Office from this weekend. Cost: \$15

### COLUMBAN CALENDARS

The 2024 calendars will be available from the churches this weekend. Cost: \$9

### 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.

*Prayer for  
Peace*

*Loving God*

We earnestly pray for peace and stability in Myanmar amidst the ongoing internal conflict.

Our hearts grieve for the children and families enduring displacement, fighting with hunger and poverty.

Hear the prayer of these children and families and respond with the support they desperately need. May your love and warmth reach those who are most in need.

In your mercy, grant peace and perseverance to the internally displaced children and families, providing them with the necessary resources for survival.

We pray for the restoration of community and an end to conflict, allowing children and families to feel secure once again.

Grant families the strength and perseverance they need as they travel through these challenging times.

May your guiding light lead them towards hope and a brighter future.

*Amen.*

Learn more about how you can partner with missionaries in Myanmar by visiting [catholicmission.org.au/myanmar](http://catholicmission.org.au/myanmar) or scanning the QR code.

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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**

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Let your  
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Shine**

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

**St Joachim's**  
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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.