



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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Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

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Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

www.hollandparkmtgravatt

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)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year B

December 23rd/24th , 2023

Dear Parishioners,

The story of Christmas is a story of love. We read in the Gospel of John 3:16 that “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son”. In the humble manger, we find a Savior who is a symbol of God's love reaching out to humanity in its most tender form. His presence brings light to our darkest moments and hope to our hearts.

In the busyness of life, let us pause and reflect on the true essence of Christmas. The birth of Jesus Christ is a profound reminder of God's love and His willingness to be with us, to share in our humanity. It is a miraculous event that changed the course of history and brought the promise of salvation to all who believe.

As we exchange gifts and share in the warmth of family and friends, let us also extend our love and kindness to those around us. Christmas is a season of giving, not just in material things but in the gifts of time, understanding, and compassion. It is an opportunity to be a source of joy and comfort to others, just as Christ has been to us.

This Christmas, let us strive to embody the spirit of love, generosity, and compassion that Christ exemplified throughout His life. As we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let us also extend our hearts and hands to those in our community who may be in need. Small acts of kindness can make a significant difference in someone's life, and in doing so, we emulate the selfless love of our Savior.

Our parish family is a source of strength and support for one another. Let us come together in prayer and fellowship during this joyous season, cherishing the bonds that unite us as brothers and sisters in Christ. May our gatherings be filled with warmth, laughter, and a deep sense of gratitude for the blessings we share.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let our hearts be open to the transformative power of His love. May the Christmas season bring you and your loved ones abundant joy, peace, and blessings.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Fr. Thomas



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 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Response: For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Parish Diary

Christmas – Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24th

Mass 5:00pm

St Joachim's

Mass 7:00pm

St Agnes'

Monday, December 25th

Mass 8:00am

St Agnes'

**Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 30th**

Mass 6:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, December 31st

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

**Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God
Monday, January 1st**

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 3rd

Mass 6:00pm

Adoration and Exposition 6:30pm

St Agnes'

Thursday, January 4th

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Friday, January 5th

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

Saturday, January 6th

Reconciliation 5:30pm

St Joachim's

**The Epiphany of the Lord
Saturday, December 9th**

Mass 6:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, December 10th

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

Readings

Feast of the Holy Family

1st Reading Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The Epiphany of the Lord

1st Reading Isaiah 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



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 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

December 27th: Elisabeth's team

January 3rd: Robyn's team

CANCELLATION OF REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be no weekday masses during the Christmas/New period. Regular masses will recommence on Wednesday, January 3rd.

MASS FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY

There will be a mass at St Joachim's on Monday, January 1st commencing at 9:00am.

MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday, January 5th will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

CATHOLIC LEADER

The Christmas edition of the Catholic Leader is available in the churches. This will be the final edition available through the churches.

GOD'S WORD 2024

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF PARISH COMMUNITY GARDEN

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.

Office Closure

Christmas/New Year Period

The Parish Office will be closing from the end of business on Friday, December 22nd and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3rd.

In the case of an emergency during this period please contact the office by using the Pager Service, 07 3521 8025. Fr Thomas will return your call as soon as he is available.

For the month of January the Parish Office will be closed on Tuesdays. Once again, in an emergency you are asked to ring the Parish Pager.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNICATING WITH THE GOD WHO COMES TO US

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



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St Joachim's Outside School Hours Care

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... 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.