



# 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](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)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Year B

December 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might watch the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!

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#### READINGS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### First Reading

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down  
- at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard, no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.  
God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.  
May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

#### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like someone travelling abroad: they have gone from home, and left their servants in charge, each with his own task; and they have told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if they come unexpectedly, they must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

## Parish Diary

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
Adoration and Exposition 6:30pm  
St Agnes'

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

BE ON YOUR GUARD AND

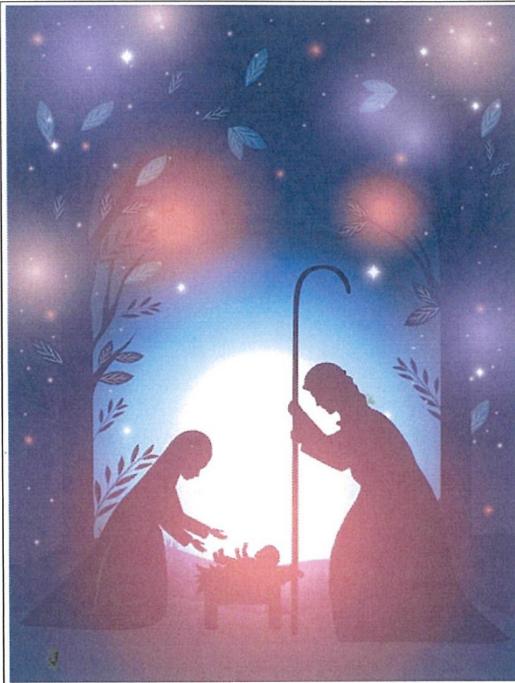
STAY ALERT! FOR YOU DO

NOT KNOW WHEN THE

APPOINTED TIME WILL

COME.

- MARK 13:33



## 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

We remember Jill Zipf and Margaret Klemm. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

### COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Barbara, 3349 6334.

### ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

There will be Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately after the 6:00pm mass at St Agnes' Church this Wednesday for approx. 15 minutes.

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> commencing 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Ring the parish office to register.

### YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS

A Youth and Family Mass will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the 6pm mass at St Agnes Church, this will be followed by hospitality.

### ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

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

### 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 is \$9.

### BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Readers are asked to collect their 2024 Break Open the Word from the churches this weekend.

### ADVENT PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Advent Prayer with Penitential Rite will be held on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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

### MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

Last Sunday there was a wonderful display of the various cultures which are present in our community. Thank you to everyone who assisted in the mass, provided food from their cultural background and entertained us with song and dance, to everyone who attended this celebration and to those who assisted afterwards with the morning tea.



### WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>

Advent is the season that prepares us for the joy of Christmas. The message in today's gospel was not to bring fear but rather a call to action. How can we be realistic about the world around us and be messengers of hope, essentially what Vincentian spirituality is all about – service in hope, bringing the message of hope to those who are most rejected by society. As we move towards the celebration of Christmas may we be ever attentive and filled with hope for our world and those we serve, offering the cup of love to all in need.

There are envelopes available today to place your donations in or you can donate online at [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au) or by phoning 13 18 12. All donations are used locally.

### 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.



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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**