

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Varkey

Deacon

Dcn Des

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)

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**Year B****January 27th/28th, 2024****This is a new kind of teaching ...**

Discipleship requires a change in us. We want to change because in so many ways we are being strangled to death by demons. We are caught in dysfunction and sin; we live in the midst of the battle between good and evil, the struggle of human finitude and failure. We are plunged into the throes of human suffering and pain, and there seems to be no escape.

The demonic seduces us in more ways than we can count and we are often caught in its web before we recognise what has happened. There have always been many and varied voices that claim to have the remedy for our ills. Preachers and politicians have stirred up crowds and ignited their emotions. Promises have been made and predictions advanced, yet the conflict goes on, the demons continue to hold sway. The demon recognised the authority in the voice of Jesus. Do we recognise it?

When we are released by Jesus from the demons that possess us, we are freed from the stranglehold of evil and liberated to live far less encumbered and divided lives. No Earthly reality will possess us, neither relationships nor obligations nor even religious practices. Rather, we will be possessed by Christ who liberates us for the reign of God. Therefore, whether married or unmarried, whether in the midst of the community or at its margins, we will be able to heed the voice of God in our hearts and to recognise Jesus in our midst.

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Francis' Focus

According to Pope Francis, 'Jesus did not mince words'. Any way you look at it, Christ's proclamation was a turning point in history with phenomenal ramifications. The moment has arrived! The Kingdom of God is close! There is Good News to be heard!

This was Jesus' message about himself. 'He was the salvation,' the Pope notes, who entered human history in a powerfully new way.

When we look at this Gospel, Jesus also had another component of his message: the way of discipleship. Its elements are straightforward: repent, believe, follow.

As the Pope elaborates, Jesus 'invites us to recognise ourselves as in need of God and his grace; to have a balanced attitude with regard to earthly goods; to be welcoming and humble toward everyone; to know and fulfil ourselves in the encounter with and service of others.' This is how we can change our lives to follow more closely the one in whom we believe.

And, as the Pope further suggests, each phase of our life 'has its own value, and can be a privileged moment of encounter with the Lord.' Therefore, we should be open to welcoming Jesus again and again in new places and situations. Whether in our parishes, homes or workplaces, our lives are full of encounters that can change us and those we meet. This is the way.

© 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.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Responsorial Psalm

Response: If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Parish Diary**Monday, January 29th**

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 31st

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, February 1st

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, February 2nd

The Presentation of the Lord
(includes Anointing of the Sick)

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, February 3rd

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**Saturday, February 3rd**

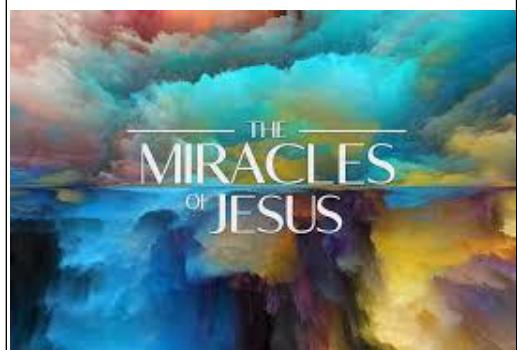
Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, February 4th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'



Readings – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading Job 7:1-4, 6-7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-30

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Alfio Garrone. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team

MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday, February 2nd will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

All primary school children are invited to attend CLOW at St Agnes' Church on the first Sunday of the month. Our first CLOW for 2024 will be held on the 4th February at the 9am Mass.

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, February 5th, join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone is welcome and you are free to just turn up. For more information, contact Barbara on 3349 6334.

MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES

There are a supply of envelopes in the churches to be used if you would like to have Fr Thomas offer a mass. Please fill in the details on the front of the envelope and either pass on to Fr Thomas, put on the collection plate at mass or drop into the Parish Office.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Finance Council (PFC) met for the first time in 2024 on Wednesday 17 January and welcomed new members Paul Gallagher and Tim Pulsford. Paul and Tim join existing members Fr Thomas, Michael Henry, Gerard Ward and Ron Pugh. At the same meeting, Ron was appointed the new chair of the Council. These new appointees to the council follow the resignations of John Arnold (Chair) and Allan Kavanagh from the PFC in late 2023. We sincerely thank both John and Allan for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to the Council over their periods of service. We also acknowledge the ongoing assistance of Kate Waymouth in the role of Parish office coordinator who is of great help.

Paul and Tim are long standing members of the Parish. Ron and his wife Jean have become active members of the Parish, having moved from Townsville to Brisbane and are the proud grandparents of three little boys, two of which attend St. Joachim's school. In Ron's new role as chair of the PFC he brings a wealth of experience as demonstrated previously by his position as chair of the Townsville Diocesan Education Council.

The Parish Finance Council assists Fr Thomas in the administration of the ecclesiastical goods of the parish. We ask that you keep the Parish Finance Council in your prayers and with their discernment and decision making on what is best for our Parish Community.



Ron Pugh - Holland Park Mt Gravatt PFC Chair

COMMUNITY NEWS

'SPIRIT OF HOPE' PRAYER MEETING

The first meeting for 2024 will be held in St Stephen's Chapel (In the grounds of St Stephen's Cathedral on Wednesday 31st January from 10.45am – 12.15pm (after 10am Mass) Join us for a Morning of Prayer, Praise and Worship calling on the Holy Spirit to lead us in praying for renewal!! Personal Prayer Ministry will be Available Everyone welcome. Contact: Maureen 0403002199 or Helena 0405321901

DANCE IN SUPPORT OF PREGNANCY CRISIS INCORPORATED

Friday, 9th February from 6:30 - 11:00pm at Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church Hall, 616 Ipswich Road, Annerley.

Cost: \$35pp includes a glass of wine upon arrival, \$20pp for ages 10-17, and ages 0-9 are complimentary. All ages are most welcome.

Please see this booking link for further information, such as dress theme: <https://www.trybooking.com/COEVT>

Information Day for Cathedral Guides & Welcomers

Thursday
1st February 2024

9.30am -1:00pm
Hanly Room,
Francis Rush Centre.

Refreshments provided.



An information day for
anyone who would like to
find out more about
becoming a guide and/or
a welcomer at
The Cathedral of St Stephen

RSVP: 25 Jan 2024 3324 3030 cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au



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Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish Website

The Parish has its own website and it is accessible on the link below:

<https://hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au/>

Go online and check it out.

The more often is visited the higher it rates on the search engine. It is continuing to develop.



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.