



Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Varkey

Deacon

Dcn Des Neagle

Office Staff

Dot Lomax

Kate Waymouth

Pastoral Coordinators

Mary Ginty

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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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)

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

Year B

February 17th/18th, 2024

Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world. Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' He was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time. How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.'

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Together with Ronita, Leaia and Memory, our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe. Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.'

Michael McGirr

Project Compassion

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations. Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children. Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village. Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.



Ronita (Philippines)



Leaia (Samoa)



Memory (Malawi)

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

Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,
guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and dominions and powers his subjects.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!!

Gospel

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Parish DiaryMonday, February 19th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, February 21st

Stations of the Cross 5:30pm
St Joachim's

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, February 22nd

The Chair of St Peter, apostle
Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, February 23rd

Mass 9:00am
Stations of the Cross 9:30am
St Joachim's

Saturday, February 24th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

2nd Sunday of LentSaturday, February 24th

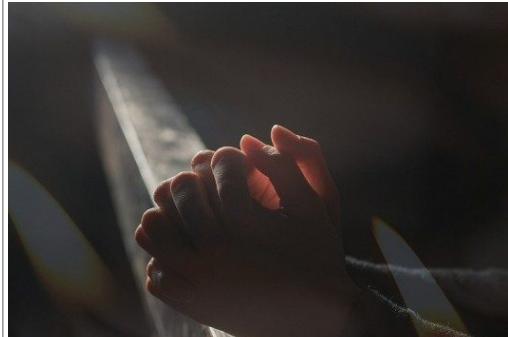
Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, February 25th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

2024 YEAR OF PRAYER

Pope Francis explained that the Year of Prayer is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world."

Readings – 2nd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Colin Chant. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Hickey and the Smith and Pastorelli families as they celebrate the baptism of Meela, Cleopatra, Matilda and Luca in the parish this weekend.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE CUP AND LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Initially, we are going to reintroduce with one cup. **If you wish to receive from the Cup please take communion from the left line.**

To enable us to move forward with 2 cups as soon as possible I am requiring new ministers at every mass. If you were an Extraordinary Minister of Communion and are willing to re-join the roster, please let me know. We do require new ministers at **EVERY** mass so I ask all parishioners to please give serious consideration to this ministry. Without ministers, we cannot celebrate the Mass, as we would all like to.

Please contact Dot, 3349 2280 or hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au. Blue Cards and Police Checks are not required for Eucharistic Ministers however, you will be required to register as a volunteer.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

TODAY at St Agnes' Church at 9:00am

COUNTERS

Maureen's team

LENTEN PROGRAM

Monday, February 19th commencing 6:30pm in the Parish Centre

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, February 20th

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, February 20th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday, 5:30pm St Agnes' Church

Friday, 9:30am St Joachim's Church

LENTEN REFLECTION - A RESURRECTED LIFE

Reflection book is available in the churches this weekend. Cost \$6.

WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be **NO** masses on Wednesday, February 28th and Thursday, February 29th.

HPMG Parish Youth Group

Sunday 25 February 2024 at 7.30 am

(going forward, every 4th Sun of the Month 7.30 - 8.30am)

Joining together through Faith, Fun & Food

HPMG Parish Youth Group is teacher-led by Mrs. Quincey, through interactive & fun activities at St Joachim's Church.

Refreshments are provided for our community to gather and grow together whilst ENJOYING our Parish's hospitality!

We invite you to spend time with our Community, this Sunday and every month on the fourth Sunday of each month.



World Day of Prayer 2024

Palestine

Friday, March 1st 10:15am

St Joachim's Church

Guest Speaker

Rev Dr Greg Jenks from St Francis Theological College

SEASON OF LENT

During the season of Lent there will be a number of opportunities for extra prayer and reflection.

Stations of the Cross

On Friday, Stations of the Cross will be prayed after the Mass and before the Wednesday evening mass at St Agnes'.

Lenten Program

Commencing Monday, February 19th we will be offering the opportunity for parishioners to come together for a Lenten Reflection. If you would like to join this group, please indicate by writing your name on the sheet in the churches this weekend.

Day of Adoration

On Friday, March 15th, there will be Adoration at St Joachim's Church commencing with mass at 9:00am and concluding with Benediction at 4:00pm followed by hospitality. There is a timetable available in the churches, could you please give consideration to this day of prayer and enter your name in a timeslot, which suits you. We would like to have people present at all times during the day.

RECEIVING FROM THE CUP

After receiving from the Cup had been temporarily suspended during Covid, Archbishop Mark reinstated it for the Brisbane Archdiocese at the beginning of last Advent. Today we are re-instating it in our parish.

We hear the invitation at each Eucharistic celebration,

Take this all of you and drink.

For this is the chalice of my Blood,

The Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant

Which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal states, *Holy Communion has a more complete form where it is received under both kinds.* We receive the Bread for the journey of life and to become the Body of Christ in our world. This is a challenging mission, but the Blood of Christ poured out in pain and suffering strengthens us to do it. Drinking from the cup is accepting a way of being in the world of sacrificial living where we know we can draw on the power won for us.

Drinking from the common cup has held fear of infection for some. For many years, long before Covid, studies were done, and assurances given that these fears could be dispelled because of the safeguards we practice and in which our ministers are trained. Fortified wine is used, the vessel is metal, and the minister opens out the purifier and wipes both the inside and outside of the cup after each reception and then rotates it for the next communicant.

It is important the cup is offered but we are always free regarding its reception.



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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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.



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**