

**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)

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**Year B****February 3rd/4th, 2024****He cured many who suffered ...**

In the time of Jesus almost everything they couldn't understand was put down to a demon or an evil spirit. In the Talmud, (a large book dating from around the time of Jesus that contains the collected teachings of the Rabbis), several pages are devoted to the healing of 'fevers'. Even though we have become more advanced in our medical knowledge, it's surprising how this thinking still persists. While most people don't blame evil for their ailments, they can think God has a direct hand in sending an illness or an injury. Such faulty theology cannot be reconciled with the New Testament.

There is not a single instance where Jesus inflicts pain and suffering on others. He regularly tells us we have to carry our cross and bear our burdens, but this is vastly different from personally laying a cross on our shoulders or giving us the burdens in the first place. By contrast, every time that Jesus encounters suffering and pain he works to heal it and restore the person to new life.

The differences between the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and the other healing stories in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel are striking. Rather than in a public space and in front of crowds this personal healing occurs in the privacy of Peter's house. By contrast to the command for the demons to be gone, in his bedside ministry Jesus never mentions a demon and uses no words. Instead he gently takes her by the hand and helps her to her feet. Unlike the others Jesus heals, of whom we never hear about their response, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law leads her to an act of service. Given all the details Mark gives us of this encounter it's a pity he never tells us her name.

Sometimes we can think of Jesus' miracles, then and now, as acts of dazzling power. The problem with this idea is that if we see Jesus as going around 'zapping' people it's hard to figure out why there were times when he could not perform any miracles at all, or that they happened in stages. Whatever else miracles are, they are deeply personal encounters of faith.

As Catholics we believe in the power of miracles and that the source of them is always the grace of God. But we do not have to see them as something done to us from without. Rather, we can see them as unlocking something from within. For some people Jesus' word or touch set free the healing power God had placed in them. For others it came through another person's intercession. The same holds true for us today.

Furthermore, being anointed, celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist, going to a place of pilgrimage, fasting, being prayed over or meditating can have a similar effect. Looked at in this way we can see why some people are healed and others are not. If a personal encounter with Jesus did not always lead to healing, then why should it surprise us that some other encounters these days do not always unlock God's healing within us.

Small and large-scale miracles are happening every day. Today's Gospel reminds us that they do not happen for show or for the sake of the crowd. They are realisations of faith. Taking Peter's mother-in-law as our model we are healed and strengthened so that we can witness to God's saving power, serve the Kingdom of God in any way we can, and continue to wait on the Lord.

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First Reading

Job began to speak:

Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Is no-one's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
their time no better than hired drudgery?
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workers with no thought but their wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.
Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Responsorial Psalm**Response:** Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving:
to him our praise is due.The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust.**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any person I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all people in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:29-30

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils..

Parish Diary**Monday, February 5th**Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's**Wednesday, February 7th**Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'**Thursday, February 8th**Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'**Friday, February 9th**Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's**Saturday, February 10th**Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time****Saturday, February 10th**Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's**Sunday, February 11th**Mass 7:30am
St Joachim'sMass 9:00am
St Agnes'
Youth MassMass 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.

WE REJOICE

With the McGrath family as they celebrate the baptism of Antigone in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Robyn's team

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.

ST AGNES' PARISH CARPARK

Please note that if you ever come to St Agnes' Church or Parish Office and there are witches hats in any of the parking bays, these bays are reserved for parishioners who may be attending mass, meetings or visiting the parish office. This is normally done when a school event coincides with a parish event.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

 CLOW is held at the 9am mass at St Agnes' on the 1st Sunday of the month during school terms. (children under 5 to be accompanied by a parent).

All children are invited to join us for CLOW this Sunday at the 9am mass at St Agnes'. Parents are very welcome!

YOUTH MASS

A Youth Mass is held on the second Sunday on the month. Our next mass is on February 11th at the 6pm mass at St Agnes Church, hospitality and a meeting with the youth will follow.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4 children and above)

Parent information sessions

Wednesday 17th April 6.30pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 18th April 6.30pm St Agnes'

Enrolment Masses ALL weekend Masses 27th & 28th April

Family sessions Wednesday 8th May 6pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 9th May, 6pm St Agnes'

Rehearsal Wednesday 29th May 6.30pm St Joachim's

Celebration of first Holy Communion 1st & 2nd June **AND** 8th & 9th June

CONFIRMATION (Year 3 children and above)

Parent information sessions

Monday 15th July 6.30pm St Agnes **OR**

Tuesday 16th July 6.30pm St Joachim's

Enrolment Masses ALL weekend Masses 27th & 28th July

Family sessions Friday 9th August 6pm St Agnes' **OR**

Saturday 10th August, 2pm St Joachim's

Rehearsal Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th August, 6.30pm St Joachim's

Celebration of Confirmation Wednesday 4th September 5pm **AND**

6.30pm St Joachim's

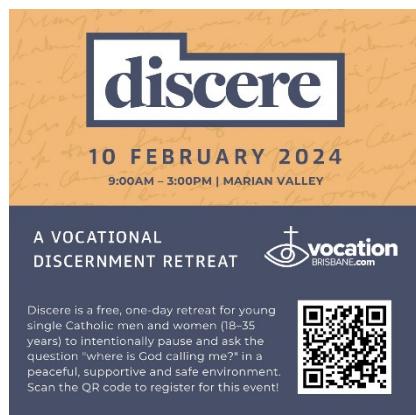
PENANCE (Year 5 children and above)

Saturday 26th October 10.30-12pm **OR** 1pm-2.30pm St Joachim's

FULL DETAILS ON REGISTRATION WILL FOLLOW closer to each

Sacramental Program Please feel free to contact the Parish Office or email sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au at anytime for more information.

COMMUNITY NEWS



discere
10 FEBRUARY 2024
9:00AM – 3:00PM | MARIAN VALLEY

A VOCATIONAL
DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Discere is a free, one-day retreat for young single Catholic men and women (18-35 years) to intentionally pause and ask the question "Where is God calling me?" in a peaceful, supportive and safe environment. Scan the QR code to register for this event!



Parish Spotlight – Dot Lomax

As most of you would know I have just returned from 4 weeks in Europe and England visiting Megan and Zoe who now live in London. I would like to share some highlights with you from the happiest, when I saw the girls at Charles De Gaul Airport and being able to throw my arms around Zoe for the first time in 16 months to the saddest when shedding a few tears as I said goodbye to them.

We started in Paris with Christmas Mass in French then roaming the city from daylight to after dark for 3 days and only saw a snippet. Verdict still out but the history, art and architecture is amazing. New Year was spent in Cologne spending 4 days exploring Cologne and visiting Dusseldorf and Koblenz. Brussels was next which was one of my favourite places, helped by the best chocolate at the end of our days. Also visited Bruges and Ghent. Our final days in Europe were spent visiting the WWI Battlefields around Villers-Brettoneux. If I needed it, visiting here on a very cold, wet and windy day gave a whole new perspective on what the soldiers would have gone through.

After 2 weeks in Europe we left for London and did a drive holiday for a week to Cornwall returning to London via the Cotswolds. This was an interesting week from getting out of London, driving on narrow English roads, to trying to find our accommodation after dark (4:30pm). We saw real sun for the first time since we'd left home though still very cold and witnessed people surfing at 0° with wind chill of 6°, even saw our first snow albeit just a flurry. Cornwall was my other favourite place, even though it did not get above 3° the countryside is breathtaking and the people friendly. If you are planning a trip to England well worth considering.

Our final days were spent exploring London, walked for k's, did not get lost but really had no idea where we were either. It was nice to see where the girls are living and now being able to visualise things when we talk.

I would like to thank Fr Thomas, Kate and everyone else who assisted, allowing me the opportunity to take the 4 weeks leave.





For however you choose to say goodbye...

**Burial, Cremation, Church or Chapel
Pre-arrangements & Funeral Bonds**

An Outreach of the Catholic Church



Phone: 07 3293 0555

www.holycrossfunerals.com



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
QBCC:15 113 118
ABN: 82 674 256 581
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Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi



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**