



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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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 LENT

Year B

March 9th/10th 2024

We have all lived through a great deal of change. Even young people have seen plenty. ChatGPT is a recent development and so are electric cars. Older people can remember having a phone plugged into a socket that you couldn't carry around with you. Sometimes we have discussions about the good old days. They are often tinged with nostalgia for things we miss and gratitude for improvements. We no longer need to buy film for our cameras or change typewriter ribbons. Climate change is deeply troubling. Many medical improvements are inspiring.

Change can certainly be frightening. It can also be an occasion of great hope. Jesus seems to have understood this. Nicodemus comes across as a character who is looking for change in his life, but he is nervous about it, so he comes to see Jesus under cover of darkness. Earlier in the chapter, Jesus uses the image of being born again. Of starting all over again. It is a dramatic description of change.

Jesus says that the light has come into the world and that people prefer the same old darkness. They are set in their ways.

Every Lent, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia asks us to help bring light into the world and to make positive change. An example is presented to us this week in the story of Memory, a young woman from rural Malawi, the eldest child in a family living at the level of subsistence farming.

Listen to some of Memory's words: 'Growing up in the village was not easy. My parents don't have a job, so they depend on farming. When the season goes wrong, we suffer a lot and become food insecure. Sometimes we need to bathe without soap. Sometimes we need to walk without shoes.'

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt practical skills in carpentry. A new life became possible. She can now realise her full potential and offer more to her family and her community.

Today, the letter to the Ephesians reminds us that every person is 'God's work of art.' God is the artist who never signs off on a painting but is always trying to make it better. Perhaps we can see the world in the same way.

Written by Michael McGirr



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

READINGS FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps.

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth

if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 3:13-25

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

Parish Diary

Monday, March 11th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 13th

Stations of the Cross 5:30pm
Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 14th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, March 15th

Lenten Adoration 9:00am – 4pm
commencing with Mass
St Joachim's

Saturday, March 16th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 6th

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, March 17th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

gospel focus

Not to condemn ...

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, "so that through him the world might be saved." It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe "is already condemned." God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

Readings – 5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Bart de Loryn and Colin Chant. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Casey, Dimiskovski and Park families as they celebrate the baptism of Oliver, Sadie and Magnus in the parish this weekend.

WELCOME MASS

This weekend we welcome the Dooney, Dimiskovski, Nevison and Moritz families as they prepare to have their children baptised in the Parish this month.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

LENTEN PROGRAM

Monday, commencing 6:30pm in the Parish Centre.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION



Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion

begins in April.

The program is open to all children in year four (4) and above who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

To secure your place or for more information contact:

Mary at sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

registrations close 26 March 2024.

Parish Spotlight – Jayne Solomon

How did you come to our Parish?



I was appointed Principal of our Parish School, St Joachim's in 2023. It is a great privilege to be the principal of such a welcoming, inclusive community. The connection between the parish and the school is incredibly important to me. As such, significant school events are celebrated in St Joachim's church. These include our weekly school prayer assemblies, Year 6 Graduations, Mother's Day liturgies, Opening School Mass celebrations and our Year 6 Leadership Commissioning ceremony.

My extended family has also been connected to the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish for many years through St Agnes.

Please describe your current involvement in our Parish.

My current involvement in the parish is through my work as principal of St Joachim's. This extends to supporting parish initiatives and looking for ways to build connections between the parish and our school. We also have a parish representative on our school board to further support and understand how we can work together.

Please describe one thing that is memorable about our Parish.

One event that I found memorable about the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish was the mass and dinner that the parish community provided to acknowledge Fr Josen. The Thanksgiving Mass for Fr Josen was a heartfelt and significant way to thank him for all that he did for the parish. The dinner following the mass was also a notable demonstration of a parish community coming together to give thanks and celebrate. It showed how inclusive, hospitable and thoughtful the Holland Park Mt Gravatt parish is.

DAY OF LENTEN ADORATION

On Friday, March 15th, the parish will be holding a day of prayer and reflection (full details below).

We would like someone to be in the church at all times during the day. To assist us could you please indicate, on the sheets supplied (on the Gifts table), the time/s which you would like to attend during the day. You can attend multiple sessions on the day if you wish to do so.

Lenten Adoration

SHARING THE MERCY of Jesus

Friday March 15, 2024

From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**At St. Joachim's Church,
Holland Park West**

CONTACT US
Parish office: 07 33492280
hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

9.00am Mass
10.00am Common Adoration
11.00am Stations of the Cross
12.00pm Angelus & Intercessory Prayers
2.00pm Rosary
3.00pm Mercy Chaplet
Musical Worship & Spiritual Talk by CCR Brisbane.
4:00pm Refreshments

Please bring along a plate to share for refreshments

A Day of Prayer in the Year of Prayer 2024

A spiritual event hosted by Holland Park Mount Gravatt Catholic Parish as a Lenten preparation. All are welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

 All primary school children are invited to attend CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' next Sunday, March 17th. Children under 5 years are to be accompanied by a parent however all parents are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Thank you to all those who assisted in any way towards World Day of Prayer last Friday, from those who assisted with the service to those who helped with the lunch. A special thanks to Trish O'Brien who once again coordinated the day. The World Day of Prayer Australia offering of \$709 will be used to provide grants to various women and children's programs. Each country's committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year.

VATICAN YEAR OF PRAYER RESOURCE

"Teach Us to Pray" is an online resource to assist us during this Year of Prayer as announced by Pope Francis.

<https://www.oursundayvisitor.com/vatican-year-of-prayer-resource-available-freeonline/>

CHRISM MASS

Thursday, March 21st commencing 7:00pm in St Stephen's Cathedral. Parking available from 6:00pm.

More news on the back page pto ...

Holy Week Timetable

Monday of Holy Week	Mass of Forgiveness	Monday March 25	6:30pm	St Joachim's
First Rite of Reconciliation will be offered 5:45pm – 6:15pm				
Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Thursday March 28	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross The Lord's Passion	Friday March 29 Friday March 29	10:00am 3:00pm	St Joachim's St Agnes'
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	Saturday March 30	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Easter Sunday	Mass of the Day	Sunday March 31 Sunday March 31	7:30am 9:00am	St Joachim's St Agnes'

(Please note there will not be a 6pm Mass on Easter Sunday)



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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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**