



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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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 LENT

Year B

March 16th/17th 2024

The word 'heart' occurs almost a thousand times in the Bible, more than three times as often as the word 'soul.' Perhaps this is just another item of trivia but surely it gives us a clue about Christianity. It is a religion of the heart. It gets our blood pumping.

As we approach the climax of our Lenten journey, this week's readings ask questions about our hearts. The psalm begs 'a pure heart create for me, O God.' Those words invite the Lord to come right inside us, into the very core of our being. The prophet Jeremiah quotes the Lord as saying, 'deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.' In other words, we won't find God's most intimate whisperings to us just in books or lectures. We will find it when we are genuinely in touch with our core, our most intimate space. God's love is inscribed on our hearts. In his letter *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis speaks against 'a culture of walls.' He asks us to treasure the hope found in every heart:

Hope 'speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold.'

The word 'caritas' means love. The work of Caritas Australia is a heartfelt response to the needs of the world, one that gives expression to our shared hope. Caritas always works in partnership with others. During Lent, as we have listened to the experience of people we have helped through our support of Project Compassion, we will have noticed that life-giving partnerships with groups on the ground in many countries make this possible.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that must die to create a rich harvest. Of course, he is referring to his own passion. But there is a message here for us all. 'Anyone who loves their life will lose it.' We are called to wear our hearts on our sleeves. To be led by love for others.

Written by Michael McGirr

Partnership in Action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Please donate to Project Compassion – <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or call 1800 024 413.

READINGS FOR 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you!.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Parish Diary

Monday, March 18th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 20th

Stations of the Cross 5:15pm
Mass 5:45pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 21st

Mass Cancelled

Friday, March 22nd

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

Saturday, March 23rd

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 23rd

Mass 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, March 24th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's
Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'
Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

GOSPEL FOCUS

Love of Life

Jesus says, ‘Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.’ This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the ‘things’ of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the ‘life’ that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world’s focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

Readings – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Gospel: 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1 – 15:47

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Virgil Hayes . May he rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Dooney, Nevison and Moritz families as they celebrate the baptism of Naomi, Banjo, Asher and Louis in the parish this weekend.

WE PRAY

We pray for those in the community who are ill especially Kellie, Karen and Ben. May the healing spirit of Christ bring them comfort and hope.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word is being held today at the 9:00am mass. Parents if your child/children are under the age of 5 years please accompany them.

COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

LENTEN PROGRAM

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

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, March 19th.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, March 19th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS

Please note that the Stations of the Cross and Mass will commence 15 minutes earlier this week. **Stations at 5:15pm and Mass at 5:45pm.**

THURSDAY MORNING MASS

The regular Thursday mass has been cancelled next week.

PALM SUNDAY

With next Sunday, being Palm Sunday we asking parishioners if you have palms at home maybe you would like to bring a frond from home to be blessed.

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.



EMMANUEL
CITY MISSION



ANNUAL HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

Once again, we will be conducting our annual clothing collection for the homeless. Due to a change in circumstances with our previous beneficiary we will now be collecting for Emmanuel City Mission, South Brisbane.

Emmanuel provides hot meals everyday, showers and washing facilities, clothing and toiletry packs and a place to have your voice heard. They are in



need of underwear, socks, t-shirts, pants/trackpants, jumpers in all sizes for men and women.



Donations can be brought to the weekend masses, Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday or be dropped into the Parish Office.

Emmanuel is a lay-led Catholic mission community in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia.

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	10:00am	St Joachim's
		Friday March 29	3:00pm	St Agnes'
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	Saturday March 30	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Easter Sunday	Mass of the Day	Sunday March 31	7:30am	St Joachim's
		Sunday March 31	9:00am	St Agnes'

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

Parish Spotlight – Containers for Change

How can the Parish become more sustainable?



We are wanting to provide an opportunity for our community to benefit from the parish recycling program. To do this we are seeking donations of bottles, cans and other containers to recycle through the containers for change program.
<https://www.containersforchange.com.au>

Where can we deposit our recycling for the Parish?



Team Member number

C11371867

The Parish has now set up a clear plastic bucket to be placed next to the Parish office on Sundays during mass. Alternatively, you can use our client number to deposit the return into our containers for change account when you are recycling at the depot. In addition, if you are holding a function or have large amounts of containers to recycle the Parish can make pick up arrangements.

How is our Parish going to use the funds?



The Parish would like to support the mission programs of the MCBS Congregation that Father Thomas is a member of, along with providing additional hospitality at parishioners request. For examples including soft drinks or juice at weekend masses.

HPMG Parish Youth Group

Saturday 23 March 2024 at 6.00 pm

(going forward, every 4th Sat of the Month 6:00 - 7:00pm)

Featuring our St Joachim's Junior Choir

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, every month on the fourth Saturday of each month.



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.

CCR BARDON HEALING MASS

St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Cecil Road, Bardon, on Friday 5th April at 7.30pm. Contact Len Airey on 0421 977 849.



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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**