



# 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

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[www.hollandparkmtgravatt.catholicparish.com.au](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt.catholicparish.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)

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**Year B**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> 2024**

We see images of the cross everywhere, from school uniforms to hospital buildings. Perhaps it is so commonplace that it doesn't stop us in our tracks the way it should. The cross of Jesus is the best key we have for understanding the mystery of God's love. God's compassion for the human family took Jesus to a lonely and brutal execution. Jesus was the victim of appalling injustice and degradation. His experience asks us to try to make the world more just and to revere the dignity of every person. 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me.' This is part of the reason why Project Compassion has, for 60 years, been part of our Lenten observance.

This year, Holy Week begins with the reading of the passion story from Mark's Gospel. Even in busy lives, we should try to set time aside to spend with this extraordinary story, not to rush it. Gently take a little at a time and ask for the grace to be close to Jesus. In the Spiritual Exercises, St Ignatius asks us 'to consider how the divinity hides itself.'

One way to spend time with the passion story is to take a different character each day and quietly ponder what it looked like to them and what they may have felt. Here is a suggestion:

- Sunday – Judas Iscariot
- Monday – Simon Peter
- Tuesday – The high priest
- Wednesday – Pontius Pilate
- Thursday – Simon of Cyrene
- Friday – The centurion
- Saturday – Mary of Magdala

Let us remember a beautiful prayer of just seven words that was taught to Pope Francis by his grandmother:

Jesus, make my heart more like yours.

Michael McGirr

As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.

This year, we shared with you the story of three inspiring women from across the globe, who overcame challenges to complete their education, access water and find secure employment. With the support of compassionate people like you, they are now forging a path to a better future for their families and their communities.



There is still time to donate! 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 envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

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.

**Gospel**

Mark 11:1-10

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,

'Go into the village opposite you,  
and immediately as you enter it  
you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat;  
untie it and bring it.  
If anyone says to you,  
"Why are you doing this?" say,  
"The Lord has need of it  
and will send it back here immediately".  
And they went away,  
and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street;  
and they untied it.  
And those who stood there said to them,  
'What are you doing, untying the colt?'  
And they told them what Jesus had said;  
and they let them go.  
And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments on it;  
and he sat upon it.  
And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches  
which they had cut from the fields.  
And those who went before and those who followed cried out,  
'Hosanna!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!  
Hosanna in the highest!'

**First Reading**

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.  
Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones.  
They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!  
I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled.  
'You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel's sons.'

**Second Reading**

Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God  
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are, and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.  
But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names  
so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
Christ became obedient for us even to death dying on the cross.  
Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

# Parish Diary

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

First Rite of Reconciliation 5:45pm

Mass of Reconciliation 6:30pm  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Stations of the Cross 5:30pm

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30pm  
St Joachim's

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

Stations of the Cross 10:00am  
St Joachim's

The Passion of the Lord 3:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Easter Sunday**

**Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Vigil Mass 6:30pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

*May  
the Lord's  
Triumphal  
Spirit  
reflect  
in our Lives  
and  
help us  
to conquer  
every difficulty.*

*Palm Sunday*



## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Maria Lucia Soesilo and Wren. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE PRAY

We pray for those in the community especially Jake, Owen, Ivy and Fin. May the spirit of Christ bring them comfort and hope.

### HPMG PARISH YOUTH GROUP

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 6:00pm Mass at St Joachim's to be followed by hospitality.

### COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

### FIRST RITE AND MASS OF RECONCILIATION

First Rite of Reconciliation will be held from 5:45 – 6:15pm on Monday evening at St Joachim's Church. A Mass of Reconciliation will follow this at 6:30pm.

### THURSDAY MORNING MASS

In line with Holy Thursday guidelines there will be no 9:00am mass on Thursday this week.

### ST JOACHIM'S SOUND SYSTEM

We would like to advise parishioners who attend masses at St Joachim's that the Parish Office is working towards replacing the current sound system. Kate is prioritising the project however; it is taking time to get advice on the best system for the church and obtaining quotes. With the experience we have had we want to make sure we get it right and ask for your continued patience as we work through it all.

We are hoping that with a modification made this week, thanks to one of our parishioners, the sound will be better this weekend.

### LENTEN ADORATION

I would like to thank the parishioners, visitors, St Joachim's School and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal team from Bardon who took part in the day of adoration last Friday. Your support on the day was appreciated.

Fr Thomas

## 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](mailto: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, pant, 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

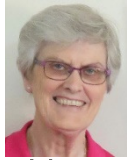
<b>Monday of Holy Week</b>	<b>Mass of Forgiveness</b>	<b>Monday March 25</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>St Joachim's</b>
<b>First Rite of Reconciliation will be offered 5:45pm – 6:15pm</b>				
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b>	<b>Thursday March 28</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>St Joachim's</b>
<b>Good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

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

## Parish Spotlight – St Anne Cougle OSU

**Please describe how you can to our parish**

I joined this parish community with the other Ursuline sisters after I moved to Brisbane from Sydney ten years ago.



**Please describe your current involvement in the parish**

I generally attend St Joachim's where I am a reader at the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday evenings and I also lead a Liturgy of the Word with Communion on a Friday at Duhig Village. I am also on the roster for writing Prayers of Intercession.

**Please describe one thing that is memorable about our parish**

I find this diverse faith community very welcoming and enriching where people genuinely care about one another. There is always a friendly smile of welcome and concern. People are very willing to work with Fr Thomas to bring about the best outcomes for the spiritual and material needs of the parish.

**Please describe one challenge that you believe the parish will need to be ready for in the future**

I think the challenge for the future will be to continue to develop and enrich this faith community while at the same time reaching out and remaining relevant to younger people and families. With a large number of ageing members, this challenge will become even greater in the years to come.

## Holy Land Commissariat Good Friday Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus.

Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million.

The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial support as well as the spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday.

Thank you.



*For however you choose to say goodbye...*

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## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY



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.