



# 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

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Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

[www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au](http://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)

**EASTER SUNDAY – RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**Year B**

**March 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Dear Friends,

Easter is a time of great rejoicing, a time when we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the promise of new life that it brings.

Our Lenten journey was a time of intense prayer and preparation for Easter. As we conclude this season of Lent celebrating Easter, I would like to express my gratitude to each and every one who contributed to a fruitful and prayerful Lenten journey in our community.

We embarked on this journey on Ash Wednesday, receiving the ashes on our foreheads as a symbol of repentance and renewal. This year, I am pleased to share that our parish had the honour of hosting the World Day of Prayer on March 1st. Together with our brothers and sisters from various denominations, we united in prayer. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Trish O'Brien, who skilfully organized this event.

The Lenten adoration held on March 15th, from 9:00 am until 4:30pm, was a day filled with blessings and profound prayer. I am particularly grateful to the staff and students of St. Joachim for their fervent prayers and presence. The uplifting musical worship and spiritual talk, led by Catholic Charismatic Group (CCR Brisbane), touched the hearts of many. My sincere appreciation goes to Len Airey and the entire team for their inspiring contributions. I also want to extend my gratitude to our parish staff and choir for their dedication in making this spiritual event truly beautiful.

This year, we were blessed to have a Lenten reflection group meeting every Monday evening throughout Lent. It was heartening to see at least twelve individuals actively participating in these gatherings. I am deeply thankful to Lesley van Trier for her generous leadership and guidance of this group.

The stations of the cross held on Wednesdays and Fridays in our St. Agnes and St. Joachim Church helped many to reflect on the sufferings of Jesus for us.

As we transition from the solemnity of Lent to the joyous celebration of Easter, let us carry forward the spirit of prayer and unity that we cultivated during this holy season.

In a world often fraught with challenges and uncertainties, the message of Easter shines brightly as a beacon of hope. It reminds us that even in the darkest of times, there is always the possibility of redemption and renewal. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, overcoming death itself, we too are called to rise above our own struggles and embrace the light of faith.

This Easter, let us not only rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, but also recommit ourselves to living lives of love, compassion, and service to others. Let us reach out to those in need, offering them the hope and support they require to persevere through their own trials. Let us strive to be beacons of hope in a world too often marred by despair.

As we come together to celebrate this joyous occasion, may we be reminded of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection in our lives. May it inspire us to embrace the possibilities of renewal and growth, both individually and as a community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joy-filled Easter!

Fr. Thomas

**First Reading**

Acts 10:34, 37-43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

**Second Reading**

Colossians 3:1-4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

John 20: 1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

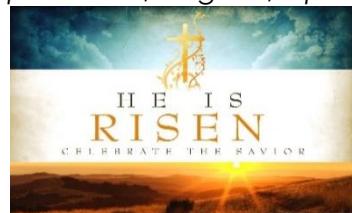
**Parish Diary****Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter****Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's**Sunday, March April 7<sup>th</sup>**Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim'sMass 9:00am  
St Agnes'Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'**Easter celebrates the glory of love not of applause and audiences**

"At Easter, God finally reveals His glory: He takes away the last veil and astonishes us as never before.

We discover, in fact, that God's glory is all love: pure love, mad and unthinkable, beyond every limit and measure...True glory is the glory of love, because it is the only one that gives life to the world.

Certainly this glory is the opposite of worldly glory, which comes when one is admired, praised, acclaimed. The glory of God, on the other hand, is paradoxical: no applause, no audience. At the centre there is not the ego, but the other.

Pope Francis, Angelus, April 2019



## Readings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Gospel: 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 4:32-35

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### PARISH NEWS

#### WE REMEMBER

We remember Damien Connolly (son of Peter). May he rest in the peace of Christ.

#### FIRST RITE OF RECONCILIATION

There will be NO First Rite of Reconciliation this Saturday.

#### COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

#### REGULAR WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be NO mass this Monday, Wednesday or Thursday as Fr Thomas will be away.

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

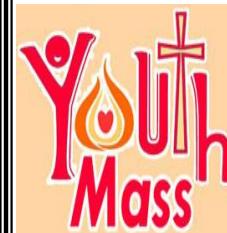
Tuesday, April 2nd at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

#### MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

There will be mass on Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> which will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

#### COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact Barbara, 3349 6334.



SUNDAY APRIL 14TH  
6:00pm  
St Agnes Church

The mass will be followed by hospitality and a meeting. All young members of our parish are invited and encouraged to come along and check it out.



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>

The Parish has now set up a clear plastic bucket to be placed next to the Parish office on Sundays during mass times.



Team Member number

C11371867

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.

The Parish would like to support the mission programs of the MCBS Congregation that Father Thomas is a member of and a share of the funds raised through Containers for Change will go towards this.

### Parish Spotlight – Andrea Joseph and Marko Petricevic



Please describe how you came to our parish.

Marko and myself have always been connected to a local Parish. I attended St Agnes' school as a little child for a short period of time and given we live in the neighbourhood, attending the St. Agnes' church seemed to be a good way of keeping a connection within our community. We both share a similar value-set in wanting to help people in any way we can and we thought having close ties to a local church group would be a good opportunity to offer assistance in whatever way we can.

Please describe your current involvement in our parish.

Marko and I attend church most Sundays and have been involved in offering our assistance with gardening or maintenance around the church as needed. Marko and I both had a desire to ensure the Grotto was visually appealing to the community, so that anyone attending mass or wanting to pray in a tranquil setting. There is still some work to do to finish what we started, however we feel very fortunate to be able to give back in this small way to the Church. It has given us much joy and happiness to see this come to life.



Please describe one thing that is memorable about our parish. The congregation has been most welcoming, and it is the people within this community that make Marko and myself feel connected to something greater. We appreciate the friendliness and warmth of people and find our Sunday mornings are made from attending the 9am mass.

Please describe one thing that the parish should focus on in the future.

Marko and I often talk about the lack of youth in our Churches and given my career in the criminal justice system over 20 years, it would be great if there was initiatives we could introduce to encourage and attract youth (particularly vulnerable youth) to attend churches and feel connected to our communities again. Perhaps it is this connection that is lacking which is also creating the youth crime challenges that society is faced with today.

### THE GOOD NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

Stay connected to your faith wherever you are. The Good News eNewsletter is a source of encouragement and connection, delivering spiritual nourishment to your inbox.

Experience the joy of faith through uplifting two-minute homilies, readings, and other important updates. Let The Good News be a source of light and inspiration for you.

Click the link below to subscribe and join our growing online faith community. Subscribe to The Good News eNewsletter: <https://bit.ly/3PCYcwJ>

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

### FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4 children and above)

#### Parent information sessions

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 6.30pm St Agnes'

**Enrolment Masses** ALL weekend Masses 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> April

**Family sessions** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 6pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm St Agnes'

**Rehearsal** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm St Joachim's

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

### CONFIRMATION (Year 3 children and above)

#### Parent information sessions

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 6.30pm St Agnes **OR**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 6.30pm St Joachim's

**Enrolment Masses** ALL weekend Masses 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July

**Family sessions** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 6pm St Agnes' **OR**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm St Joachim's

**Rehearsal** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 6.30pm St Joachim's

**Celebration of Confirmation** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 5pm **AND**

6.30pm St Joachim's

### PENANCE (Year 5 children and above)

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au) at anytime for more information.



## VATICAN YEAR OF PRAYER RESOURCE AVAILABLE FREE ONLINE

"Teach us to Pray," a 76-page volume prepared by the Dicastery for Evangelization, was published online in Italian in late February and made available in other languages in early March. Visit: [www.oursundayvisitor.com](http://www.oursundayvisitor.com)

# TRUTH TELLING

Where to from Now?

Reconciliation Action Plan Networking Workshop

**SAT 6 APRIL**  
**8:30am – 3pm**

OUR LADY OF GRACES,  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
100 Mayfield Road, Carina

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- ❖ Wills & Estates
- ❖ Commercial

07 5554 6994

0408 640 008

[enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au](mailto:enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au)

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

## 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**