



# 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**  
P O Box 281  
1227 Logan Road  
Mt Gravatt Qld 4122  
Telephone: 07 3349 2280  
E: [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)  
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)

**3RD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Year B**

**March 2nd/3rd, 2024**

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today's readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.' In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. 'Stop turning my father's house into a market.' Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. 'God's weakness is stronger than human strength.' This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box.

It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia's home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don't have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.



The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.

Michael McGirr

Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother, and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to clean water for their daily lives has caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they used to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, she had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at their home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through donation boxes and envelopes, by visiting <https://www.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.

**First Reading**

Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

**Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**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 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

# Parish Diary

**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

**Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Follow Jesus'  
footsteps to allow  
God's commandment  
to give light to your  
eyes, to revive you to  
HOLY ANGER with all  
that has darkened our  
world with evil; to be  
better. We shall be  
better. Shalom! Happy  
Sunday.**



## Readings – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Lasz Lo Ovari, Colin Chant and Lidwina Khoo. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE PRAY

We pray for those in the community who are ill especially Karen-Lea and Benny Hughes. May the healing spirit of Christ bring them comfort and hope.

### WELCOME MASS

This weekend we welcome the Park family as they prepare to have their son baptised in the Parish this month.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



CLOW is being held at the 9am mass at St Agnes' this weekend. Children under 5 years are to be accompanied by a parent however all parents are welcome.

### COUNTERS

Robyn's team

### LENTEN PROGRAM

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

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Wednesday, 5:30pm St Agnes' Church  
Friday, 9:30am St Joachim's Church

### ADORATION AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held immediately after the 6:00pm Wednesday mass at St Agnes' Church for approx. 15 minutes.

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A preparation evening for families who wish to have their child baptised is being held on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Please email the Parish Office [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au) or call 33492280 to book in.

## DAY OF LENTEN ADORATION

On Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Please bring along a plate to share for refreshments**

**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**

**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.

**SUNDAY MARCH 10 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.

## Parish Spotlight – Nev O'Brien



**Please describe how you came to our parish.**

When Trish and I were married, I was teaching on the south side of Brisbane so we purchased a house in Holland Park. We still live there to this day.

**Please describe your current involvement in our parish.**

I am currently one of the Data Projectionists at the 9:00am Mass at St Agnes. I also support my wife, Trish in the preparation of World Day of Prayer, which is hosted by our parish every 4-5 years.

**Please describe one thing that is memorable about our parish.**  
I am grateful that we still have a Parish Priest.

**What direction would you like to see the parish going in 2-5 years?**

I would like to see more age groups being represented in larger numbers at our regular Sunday masses. The older age group is well represented however it is the younger groups that are the future of the Catholic Church in our parish and across Australia.

## 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.**



**Do you have BCC Green Waste Vouchers that you do not require?**

We would be happy to take them off your hands for use by our Volunteer Mower Man to assist him when he takes the clippings to the tip.

If you can assist please drop them in Fr Thomas' mailbox, the Parish office or put them in an envelope and leave them in the sacristy at mass.

More news on the back page pto ...



## 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.



Archbishop Mark Coleridge  
invites you to the annual

## CHRISM MASS

Thursday 21st March 2024 @ 7:00pm  
Cathedral of St Stephen  
249 Elizabeth Street,  
Brisbane 4000

A CELEBRATION FOR THE ENTIRE ARCHDIOCESE  
ALL WELCOME

CAR PARKING AVAILABLE FROM 6:00PM  
A LIGHT SUPPER WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE MASS

AustralianCATHOLICS  
AUTUMN 2024

Available this weekend

THE STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS  
A traveller's guide

RIVERS OF MEANING  
Living in a post-war zone

YOUNG VOICES  
AWARD OPENING

Explorations:  
What does the  
crucifix mean?

## Community News

Please keep an eye on the noticeboards at each of the churches.

Archdiocesan and other Parish events as well as those from the wider community will be displayed on these.



*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](http://www.holycrossfunerals.com)**



**Binh Nguyen**  
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✉ [enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au](mailto:enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au)

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

## 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.