



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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1227 Logan Road

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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)

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

April 13th/14th, 2024

Ghosts, meals and humanity

When Jesus appeared to them, the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost, a sort of projection of a human image on the screen of the world but with no human depth and vitality. In fact, ghosts seem to drain life and warmth from those they encounter.

The disciples became convinced that they were in the presence of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ when he assumed a characteristic way of acting – sharing a companionable meal (of fish).

His bodily presence of that sort is now withdrawn from us. But we are now encountered by him in the Mass which has many dimensions, one of which is that of a sacred meal. When we share in the sacramental signs of his Real Presence in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion, he brings us the life and warmth of the Risen Son.

In fact, he shares his very life with us, and because his life is gloriously fully human, we become less ghost-like as he heals those parts of our personality which drain goodness and vitality from the world.

We could take a moment to pray to take greater opportunities to share in the Real Presence of Our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. This will move us from the illusion of being alive to that vitality which is nourished by his glorified humanity.

© Fr Michael Tate

Francis' Focus

Reflecting on this Gospel passage, Pope Francis draws our attention to the three key verbs: look, touch, and eat.

'To look is not only to see,' the Pope points out, adding that 'it is more; it also involves intention, will.' When Jesus asks the disciples to look at his hands and feet, therefore, he is not only offering visual proof of identity. Rather, Jesus is inviting his disciples to look at his wounded limbs as 'a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others.' Jesus' wounds are still present for those with the courage to look at them.

Similarly, Jesus' invitation to the disciples to confirm his presence by touch has a teaching element too. 'By inviting the disciples to touch him,' the Pope suggests, 'Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance".' Having seen the wounds, we must be close to the wounded.

Finally, by eating with his disciples Jesus again did more than prove he was physically present at that specific moment. As the Pope points out, 'eating, when we do so together, among family or friends ... becomes an expression of love, and expression of communion.'

Once again, the Gospel suggests Jesus' action had a deeper meaning about Jesus' continuing presence among his followers. As St Augustine said of the Eucharist, we become what we consume, which means something truly amazing: The Risen Jesus still eats with us!

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READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

First Reading

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.'

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out..

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice;
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves;
the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

Parish Diary

Monday, April 15th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, April 17th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, April 18th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, April 19th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, April 20th

Reconciliation 5:30pm
St Joachim's

3rd Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 20th

Mass (Vigil) 6:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, April 21st

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'



Readings – 4th Sunday of Easter

Gospel: 1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Gospel: John 10:11-18

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Patricia McGee, Donna Smith, Edward Khoo and Mark Tiainen. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the Bartels, Sowden and Howard and the Lord and McGonnell families as they celebrate the baptism of Anna, Leo and Seamus in the parish this weekend.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after the 6:00pm and 7:30am masses at St Joachim's this weekend.

COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

FUNERAL DETAILS - PATRICIA MCGEE

Monday, April 15th commencing 9:30am at Mt Gravatt Cemetery Chapel to be followed by a burial.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, April 16th

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, April 16th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – 1ST EUCHARIST

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion starts this coming Wednesday and Thursday.

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

The Parent Sessions will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at St Joachim's Church and Thursday, April 18th at St Agnes' Church commencing 6:30pm. Parents (or at least one Parent) must attend one of these sessions.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



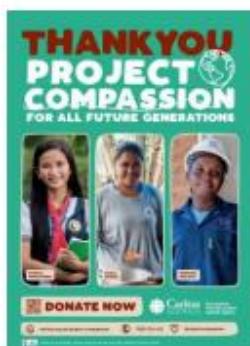
CLOW is held at the 9am mass at St Agnes' on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during school terms. (children under 5 to be accompanied by a parent). All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' on Sunday, April 21st. All parents are very welcome!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality next Sunday after the 9:00am mass.



Thank You!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2024. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

More news on the back page pto ...

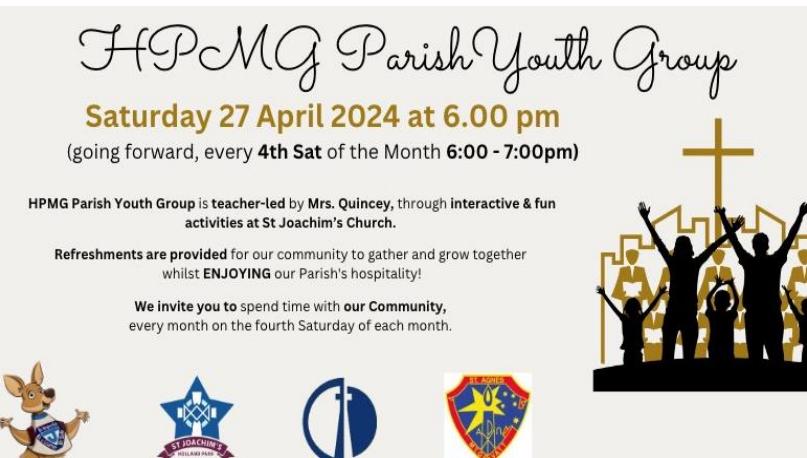
We are wanting to provide an opportunity for our community to benefit from the parish recycling program. To do this we are seeking donations of bottles, cans and other containers to recycle through the containers for change program. <https://www.containersforchange.com.au>

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



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.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024

FIRST COMMUNION (Year 4 children and above)

Parent information sessions

Wednesday 17th April 6.30pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 18th April 6.30pm St Agnes'

Enrolment Masses ALL weekend Masses 27th & 28th April

Family sessions Wednesday 8th May 6pm St Joachim's **OR**

Thursday 9th May, 6pm St Agnes'

Rehearsal Wednesday 29th May 6.30pm St Joachim's

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

CONFIRMATION (Year 3 children and above)

Parent information sessions

Monday 15th July 6.30pm St Agnes **OR**

Tuesday 16th July 6.30pm St Joachim's

Enrolment Masses ALL weekend Masses 27th & 28th July

Family sessions Friday 9th August 6pm St Agnes' **OR**

Saturday 10th August, 2pm St Joachim's

Rehearsal Wednesday 28th & Thursday 29th August, 6.30pm St Joachim's

Celebration of Confirmation Wednesday 4th September 5pm **AND**

6.30pm St Joachim's

PENANCE (Year 5 children and above)

Saturday 26th 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 at anytime for more information.



NOURISH - WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS, CARERS, EDUCATORS

Understanding big feelings and exploring solutions.

Presented by St Mark's Lutheran Church on Monday, April 29th from 7:30 – 9:00pm at 71 Newnham Road, Mt Gravatt East. All parishioners are invited. Cost \$10. Register now with Judy Butler at safe@stmarksmtgravatt.org.au

A MORNING'S PRAYER

"REMAIN IN ME"

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

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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**