



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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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)

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

April 6th/7th, 2024

Doubt no longer but believe.

Today the evangelist speaks to his first-century readers and across the centuries to us. Firstly, we hear Jesus speak words of blessing for all who believe without seeing. Thomas' role in the Easter narrative is to reveal how hard faith is. No matter what the other disciples say Thomas cannot change death to resurrection without certain criteria being met. He places conditions on God – 'I need to see the holes and touch the living body'.

Real faith means letting go such conditions. We are challenged to surrender our human doubts, our expectations, and our normal rational systems of proof. The other disciples come to faith when they actually see Jesus; this is what Thomas asks for – sight of the Risen One. Jesus doesn't rebuke Thomas, but he speaks words of blessing for those who can go beyond Thomas and believe without seeing him, for those who will believe without conditions.

Today we do not have the risen Jesus visible in our midst, as did those first disciples. Like the Beloved Disciple in last Sunday's Gospel, we are called to have faith in more subtle signs. We have the written testimony of those first believers, we have the living witness of other Christians today, and we have those divine stirrings in our own lives inviting rather than compelling belief. At the end of the Gospel, the evangelist turns to us to say, 'I have written these things so that you may believe and have life.'

© Mary Coloe

Francis' Focus

'In reality,' Pope Francis points out, 'Thomas is not the only one who struggles to believe. In fact,' the Pope adds, 'he represents all of us a little bit.'

But Thomas does not only represent us with his explicitly articulated doubt. Rather, Thomas highlights our tendency to walk away. Thomas had absented himself from the community. Returning, he seems a touch transactional: Show me the proof, then I'll commit!

As Pope Francis highlights, Jesus answers Thomas' doubt 'in front of everyone, in the community.' It was, the Pope suggests, as if Jesus was telling Thomas that 'if you want to meet me, do not search far away; remain in our community, with the others, and don't go away. Pray with them. Break bread with them.' Be open to encounter, not closed to possibilities.

This, evidently, is a lesson for us too. Every Christian generation is called to find the Risen Christ together. We belong with each other, with Christ forming a mystical unity out of our diversity.

In this, the story of Thomas has another lesson for the Church. We Christians are called to be a welcoming people. 'Let us ask ourselves,' the Pope suggests, 'if in the name of Jesus' wounds, we are willing to open our arms to those who are wounded by life, excluding no one from God's mercy but welcoming everyone.'

After all, despite his attitude Thomas was still included and welcomed by the community whose testimony he doubted. Even more pointedly, Our Lord opens his exchange with the doubter with some clearly welcoming words: 'Peace be with you.'

© Nick Brodie

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

Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

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

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

Let those who fear the Lord 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.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die.

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

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

This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Second Reading

John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20: 19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Parish Diary

Monday, April 8th

The Annunciation of the Lord

Mass 8:00am

St Joachim's

Wednesday, April 10th

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

Thursday, April 11th

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Friday, April 12th

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

Saturday, April 13th

Reconciliation 5:30pm

St Joachim's

3rd Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 13th

Mass (Vigil) 6:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, April 14th

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Prayer for the Second Sunday of Easter

Readings – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Gospel: 1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

2nd Reading: John 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Patricia McGee, Digna Liong, Damien Connolly and Frederick Otway. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WELCOME MASS

This weekend we welcome the Timms, the Sowden and Bartels, the Lord and McGonnell families as they prepare to have their children baptised in the Parish this month.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after the 9:00am this weekend.

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, April 8th 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.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A baptism preparation evening for families who are having their child baptised in the parish is being held this Wednesday, April 10th commencing 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Ring the parish office to register.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM – 1ST EUCHARIST

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion begins very shortly. 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. For more information contact Mary at sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au



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.

A MORNING'S PRAYER

"REMAIN IN ME"

SATURDAY 27 APRIL



SCAN TO REGISTER

SANTA TERESA SPIRITUALITY CENTRE ORMISTON



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.



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For more information, contact Pat: pat@ec.org.au or

Audrey: prayercentrejindalee@ccr.brisbane.org.au

Damian Stayne is a lay Catholic evangelist with a ministry of prophecy, physical healing and miracles. He has ministered across the globe, equipping the church to exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wherever he has set foot, many thousands have been healed from their physical and mental distress. Others have received life impacting prophecy and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into their lives. He is the founder of the Cor et Lumen Christi (The Heart of light of Christ) community in London.

Thursday 18 April: 'Empower' Young Adults Night

7:00 - 9:30pm at Emmanuel City Mission, 19 Merivale St, South Brisbane

Friday 19 April: Maturing in the Prophetic

9:00am - 8:30pm at Twelve Apostles Church, 111 Yallambee Rd, Jindalee

Saturday 20 April: Healing, Signs and Wonders

9:00am - 9:30pm at Twelve Apostles Church, 111 Yallambee Rd, Jindalee

More news on the back page pto ...

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.



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

NOURISH - WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS, CARERS, EDUCATORS

Understanding gig 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

THE QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT ST STEPHEN'S

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Cathedral of St Stephen the Queensland Symphony Orchestra conducted by Umberto Clerici will perform 3 concerts in the Cathedral.

Friday, May 10th - 7:30pm

Saturday, May 11th - 1:30pm

Saturday, May 11th - 7:30pm

Tickets are available from QSO website:

<https://qso.com.au/events/2024/special-events/special-event-mozart-mass>



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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**