

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Varkey

**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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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)

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD****Year B****May 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>, 2024****Signs of Promise**

The earliest manuscripts of Mark's Gospel finish at verse 8 of this chapter and do not contain these verses and so scholars see these as an addition to the original text. The additional verses 16:9-20 express concerns of the next century and show similarities with the Gospel of Matthew and the Acts of the Apostles. While noting these verses were not part of the an original Gospel, they have been part of the Gospel tradition from an early time and were named as part of the Canon of Scripture at the Council of Trent.

These verses are meant to reassure disciples both then and now that although Jesus is no longer physically present, his life does continue within the community. Like the prophets in the Old Testament, there will be signs of his presence and authority. The ones given in the Gospel are very dramatic; the signs that touch my life are less so.

I recall the wisdom and grace of an older woman who spoke with great faith and matter-of-factness about growing old and her awareness of declining health; or of a young adult student who spoke about his commitment and activity to help the people of East Timor. When one of my plans failed to eventuate and I was feeling very flat, words of a song came to me offering encouragement and hope, I've yet to pick up a snake or drink deadly poison, but I am aware of signs of God's promise in my life. What about you?

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**Francis' Focus**

Pope Francis encourages us to contemplate two aspects of the Ascension. 'On the one hand it directs our gaze towards heaven,' he says. 'On the other, it reminds us of the mission of the Church.'

The Pope points out that these two aspects are interconnected. In this feast we do not remember Jesus' bodily departure so much as celebrate his continuing presence in the world through the Christian community.

The Pope suggests that 'the Ascension exhorts us to lift our gaze toward heaven, in order to return it immediately to the earth, to implement the tasks that the Risen Lord entrusts to us.' As today's Gospel declares, Jesus is in heaven. Yet, by 'working with' his disciples, he is also still present in the world.

In a particular way in his encyclical Laudato Si' Pope Francis draws out the importance for Christians of proclaiming 'the Good News to all creation'. Picking up scriptural teaching, he highlights how 'all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ' and reminds us that the Eucharist should motivate us 'to be stewards of all creation.'

People of the Ascension, therefore, do not just tell other people about Jesus. Rather, People of the Ascension, as the Pope puts it, 'seek Christ along the paths of our time'. We are called to serve the poor and the needy and the world in which they live. We are called to become 'visible signs of hope' for the whole of creation.

## READINGS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### First Reading

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Response:** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

### Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

Acts 1:1-11

## Parish Diary

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

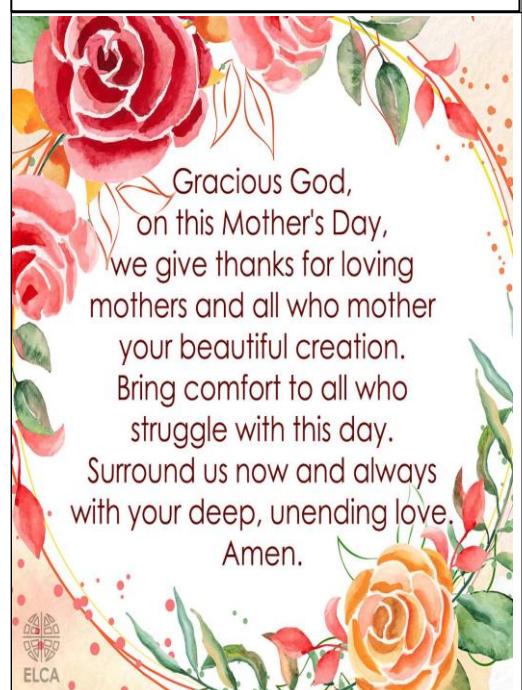
Mass (Vigil) 6:00pm  
St Joachim's

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



## Readings – The Ascension f the Lord

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

## PARISH NEWS

### COUNTERS

Alison's team.

### SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after 7:30am mass this weekend.

### BLESSING OF GROTTO AT ST AGNES

Following the 9:00am mass this Sunday Fr Thomas will bless the renovated grotto at St Agnes. This will be followed by morning tea.

### YOUTH MASS

The monthly Youth Mass will held this Sunday evening at the 6:00 mass at St Agnes'.

### PRAY FOR ME CARDS

There are still a few Pray for Me Cards available if anyone would like to pick one up and include the children in your prayers.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

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



CLOW is held at the 9am mass at St Agnes' on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, May 19th. All parents are very welcome!

## 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.



## Parish Spotlight ~ Pat Flynn



Paula and I moved into the parish on the same day Queen Elizabeth opened the Commonwealth Games in 1982. When I was growing up on the Darling Downs our family was actively involved in Parish and school activities. So it was not long before I was one of two readers at 9:30 Mass on Sunday mornings. I continued as a reader until about 2005, when it became difficult for me to reach the Lectern.

After a couple of years, one of my workmates who had children at St Joachim's school told me they were looking for somebody to help with the weekly bingo nights operated by the Parents and Friends. I volunteered to organize the selling of tickets and organizing rosters and continued in the role for about 13 years on most Thursday nights. Whenever I was on Bingo, Paula would do the banking of the proceeds. This was a great way to get to know parents of the school and some parishioners who became lifelong friends.

In 1995, I was asked to join the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. At the first meeting, the president resigned as he was moving out of the parish. The vice president took over and announced that he was putting his house on the market. By the end of the year, I was president and remained in the role until the parish was combined with St Agnes Parish in around 2002. I continued as a member until 2010.

After Father John Nee was appointed Parish Priest, I served two terms on the parish pastoral Council. I was also appointed to the Parish Finance Council and continued in that role until the end of Sister Kari's term as Parish administrator.

We also encouraged our children to be active participants in Parish life. Each of the three children were altar servers until they finished high school and one of them was a parish pastoral councillor and a Mass Coordinator. Paula was a Eucharistic Minister and is currently a Mass Coordinator.

In recent years, my impaired mobility has restricted my involvement in ministries but I have found that being actively involved has been very rewarding and I believe it helps to feel part of the broader Parish Community.

### CHANGE OF MASS TIME – SATURDAY EVENING

After giving it much thought I have decided to change the Saturday evening mass time to 5:00pm.

**This change will take effect from Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Fr Thomas

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS VIGIL

FRIDAY

MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2024

6:00PM

May is the month of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Crucified and Risen! How apt it is for us in our needy society that May is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month – for learning, prayer and action.

Up to 29th April, 26 women in Australia including 6 women in Queensland have died this year.

In co-operation with Carole Danby, a long-standing parishioner of Our Lady of Graces Parish, Carina, with rich experience working within the Archdiocese and with Queensland Churches Together Prevention of Family Violence Commission, Regina Caeli will host this Vigil at Regina Caeli Church, 81 Waverley Rd, Camp Hill for a Candle Vigil commencing 6:00p.m, beginning with your hilltop view over Brisbane.

Why are crowded places chosen?



Readily available and accessible



Simple weapons and tactics are effective



Generates media attention and results fast



Promoted in propaganda



Has/have limited security measures

Due to recent events, we are providing this advice to our parishioners so that you are prepared if there is an incident involving an active armed attacker, not because we are expecting one.

What you do matters in an attack and the three words you need to remember are:

**ESCAPE** – move quickly and quietly away from danger.

If you can't escape then:

**HIDE** – stay out of sight and silence your phones.

**TELL** – call the police by dialling Triple Zero when it is safe.



EMERGENCY



CALL THE  
NATIONAL SECURITY HOTLINE  
**1800 123 400**

<https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/crowded-places-subsite/Files/active-armed-offender-guidelines-crowded-places.pdf>

#### CATHEDRAL PARISH EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION VACANCY

The role of the Cathedral Parish Executive Officer is to be responsible for the administrative and organisational aspects of the parish, including the parish office and employment. This role must work cooperatively and collaboratively as part of the parish team with priests, staff, and parishioners to ensure the smooth, effective, and professional operation of all parish functions.

To apply for this role please submit your cover letter and resume via the *Apply For This Job* button: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/75224144>

This is a permanent full-time position of 37.5 hours and remuneration will reflect the experience of the successful candidate.

For further information please contact the Cathedral Parish team via [cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au)

Please note the successful candidate will also need to obtain / maintain a Working with Children Blue Card and undergo a national criminal history/police check.



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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**