



**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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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)

**6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Year B**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## The offer of God's friendship

Parents often offer these words of encouragement and support to their children when they have to move to a new place or to a new school, "It will be alright; you will make new friends."

It can be difficult not only for children but for anyone to leave old friendships behind and to seek new friends. It reinforces the importance that we place on strong relationships, and the common bonds that develop through important milestones and junctures of our lives.

Many people enjoy friendships that start in primary school that last through university, careers, relationships, children and grandchildren. Lifelong friendships can be some of the most cherished and important things in our lives. Priceless treasures.

In today's gospel, Jesus offers us God's friendship. "I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you." With these words, Jesus reveals God's desire to have a different type of relationship with us. A relationship that is based on a deep, true and personal friendship.

This relationship is about God being with us in the very ordinariness of our lives. In the marketplace, at the coffee shop, the park, the beach and, more importantly, in our homes. It is because in these locations that we normally catch up with our friends to share our thoughts and desires, God wants to have that kind of relationship with us too in these places.

God wants to establish a relationship that moves beyond worship and one that enters into deep, heartfelt and very real conversations. To move beyond sterile prayer halls and into the sometimes messiness and grey areas of our very human condition. Importantly, we should understand that in God wanting to be friends with us, there is a deep acceptance and understanding of our flawed person. A safe place where we can bare all with no fear of condemnation. A place where God is listening and accepting.

St Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists wrote extensively on this wonderful idea of God as a friend and these writings have been compiled into a book titled, *Praying to God as a Friend*. Despite the gospels revealing this more than 2000 years ago and St Alphonsus writing about this over 300 years ago, the notion of God as a friend is still a relatively novel idea today. But it's there, right in front of us in today's gospel.

God's friendship is waiting. It is truly priceless treasure that is freely offered and freely given. It is up to us to respond positively.

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## READINGS FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading

Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Response: The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.**

Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.

### Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10

My dear people,

let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you,

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know his master's business;

I call you friends, because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you

anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.'

# Parish Diary

### Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 5:30pm  
St Joachim's

### The Ascension of the Lord

### Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

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

### Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



There is a wonderful line from the musical, *Les Miserables*, when the hero, Valjean, is told, "To love another person is to see the face of God." As Christian people, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. To look upon another person with love and compassion is to see the face of God revealed. When we are called to love, we are called to recognise that every single person is worthy of love and every single person is made in the image of God – even ourselves!

## PARISH NEWS

## COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

## WE REJOICE

With the Wintle family as they celebrate the baptism of Zayne in the parish this weekend.

## WELCOME MASS

This weekend we welcome the Dunn-Johnson family as they prepare to have their children baptised in the Parish this month.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

TODAY at St Agnes' Church at 9:00am

## SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNION FAMILY SESSIONS

A reminder, family sessions for children preparing for the Sacrament of First Communion are on this Wednesday and Thursday. Children are required to attend ONE of the following sessions:

Wednesday 8 May, 6.00pm – 7.30pm at **ST JOACHIM'S OR**

Thursday 9 May, 6.00pm-7.30pm at **ST AGNES'**

Please remember to bring the yellow book and your pencil case.

## HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

There will be **NO** hospitality after the 6:00pm next Saturday but there will be after the 7:30am mass on Sunday.

## PRAY FOR ME CARDS

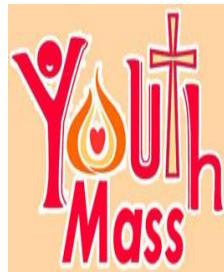
Last weekend at the Enrolment Masses for the Children preparing for First Communion, we invited the children to bring forward a **Pray for me Card** as they prepare to receive First Holy Communion in June. We now ask you, the parishioners, to please take a card and pray for a child during this special time of preparation for First Holy Communion. Preparation time is from now up until the first 2 weekends of June when the children celebrate First Communion. Our prayers will be a sign of great encouragement for the children. **The Pray for me Cards will be on a table on the Sanctuary.**

SUNDAY

MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>

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.

## Why are crowded places chosen?



Readily available and accessible



Simple weapons and tactics are effective



Generates media attention and results fear



Promoted in propaganda



Least 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.



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

## Parish Spotlight

### Sr Helen Dyson osu



#### How did you come to our parish?

I came to the parish at the end of 2021 having worked in the parish of Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast for a number of years. As a member of the Ursuline Sisters, I moved into the Mansfield area where we have a community. I had visited the parish a number of times and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere.

#### How are you currently involved in our parish?

At present, I am a music minister in both churches and I am a member of the Liturgy committee. I also participate in the FIAT (Faith in Action – social justice group). I enjoy meeting people and getting to know them at the different masses I attend.

#### One thing that is memorable about our parish.

The friendliness of our parishioners. It is lovely to see people gathering for morning tea after Mass and spending time getting to know each other.

#### Please describe one challenge that you believe the parish will need to be ready for in the future.

One challenge I see is the declining numbers at mass and the need to be realistic about the number of Masses we have. Are less Masses with greater numbers a better experience of community across the two churches?

#### BLESSING OF GROTTO AT ST AGNES' CHURCH



With the refurbishment of the grotto at St Agnes Church now complete Fr Thomas is planning to have a short blessing on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 9:00am mass.

Parishioners are encouraged to stay and afterwards enjoy a morning tea before heading off to enjoy their Mothers Day celebrations.

#### 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>.**

## 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.



# CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

"HE WHO FOLLOWS ME WALKS NOT IN DARKNESS" - JOHN 3:12

**2PM SUNDAY 2 JUNE 2024**

Starting and ending at the Cathedral of St Stephen and featuring prayers, rosary, hymns and Benediction with proceedings led by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

[corpuschristibrisbane.com](http://corpuschristibrisbane.com)



## PENTECOST 2024 WITH FR STEVE FLETCHER

CCR Brisbane present the following pre-Pentecost events.

Healing Mass, St Rita's Victoria Point – May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Waste Time with God, Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am – 12:30pm

Pentecost Rally, Church of 12 Apostles, Jindalee – May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm

Pentecost Retreat, Church of 12 Apostles, Jindalee – May 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30am – 4:30pm

Contact: [secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au](mailto:secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au)



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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**