



Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



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

P O Box 281

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

E: hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

Pager: 07 3521 8025

Website:

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)

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

May 4th/5th, 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.

Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2024. Sourced from www.majellan.media

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 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 6th

Mass 8:00am

St Joachim's

Wednesday, May 8th

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

Thursday, May 9th

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Friday, May 10th

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

Saturday, May 11th

Reconciliation 5:30pm

St Joachim's

The Ascension of the Lord

Saturday, May 11th

Mass (Vigil) 6:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, May 12th

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'



**Have you
thought?
Love**

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!

Readings – The Ascension of the Lord

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

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 1st 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.**

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 12th immediately after the 9:00am mass.

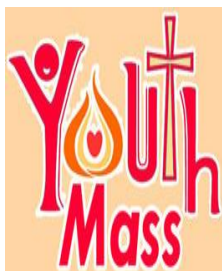
Parishioners are encouraged to stay and afterwards enjoy a morning tea before heading off to enjoy their Mothers Day celebrations.

SUNDAY

MAY 12th

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.

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 15th.

Why are crowded places chosen?



Readily available and accessible



Simple weapons and tactics are effective



Generates media attention and publicity



Promoted in propaganda



Most 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.

000
EMERGENCY

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000

CALL THE
NATIONAL SECURITY HOTLINE
1800 123 400

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.



CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

"HE WHO FOLLOWS ME WALKS NOT IN DARKNESS" - JOHN 8:12

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

PENTECOST 2024 WITH FR STEVE FLETCHER

CCR Brisbane present the following pre-Pentecost events.

Healing Mass, St Rita's Victoria Point - May 14th @ 7pm

Waste Time with God, Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra - May 15th, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Pentecost Rally, Church of 12 Apostles, Jindalee - May 18th @ 7:30pm

Pentecost Retreat, Church of 12 Apostles, Jindalee - May 19th 9:30am - 4:30pm

Contact: secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au



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



Binh Nguyen

Mob: 0452 162 656

QBCC:15 113 118

ABN: 82 674 256 581

info@tgcmaintenance.com.au

* Carpentry * Decks * Patios
* Kitchen and Bathroom Renovations
* Carports * Garages

Domestic | Commercial

**Harvey & Co
Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

♦ Property
♦ Wills & Estates
♦ Commercial

☎ 07 5554 6994
0408 640 008

✉ 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.