

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Varkey

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Dot Lomax

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Yolanda Apelt

Churches

St Joachim's Church

41 Yuletide Street

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St Agnes' Church

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

Parish Details

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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)

10TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**Year B****June 8th/9th, 2024****Who is my mother or brother?**

Situating today's gospel reading in Mark's ongoing narrative can help us understand how Mark puts incidents together to convey the drama of the public life of Jesus. Its beginning in Galilee leaves us in no doubt that Jesus caused quite a stir: he taught with authority; crowds gathered where he was staying; he healed the sick and pronounced the forgiveness of sins; and he began to meet opposition. We are reminded of Mark's sub-text: Who is this man? In today's reading, that question confronts Jesus in two very different forms.

The reaction of the family of Jesus gives us a moving glimpse of his situation after leaving home and becoming a vagabond preacher. Following a very traditional way of life, his family were understandably concerned at what they heard, fearing that Jesus may have become unbalanced. But the mission Jesus is initiating aims to open up a world far beyond human loyalties and expectations. As the months that are follow will show, his teaching, his miracles, and the final witness of his death, are all undertaken to inaugurate nothing less than the new family of God, which he called 'the Kingdom'. This incident also helps us to know Mary, the courageous woman who is our model as she makes the journey of life in the darkness of faith. Several times the Gospels remember Mary 'pondering', 'wondering at what has been said', trusting in 'whatever he says to do'. Jesus' departure from the family home would not have been without pain and anxiety for her. Here we see her seeking to understand her son's mysterious mission along with the troubled family. Though it is not something that Mark adverts to as he recalls this moment, Mary is surely the greatest of all those who 'do the will of God'.

The scribes brought a very different challenge. Their vicious attack seems to be an expression of frustration, such as would be expected later in Jesus' ministry – perhaps it is introduced here to underline the sub-text, that we should take with us as we set out to follow Mark's gospel story, Who is this man? Jesus found it easy to point out the inconsistency of his frustrated adversaries' accusation that he is an agent of 'the Prince of demons'. However, what are we to make of the declaration that 'a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven'? Christian faith tells us that there is no possible sin that is beyond the forgiveness of God. The meaning of Jesus teaching is simple enough: Those who, like these scribes, choose to be blind to the working of the Holy Spirit can never find forgiveness so long as they choose not to be open to God's truth.

John Thornhill sm

READINGS FOR 10TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden,' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, 'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.
My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.
Because with the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, therefore I spoke - we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The prince of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord..

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him,' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either - it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.'

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

Parish Diary

Monday, June 10th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, June 12th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, June 13th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Friday, June 14th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, June 15th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, June 15th

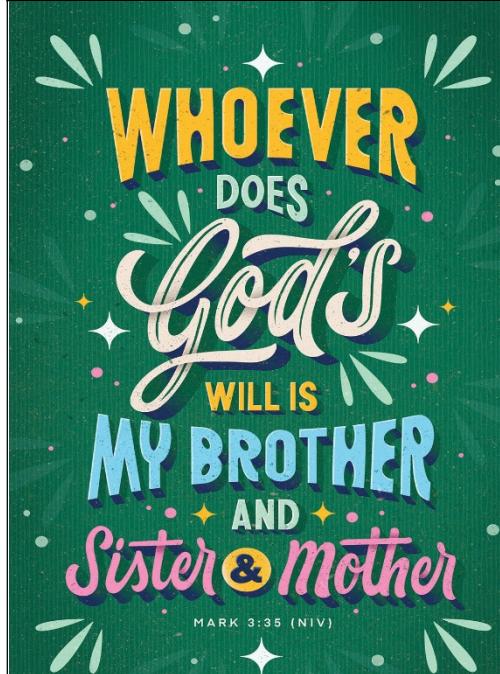
Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm
St Joachim's

Sunday, June 16th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'



PARISH NEWS**WE REMEMBER**

We remember Fr Jim Smith. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after 7.30am mass today.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, June 12th at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' next Sunday, May 19th. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

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

Parish Spotlight ~ Tony Toohey

In 1949, my family moved to Brisbane from Southport to live in a home my parents owned in Denman Street, Greenslopes. Our parish was Saint Joachim's so for mass it was quite a climb up the hill to get to the church which was then a wooden building built on the upper level with school rooms underneath.

I was a teenager at the time. I eventually joined the National Bank and was transferred to the country. I was married in 1956 to Josephine and we returned to Brisbane in 1962 and lived in Toohey Road, Ekibin for 25 years, being parishioners of Saint Elizabeth's. Our five children all did their primary schooling at Saint Elizabeth's before going on to high school at Saint Ursula's and Saint Laurence's.

We then moved to Mount Gravatt and became parishioners of Saint Agnes where I was both a reader and on the counting team. I was also a volunteer for the Supporter-a-Reader program at St Agnes' School for many years.

When the parishes were amalgamated, we found the mass times at Saint Joachim's suited us better.

I continued on the counting team, with Josephine joining me, as well as reading. I also did the occasional altar serving.

Some of the statues at Saint Joachim's were donated by my forebears.

Since my ill health, we have moved to Saint Luke's Green Retirement Village and are now parishioners of Saint Luke's, Buranda.

Congratulations

The Sacramental Program for First Communion has now been completed and culminates with the children being welcomed to the Table of the Lord for the first time. I extend my thanks to the children and their families for their commitment to the program. I would also like to thank Mary Ginty, our Sacramental Program Coordinator who has prepared the children for this celebration and all those who have assisted Mary in any way.

With God's Blessings

Fr Thomas

This weekend end we welcome William Truloff, Jedeiah Cenita, Santino Joyce, Harrison Stewart, Darcy Twist, Reese Andrews, Ben Goodwin, Billy Clarke, Maya Valdiviezo, Savannah Dawson, Temperance Ranieri, Annelise Nohr, Ewan Farfull-Smith, Henry Fairfull-Smith, Thomas Ocampo Lopez, Gabriel Ocampo Lopez, Sophia Boyce.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin in July this year.
Enrolments open Monday 3rd June.

This program is open to all baptised children in year three (3) and above.

If you would like to receive a copy of the invitation and details of how to enrol
please email Mary at sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

CHANGE OF MASS TIME – SATURDAY EVENING 5:00PM

This change will take effect
from NEXT Saturday
June 15th.

My thoughts are that it is a better time for young families to attend mass, it allows elderly parishioners to get home from mass earlier and still allows mass attendance if you have plans for Saturday night.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
are sought for a tour to Port Macquarie from the 8th to the 13th of October, 2024.

The tour is being organised by former parishioner, Tony Toohey,

who is requesting you advise him of your interest by 19th June.

For further details and an itinerary please contact him at aajtuy@optusnet.com.au or 3349 4308

Hey Parents!

Children and Church:
what's your experience?

CATHOLIC
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
NETWORK

Scan the QR code to fill
out this short survey



**URGENT COMMUNITY ALERT
PROPOSED ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL 2024**

Dear Parishioners,

We face a significant challenge with the introduction of the Anti-Discrimination Bill 2024 by the Queensland Government, which proposes stringent restrictions on religious freedoms. This bill could greatly impact our ability to operate in alignment with our faith values.

Key Concerns:

- Restrictive employment standards for religious organisations.
- Invasive secular definitions of 'genuine occupational requirements'.
- Disproportionate limitations on our religious practices.

We Need Your Action:

The most important thing you can do is to write to your local MP and tell them you are concerned about the bill. Politicians won't know that we care about this unless we tell them.

A website has been launched by the combined heads of faith to make it easy for you to learn more about the bill and write to your MP.

Please take 5 minutes to write your MP today via <https://contactyourmp.org.au/qld>

St Vincent de Paul Society
QUEENSLAND
good works

June 15th and 16th

WINTER APPEAL 2024

As housing security becomes more precarious due to rising rents, cost-of-living pressures and a shortage of affordable housing, our services are hearing daily from people who in years gone by would never have needed to seek support. These are people who hold jobs that should offer stability, yet are sleeping in cars, tents or relying on the goodwill of others.



Luke works five days a week at a bakery and supports his elderly father, Colin, who suffers from a variety of health issues, including acute chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that causes difficulty breathing and walking.

"I've been on the streets for two years without finding any place while I'm holding down a full-time job. It is not easy. It's very hard." He is part of a group known as the working homeless.

Vinnies have helped by providing food and assistance to get Colin into hospital for treatment and paying for Luke to stay in crisis accommodation.

Please consider contributing to the annual Winter Appeal next weekend so that the local St Vincent de Paul conference can continue with their vital work.



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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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**