



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

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[catholicparish.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)

16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Year B

July 20th/21st, 2024

They were as sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus chose disciples to continue his work; he instructed them and empowered them. He sent them out on a mission, and they returned. People followed them, because they wanted to hear what Jesus and the disciples had to say; they wanted to be released from the sickness and the demons that possessed them.

There are so many searching people in the world today, people hungering for instruction, good people looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity through unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people feeling the surge of life leave their declining bodies; people who are angry and confused because they believe that the church is no longer dependable. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd, and Jesus looks to us to shepherd them.

In the midst of this confusion, there are reliable shepherds who walk with us in the dark valleys. They are willing to share the dangers through which we pass, even at the risk of their own safety. They do not pit one segment of the community or one theological perspective against another, scattering the sheep and driving them away. Instead, they work to dismantle the walls that divide us. They speak the word that gathers us together. They reconcile us with God and with each other. They may not give us easy answers, but their primary concern is to lead us to Jesus, the one who is our peace.

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Francis' Focus

'Compassion', Pope Francis says, 'is born from contemplation.' This, he intimates, is the essence of today's Gospel passage. 'If we learn to truly rest,' he says, 'we become capable of true compassion.'

As the Pope points out, Jesus recognised that his disciples needed rest. None of us can or should be busy all the time. There is a danger for Christians, the Pope warns, 'to be caught up in the frenzy of doing things, to fall into the trap of activism'.

We should always remember that the crowd went to meet Jesus. They sought him out because his message was attractive and attracting.

'How many times this happens in the Church', the Pope suggests, where 'we risk neglecting Jesus and ... make ourselves the centre.' Sometimes parishes are burdened with so many corporate evangelisation plans, programs, and pastoral activities that people are wearied. The Church, at every level, occasionally needs to pause and listen for the crowd that is searching for Jesus.

As the Pope reflects, 'only a heart that does not allow itself to be taken over by hastiness is capable of being moved'. Jesus saw the people and understood their needs. Through us he is still trying to, if only we will slow down and let him.

© 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

Jeremiah 23:1-6

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks!

'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff,
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:13-18

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 6:30-34

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

Parish Diary

Monday, July 22nd

Feast of St Mary Magdalene

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, July 24th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, July 25th

Feast of St James

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, July 26th

Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, July 27th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 27th

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

Sunday, July 28th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of life as every day we experience your grace.

We call this part of the year 'ordinary time' as you ask us to order our lives according to your plan in the ups and downs of work, family, school, community, laughter and tears. All things are extraordinary when we share them with you.

Keep our minds open and our hearts warm, as you challenge us in the needs of the world and your entire family.

May all our days contribute to peace and justice,

May all our lives help the healing of this special planet.

May all our ears listen to the cry of the poor. May all our eyes look with wonder at the beauty around us.

May all our time be for your glory.

Who lives and reigns without end. Amen

Readings – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: John 6:1-15

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Denise Ryan. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the MacDonald family as they celebrate the baptism of Allyson and Ethan in the parish this weekend.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' **today**, Sunday July 21st. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

HOSPITALITY

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

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday to enable the staff to attend a training workshop.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, July 23rd at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

There will be hospitality after the 5:00pm and 7:30am masses at St Joachim's next weekend.

CONFIRMATION – ENROLMENT MASS

Dear Families,

Enrolment masses are being held next Weekend for children enrolled in this year's Confirmation preparation program.



Children are formally welcomed to the Sacramental Program by the Parish and will receive their Orange Workbook at the enrolment mass.

Children are required to attend ONE of the following masses, **bookings are not required.**

- Saturday 27 July 5pm at St Joachim's
- Sunday 28 July 7.30am at St Joachim's
- Sunday 28 July 9am at St Agnes'
- Sunday 28 July 6pm at St Agnes'.

Parish Spotlight ~ Gloria Hodgers



In 1970 I emigrated from Glasgow to Cairns, where I lived for 6 months with my aunt and uncle who were my sponsors.

I then moved to Brisbane and my mum, younger brother and sister decided to emigrate to Brisbane as well. I worked in a couple of

different places before I did an Enrolled Nurse's course at Greenslopes Hospital where I met my future husband, John. We were married in 1974 at St Benedict's Church, East Brisbane.

We moved to Mt Gravatt in 1975 and John began attending mass at St Agnes'. We had two children and they attended St Agnes' School.

In 1983 I was invited to take part in the first RCIA programme, "A Journey to Easter" and became a Catholic a year later. I made a lot of new friends during this time and felt very welcomed in the Parish. John and I volunteered at the bingo nights, and we had a lot of fun and met some really great people. John would have everyone laughing at his never-ending repertoire of jokes and funny stories.

Sadly, John passed away in 2005 but I received a lot of support and care from Fr Rosie and Fr John Nee as well as parishioners which enabled me to look forward. I was asked to join the Care and Concern Group as a volunteer and enjoyed my time being involved with it. It really helped me do something worthwhile and to meet new people. Quite a number of the group still meet monthly for lunch and to catch up on all the news about families, etc. It is great to hear all about the new grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am now a Mass Coordinator and Extraordinary Minister of Communion as well as being on the roster for the mass linen. I feel very privileged to be part of these ministries and hope that I can carry on into the future.

Perhaps other members of the parish would like to join one or more of the parish ministries and I know they will be made very welcome.

INVITATION TO A HEALING MASS

An invitation is extended to the people of the Archdiocese to attend a healing Mass at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Bardon on Friday, 2nd August at 7.30pm. Fr. Ravi Koyya will be the celebrant. The Sacrament of Healing will be administered during Mass together with a personal prayer. Prayer ministry will also be offered after Mass. Supper will be provided. For more information, contact Len Airey on 0421 977 849 or by email to lenpatairey@gmail.com



catholiccampaign.com.au



Your gift is the answer to someone's prayer

The Annual Catholic Campaign is a call asking you to make a sacrifice to support the works of the Church here in South-East Queensland. The giving makes sense only in the context of us becoming the Lord's sacrifice for the life of the world.

Your sacrifice becomes the answer to a prayer, which is the way God wants it to be.



2024 ANNUAL

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community



Please join us as we spend time together learning and sharing about how we can all care for creation.

We will gather online during Thursday 12 and Friday 13 September to engage in keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences. On Saturday 14 we encourage participants to attend one of 11 diocesan hubs to transform our learnings into action. If there is not a hub near you, we will continue online together.

Attend for 1, 2 or all 3 days! Group discounts available.

For more information and to register, visit:
www.caritas.org.au/soc-convocation



(Registrations close Monday 12 August 2024)



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 wheelie bin 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. A share of the funds raised through Containers for Change will go towards this.



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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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.