

**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

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)**

19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**Year B****August 10th/11th, 2024****I am the living bread come down from heaven**

Around the world there are women's shelters run by the St Vincent de Paul Society called 'Manna House'. It's an inspired name for such an important work. Women and their children, in the midst of fear, and having suffered terrible abuse, are welcomed into a safe-haven where they can be loved and looked after. It's a temporary respite where broken families can piece their lives back together and be revived for the journey ahead.

What happens at 'Manna Houses' for women at risk happens for each of us when we come to the Eucharist. We receive manna from heaven. It's our stop on the journey of faith so that we can go out spiritually revived to be the face of Christ in the world. Sometimes we need this 'manna come down from heaven' when we are spiritually most at-risk.

I love the fact that as Catholics we believe that Christ is present in ordinary gifts of bread and wine blessed and offered at the Eucharist. We don't just believe that Christ is present in sunrises, sunsets and in natural beauty, we also believe that God comes to us in a special and unique way in the simple, ordinary things of life. And it is in what we do with these gifts of bread and wine that Christ is really present. The earliest Christians called the Eucharist 'the breaking of the bread'. It is the broken bread and the poured cup given into our hands to which we say 'Amen' and so affirm our belief that Christ is present here.

We often need to be reassured of Christ's presence when we are in the desert periods of our own life. We can feel we are wandering around in the wilderness looking for some sign of God's life. For all of us who are broken in mind, body or spirit, or who are pouring ourselves out in love for other people, communion is precisely the time Jesus meets us where we are. Is it any wonder that the Eucharist means so much to us? May we never feel as though we are not good enough to be here, for Jesus has invited us to his table where we are loved and cared for.

As important as the Eucharist is, however, it is not 'ours', in the sense that we can selfishly hold on to the gifts we receive here. We are given Christ in Word and Sacrament, so we can become Christ.

In a sense Jesus says the same thing in today's Gospel when he talks about how the Father draws people to faith.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that faith is only an intellectual exercise. As important as good thinking and the power of strong arguments might be, the truth of faith is best demonstrated on an emotional and intuitive level when others see the power of God's saving love active in the way we live our lives. This is what really captures people's attention, and draws them to ask what gives our lives this quality, direction, purpose and meaning.

So may this respite from the journey of faith dispel our fears, revive us for the task ahead and enable us to live as though the only Bible others will read will be our lives, and the only Sacraments that will captivate them and draw them to Christ will be our justice and joy.

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First Reading

1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. 'Lord', he said 'I have had enough. Take my life: I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, 'Get up and eat.' He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, 'Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you.' So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good. He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who has marked you with his seal for you to be set free when the day comes. Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names, or allow any sort of spitefulness. Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ.

Try, then, to imitate God, as children of his that he loves, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord;
whoever eats this bread will live for ever..

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:41-51

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' 'Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph' they said. 'We know his father and mother. How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus said in reply, 'Stop complaining to each other.

'No one can come to me
unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me,
and I will raise him up at the last day.'

It is written in the prophets:

They will all be taught by God,
and to hear the teaching of the Father,
and learn from it,
is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father,
except the one who comes from God:
he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly,
everybody who believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your fathers ate the manna in the desert
and they are dead;
but this is the bread that comes down from heaven,
so that a man may eat it and not die.
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I shall give
is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Parish Diary

Monday, August 12th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, August 14th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, August 15th

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, August 16th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, August 17th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

20th Sunday in Ordinary TimeSaturday, August 17th

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

Sunday, August 18th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

gospel focus

Living Bread

There is an obvious connection between this week's reading and the sacramental celebration of Eucharist. Jesus describes himself as living bread and then says whoever eats this living bread will live forever. These words capture the essence of the Church teaching about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Jesus is present in several ways at the celebration of Eucharist, particularly present in the bread and wine that become his body and blood. Through our celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus offers us his continuing, enduring presence.

Readings – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 6:51-58

PARISH NEWS

WE REJOICE

With the Alpuerto family as they celebrate the baptism of Raphael and Saskia in the parish this weekend.

WE REJOICE

Best wishes and blessings to Sweet Pena and Hasan Syan who have been married in the parish this weekend.

CONFIRMATION – PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

Before you leave Church this weekend could you please take a **Pray for me card** from the table near the altar and pray for your particular child leading up to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass next Sunday, August 18th at St Agnes'. 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.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

RCIA

In the final preparation for Baptism, our member of the Elect, Daniel, will be presented with the Creed this week and the Lord's Prayer next Sunday. The Creed which we recite each Sunday is the summary of our Catholic belief, and the Lord's Prayer was considered by the members of the early Church to be the final precious gift given to those wishing to follow Jesus.

As we experience Daniel's preparation for Baptism, we can renew our belief in the wonder of our belief and perhaps come to appreciate more deeply the prayer Jesus taught us...and pray it with renewed understanding.

SEASON OF CREATION Calling for your photo's /artwork...

The **Season of Creation** is an annual Christian celebration beginning on, **September 1**, through to the October 4.

The theme this year is **'To Hope and act with Creation,'** raising awareness of our need to engage with caring for God's world. The **Season of Creation** is a special time dedicated to deepening our relationships with Creation and our Creator.

we would also like to invite you to email photographs, artwork, or any creative works to sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

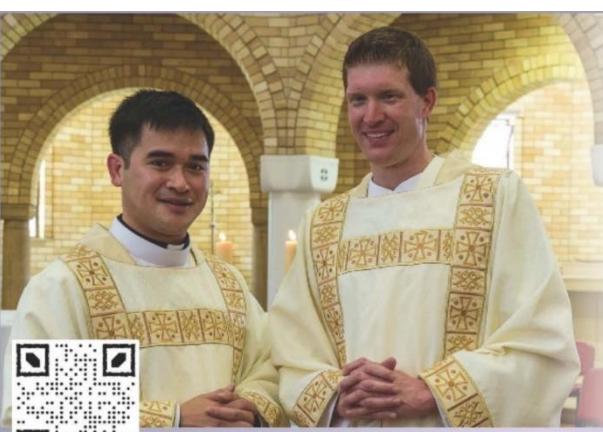
We would like to use your photo's/artwork in the celebration of mass

Like to find out more about the Season? Visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

NATURAL FERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK 2024 (AUGUST 19 – 25)

The week aims to promote an alternative, healthy option to family planning. You are invited to join the Billings LIFE free webinar on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7:30pm AEST Website: www.billings.life/en/.

Register at <https://events.humanitix.com/trust-your-body-s-natural-signals-of-fertility-free-webinar>



18 August 2024

The Parish is offering a one-day kids fun day (Saturday 17th August) open to all primary school aged students. The day includes Games, Craft, Fun Friends and Faith. Please see details below and how to register:

This is a great opportunity for children to share friendship in faith in a fun and relaxed way - as the children will be looked after from 9am-3pm, this may give you some free time!



www.encountercatholickids.com.au/hollandpark-mtgravatt
Or you can click on the following link to access information

<https://www.encountercatholickids.com.au/hollandpark-mtgravatt>



HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY

With your gift, you help educate our ordained leaders of the future. These men need to be formed to be the ministers of Christ's mercy; through your care, you make that possible.



2024 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN
Our Church - Our Mission - Our Community

catholiccampaign.com.au

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
10.00AM TO 4.00PM

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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**