

**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.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)

21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**Year B****August 24th/25th, 2024****Social Justice Sunday**

The Christian approach to peace is built on respect for the equal dignity of all people.

The Catholic Bishops' Statement on Social Justice was launched on Tuesday, ahead ahead of Social Justice Sunday on today. The theme is 'Truth and Peace: A Gospel word in a violent world'.



We live in disturbed times when many social relationships are strained. Strained by wars and their effect on migrant communities, for example, by racial tension, by the gap between those who own homes and those who rent or are homeless and between the very wealthy and people who struggle, by wages and unemployment benefits that trail behind inflation, by domestic violence, sexual abuse and the social media that encourage them, and by political campaigns that exacerbate community tensions and inhibit the action needed to address climate change.

All these areas of injustice and conflict and many others call on us Catholics to reflect and to pray. We are led deeply to desire a more just society in which people are bound together by love and mutual respect and live together in peace.

Christians naturally associate Jesus with peace – 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild' as Charles Wesley described him in a children's hymn. We remember the vulnerable child Jesus lying in the manger attended by shepherds and farm animals. We also remember angels and Jesus himself greeting frightened people by wishing them peace. The Good News is a promise of peace.

Yet peace is elusive. As St Augustine said dismissively, everybody wants peace, but on their own terms. Nations go to war to restore peace or to impose it on their enemies. Perpetrators of domestic violence also often want peace based on the total submission of others. Peace is more than the absence of conflict.

The peace that Jesus promised was based on a vision of God who loved everyone and invited all, especially outsiders and despised people, into the future kingdom. He embodied God's invitation in curing the sick and eating with people who lived scandalous lives, so overriding the religious culture of his times. This led to hostility from the religious and civil authorities who saw him as a threat to an uneasy peace. He was killed to preserve a peace based on fear and exclusion.

Jesus also told his followers that to accept God's peace would require them also to accept conflict and exclusion without retaliating. The Christian approach to peace is built on respect for the equal dignity of all people, especially the poorest and most excluded, and a commitment to them. The seriousness of the commitment to peace and its potential cost are evident in conscientious objectors who prefer to lose their own lives rather than to kill their fellow children of God.

Jesus' life and death show that we should expect conflicts over many issues and violent behaviour in our own days. In the face of all these issues we are called to be peacemakers. That will often cause us grief. But it is Christ's way.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

Editorial consultant at Jesuit Communications

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our 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.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Parish Diary**Monday, August 26th**Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's**Wednesday, August 28th**Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'**Thursday, August 29th**Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'**Friday, August 30th**Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's**Saturday, August 31st**Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time****Saturday, August 31st**Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm
St Joachim's**Sunday, September 1st**Mass 7:30am
St Joachim'sMass 9:00am
St Agnes'Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Social Justice
Sunday



**TRUTH
& PEACE**

A GOSPEL WORD IN A VIOLENT WORLD



Download the Statement
by scanning the QR Code
or using the following link:
<https://bit.ly/sjs-ojep>



Readings – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8. 14-15 21-23

PARISH NEWS

WE REJOICE

With Jean and Ron Pugh as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend. Congratulations.

HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

There will be hospitality after the 5:00pm and 7:30am masses at St Joachim's this weekend. All are welcome to join in.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Children preparing for Confirmation are required to attend ONE of the following practice sessions:

Wednesday 28 August, 6.30pm-7.30pm

OR

Thursday 29 August, 6.30pm-7.30pm

Both sessions will be held at St Joachim's church. Sponsors are not required to attend, though they are most welcome.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' on Sunday September 1st. 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.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation to take place on: Wednesday 4 September, 5pm **OR** 6.30pm at St Joachim's Church.

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/>

PLANNED GIVING DONATION WITH TAP AND Go

Due to a required upgrade from the 3G to 5G network, the Parish has installed new credit and debit card tap and go terminals in both Churches.

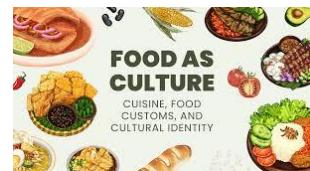
Their screen is slightly different and requires you to select a monetary value ranging between \$5 to \$50, or a custom amount. This is what the new screens looks like:

Once you have selected your chosen donation amount you will be asked to tap your card to complete the transaction.



MULTICULTURAL MASS 2024: VOLUNTEERS NEED

We are excited to announce that our Parish Multicultural Mass will be held on Sunday, November 3rd, 2024! This special celebration is an opportunity for us to come together as a diverse and united community, celebrating the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our parish.



To make this event a success, we are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to join our team. Volunteers will be working together to arrange the Liturgy, cultural program, culturally diverse foods etc. Whether you have a passion for liturgy, enjoy organizing cultural programs, or love sharing and preparing food from around the world, we need your help!

If you are interested in being part of this wonderful event, please write your name on the sign-on sheet which is located on the Gifts Table in each of the churches or please contact parish office at hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au or 0735218025.

Let's make this year's Multicultural Mass a true celebration of our unity in diversity!

Your gift is the answer to someone's prayer



Thank you for your generous support of the **Annual Catholic Campaign**! Your gift helps educate our future priests, care for unwell priests, ensures children from families in hardship have access to Catholic education, and reaches out to our neighbours in vulnerable circumstances.



With your gift, you give those in need something to hope for. You are the answer to a prayer.



Season of Creation Workshops!

Come along to workshops led by Sr Margaret Endicott to explore, discuss and share with each other the following themes:

Session 1: Gratitude and Awareness

At this first session we will explore the universe story and like St Francis take time 'to approach nature and the environment with openness to awe and wonder' LS11.

Session 2: Honouring the Pain in our world and seeing with new eyes

Pope Francis speaks about 'the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity' LS4. 'For to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God' LS8. We will look at the impact humans are having on the world and each other and explore more closely how people are living with active hope.

Session 3: Going forth

At this session we will discuss what are our possibilities for action to make our planet a better place for all God's people and creation.



Dates: 28th August, 11th and 25th September

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Location: Our Lady of Lourdes Sunnybank Parish Centre 121 Mains Rd, Sunnybank

Register by 21-Aug: contact your Parish Office or beache@bne.catholic.edu.au



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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**