



Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish News



Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Varkey

Office Staff

Dot Lomax

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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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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)

22ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Year B

August 31st/September 1st, 2024

The Season of Creation is a month that brings together people from different Churches to attend to the Environment.

To listen to the cry of creation is not like shutting out all other sounds in order to hear a single bird's cry in a forest. The environment is around us, within us, above us, beneath us and beyond us. When we listen to the cry of one part of the environment for which we have responsibility, we are led also to attend to all the relationships that compose our environment and to the way in which they interact with one another to form the world in which we live. Care for the environment will embrace all our relationships, ranging from those with the air we breathe, food we eat, things we buy, way we travel, dress, speak, listen and work, to our relationships with ourselves, family, friends, hospitals, people who are homeless and excluded, schools, workplaces, politics and with our world. Care for the environment is not one single aspect of our lives. It embraces all aspects.

This vision of a world in which all is connected has been the distinctive gift of Pope Francis. In his Encyclical *Laudato Si'* he insisted that action to protect the environment and to address climate change is as much an issue of justice as are actions to provide shelter and food for the poor. The effects of neglecting and exploiting the environment fall heaviest on the poor. They also threaten the future of the planet and betray the trust by which we hold our world for future generations.

Pope Francis offers a vision of an interrelated world in which what we do well or badly in one of our relationships will affect all our other relationships. Our environment is not part of the world; it is our whole and only world. If we exploit and pollute the natural world, we shall also foul and put at risk our entire human world.

This vision is challenging. Many of us find it difficult to make the care for the environment a personal priority because there seems to be such a large gap between anything we can do and the large realities of the environment – global warming, desertification, rising sea levels, the tension between the need for power and the threat to the environment posed by fossil fuels, and so on. But when we see the world as a network of relationships in which all is interconnected, we can work at seeking harmony between all the relationships that shape our own lives.

From this perspective our commitment to listen to creation begins with the small details of our daily life. We attend to the power we use, the ways we pray and to the packaging we accept. We also consider composting our food scraps and reflect on the ways we travel. This attention to small details is not an attempt to look good but an expression of respect. Like the disciplines of fasting and of prayer that have traditionally undergirded a life lived for God, they form the matrix of a life that takes the environment seriously. As we pay attention to small things, we can recognise more clearly the character of our culture with its generous and reckless elements, its extravagance, and its modesty, its destructive and its healing elements.

Personal attention to our domestic life opens out into the larger relationships to people and to groups that are part of our lives. We begin to see the links between the neglect of the environment and the neglect of Indigenous Australians, people who seek protection and people who are disadvantaged. We begin to long for integral justice.

In this integrated view of the world, listening to the voice of creation in the world of nature is central. We see there the preciousness and glory of tiny things like autumn leaves, sunsets, ants at work, the cool breeze at the end of a hot day. We see also how delicate are the connections between sun, water and growth. Creation is massive but it is also delicate.

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ

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

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart.

He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Second Reading

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

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

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Parish Diary

Monday, September 2nd

Mass 8:00am

St Joachim's

Wednesday, September 4th

Confirmation 5:00pm

Confirmation 6:30pm

St Joachim's

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 7th

Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, September 8th

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

Season of Creation Quote

Faith is a gift, the fruit of the Spirit's presence in us, but it is also a task to be undertaken freely, in obedience to Jesus' commandment of love. Such is the blessed hope to which we must bear witness. Yet where, when, and how are we to bear that witness? Surely *by caring for the flesh of suffering humanity*. As people who dare to dream, we must *dream with our eyes wide open*, impelled by a desire for love, fraternity, friendship and justice for all. *Christian salvation enters into the depths of the world's suffering*, which embraces not only humanity but also the entire universe, nature itself, and the *oikos*, the home and living environment of humanity.

Readings – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

PARISH NEWS

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



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

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

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

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

WEEKDAY MASSES

There will be **NO** weekday masses from this Wednesday, September 4th until after Fr Thomas returns from holidays on October 12th.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will not be offered prior to the 5:00pm mass on Saturday, September 7th.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A baptism preparation evening for families who are having their child baptised in the parish is being held on Monday, September 2nd commencing 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. Ring the parish office to register.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, September 3rd at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ST AGNES & ST JOACHIM'S STUDENTS

We would like to give special thanks to the students of St Agnes and St Joachim's schools for their artwork created especially for the Season of Creation, giving thanks to God for all his beautiful creation.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONIES

For children already enrolled in the Sacraments of Confirmation Ceremonies, these will take place this Wednesday, 4th September at 5pm and 6:30pm in St Joachim's Church.



2024
**SEASON OF
CREATION**

In the spirit of renewal and responsibility, the theme for the 2024 Season of Creation resonates with a powerful call to action: "To hope and act with Creation." This message encapsulates the essence of our collective duty towards the environment and the urgent need to foster hope in the face of ecological challenges.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul pictured the earth as a mother, groaning in childbirth [Rom 8:22], later echoed by Francis of Assisi when he referred to the Earth as our Sister and Mother in his Canticle of Creatures. Yet, in modern times, our relationship to the Earth is of subjection and exploitation, rather than nurturing and respect.

And yet, there is hope and the expectation for a better future. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but rather groaning, crying, and actively striving for new life amidst the struggles. Just as in childbirth, we go through a period of intense pain, but new life springs forth.

As stewards of this planet, the call to hope is a beacon guiding us towards a future of sustainability, balance, and harmony with nature. It invites us to envision a world where the beauty of Creation is preserved for generations to come, where ecosystems flourish, and where every living being finds its place in the delicate web of life.



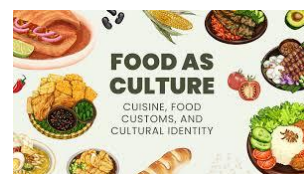
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH 6:00pm

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.

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.

FREE ENTRY

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER
10.00AM TO 4.00PM

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FETE RAFFLE

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SUN 8 SEPTEMBER

ST JOACHIM'S
SCHOOL FETE

1ST PRIZE
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UP FOR GRABS!

\$5 TICKETS

SCAN QR TO ENTER!

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A PRAYER FOR
Father's DAY

Gracious God,
bless fathers and all father
figures with such love and
faithfulness that children
flourish and grow in
uprightness and joy.
Bless those who long to be
fathers and those for whom
this day is difficult.
Amen.

MENTAL WELLBEING MORNING

A Catholic Mental Wellbeing morning is held weekly on a Wednesday morning at 58 Morgan Steet, The Valley. Participants who would enjoy a morning of companionship, reflection and prayer, and to celebrate Mass followed by a light lunch are most welcome to attend. For more details please contact Judy Norris Ph 3324 3193 or email judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au



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SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY



We are committed to the
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... 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.