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Pastoral Coordinators
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Yolanda Apelt
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St Agnes' Church
1227 Logan Road
Mt Gravatt
Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30am – 4:00pm
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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)

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Year B

September 21st/22nd, 2024

Who are the righteous?

This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness.

Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death.

There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.

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Season of Creation

Today's Gospel reveals a fearfulness in the disciples' response to Jesus. Afraid of asking too many questions, they almost seem to prefer being ignorant rather than admit the limits of their own understanding. Strangely, this self-imposed ignorance does not prevent them from posturing for position. What a warning for the Church this episode seems to offer!

While this excerpt of Mark's Gospel is often interpreted in terms of the virtue of humility, the other aspect of Jesus' point is easily overlooked. Every Christian is called to be 'last of all and servant of all'. Ours is a faith of humble service.

The scriptures repeatedly make the point that faith is always embedded in creation. A mountain, a road, a town, and a house all frame the action in this episode. Because the Church exists wherever its members go our beliefs and prayers are not restricted to church buildings. We take our faith on roads, into our homes and towns, and even up mountains. Given this, our faith compels us to have a special care for all of creation. As Jesus clearly intimates, by humbly serving created things we express our love of the Creator who made them all.

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First Reading

The godless say to themselves,
 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
 and opposes our way of life,
 reproaches us for our breaches of the law
 and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
 Let us see if what he says is true,
 let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
 If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
 and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
 Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
 and thus explore this gentleness of his
 and put his endurance to the proof.
 Let us condemn him to a shameful death
 since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Responsorial Psalm

Response: The Lord upholds my life .

O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause.

O God, hear my prayers; listen to the words of my mouth.

For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life.
 They have no regard for God.

But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good.

Second Reading

James 3:16 – 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel
 to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Parish Diary

Saturday, September 28th

Reconciliation 4:30pm

St Joachim's

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 28th

Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm

St Joachim's

Sunday, September 29th

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

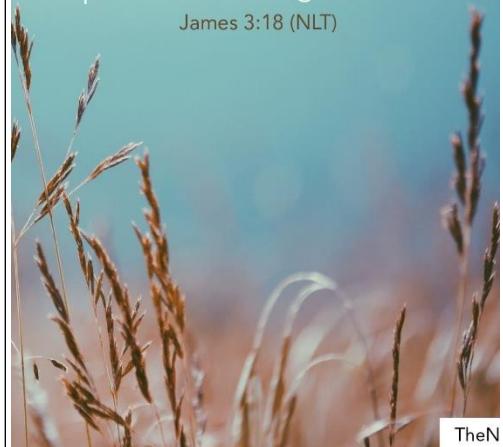
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

And those who are peacemakers
 will plant seeds of peace and
 reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:18 (NLT)



TheN



Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all. This is as challenging to us today as it was to the disciples and early Christians. Our world seems to revolve around position, status and power – whoever has the most toys wins! But what Jesus advocated was a leadership based on being of service to others. Being powerful simply means you are in a position to help even more people. By putting yourself last, instead of first, gives respect, dignity and power to others rather than to yourself.

This weekend we welcome:

Saturday Evening – Fr Pan Jordan
 Sunday Morning – Fr Tom Elich
 Sunday Evening – Fr Bavin Clarke

**Revitalisation month
Hands behind the help.**

September is revitalisation month for St Vincent de Paul Conferences. Members and volunteers across the country, and more importantly in our local community are the hands behind the help to those who need a hand up.

The funds raised locally with our annual Winter and Christmas appeals, general donations and the poor boxes in each of the churches are fully managed and utilised by the local conference and all members are volunteers.

Paul, one of our local conference volunteers reflects on some of the cases he has visited in recent times:

- ✓ Elderly pensioner had successful working life, now frail with cancer treatment with medical bills for scripts + injections + MRI scans far greater than the pension after rent is paid. Needing food assistance and payment for an MRI at public hospital.
- ✓ Women who have escaped domestic violence starting life anew in public housing needing furniture, food assistance and clothing vouchers to use at the Vinnies shop.
- ✓ Man new to civilian life, looking for work, paying high rent to live in a garage space at a block of units, needing food assistance and clothing voucher for job interview.
- ✓ Pensioner locked into a high rental lease, ran out of savings, needed help to pay for a moving van to move to a new unit with lower rent.
- ✓ Man on pension sleeping in a local cemetery because rents are unaffordable, requesting food assistance and a blanket.
- ✓ People in their 40s, 50s and 60s with personal issues, requesting food assistance.

Your financial support is vital and very much appreciated but we cannot provide the necessary assistance without feet on the ground. Volunteers always visit in pairs, a team leader and a support person. If one of these roles do not appeal to you but you would like to assist in some way there are also some administrative roles available.

If you would like any further information, please feel free to talk to one of our conference members at our masses, email sjsa4121@svdpqld.org.au or telephone Dot at the parish office, 3349 2280.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

The parish would like to invite all children in Year 5 and above who have received their First Holy Communion to join us in preparing for the Sacrament of Penance.

Where: St Agnes' Church
 When: Saturday 26 October
 10.30am - 12.00pm OR
 1.00pm - 2.30PM

- * Children only need to attend one session.
- * This program is for children/candidates only.
 * Parents are not required to attend.

Please **RSVP ASAP** to secure your place.

sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au or ph:3349 2280

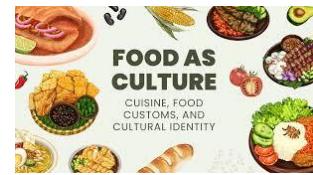
MULTICULTURAL MASS 2024: VOLUNTEERS NEED

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!





ENROLMENTS OPEN | Entry 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028

07 3347 9200

ENROL NOW



www.cvxmck.edu.au

Pilgrimage to Marian Valley

Will include blessing and opening of newly built Divine Mercy Chapel

Saturday, October 5th 2024

The Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians
Marian Valley, Canungra

A coach will be departing Holy Spirit Church, New Farm at 9am.

Cost \$30.

RSVP: September 27th

Jan: 0438 721 447

Maureen 0413 136 544



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)*

Join with the global Christian community in praying during the Season of Creation for the gift of hope and the courage to take action for the wellbeing of the whole Earth community.

**Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Catholic Church
(70 Appleby Road, Stafford 4053)**

Saturday, 28th September 2024 at 9.30am

You can also catch up with like-minded persons over a cuppa –

Bring your family and friends!

RSVP on or before Thursday, 26 September

Phone 3356 7155

Email stafford@bne.catholic.net.au

Invitation to attend our Fr Mark Raper SJ Talk

'The Escalating Crisis in Myanmar and the Role of the Church'

Thursday 10 October at 7.00pm

St Ignatius Church, Kensington Tce, Toowong.

Entry is free, however donations will be collected for Jesuit Mission's work in Myanmar.

All are welcome to join us or alternatively view online at St Ignatius Parish YouTube Channel - <https://youtube.com/live/i8JXJqNLvgE?feature=share>



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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**