



**Parish Priest**  
Fr Thomas Varkey  
**Office Staff**  
Dot Lomax  
Kate Waymouth  
**Pastoral Coordinators**  
Mary Ginty  
Yolanda Apelt  
**Churches**  
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41 Yuletide Street  
Holland Park  
St Agnes' Church  
1227 Logan Road  
Mt Gravatt  
**Parish Office Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8:30am – 4:00pm  
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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)

23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Year B

September 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace.

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## Sacramental Program - Confirmation

The sacramental program culminated this week with the confirmation of 64 children. I would like to thank Mary Ginty and her dedicated group of volunteers and all those who assisted her, musicians, principals, APREs, teachers and parents. Thank you also to parishioners for their prayers and support. Let us continue to pray for these children and their families that they will keep discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

With God's Blessings, Fr Thomas

CONGRATULATIONS



**First Reading**

Say to all faint hearts,  
'Courage! Do not be afraid.  
'Look, your God is coming,  
vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God;  
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water gushes in the desert,  
streams in the wasteland,  
the scorched earth becomes a lake,  
the parched land springs of water.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Response:** Praise the Lord, my soul.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down,  
the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

**Second Reading**

James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose someone comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor person comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed person, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor person, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom  
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Isaiah 35:4-7

**Parish Diary**

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Safeguarding Sunday**

*"Every conversation matters"*

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY  
8 SEPTEMBER 2024**



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable.

**This weekend we welcome:**

Saturday Evening – Fr John Lai  
 Sunday Morning – Fr Pan Jordan  
 Sunday Evening – Bishop Brian Finnigan

**PARISH NEWS****WE REMEMBER**

We remember Philip Fahy, Greg Hall and Ray McMahon. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**WE REJOICE**

With the Schuhkraft and Chapple families and Crausaz family as they celebrate the baptism of Hugo, Frankie and Charlie in the parish this weekend.

**COUNTERS**

Alison's team.

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

There will be **NO** weekday masses until after Fr Thomas returns from holidays on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)**

All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' next Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

**HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S**

There will be hospitality at the St Joachim's next Saturday evening.

**SUNDAY HOSPITALITY**

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

**Music Ministry Dinner**

The members of the Music Ministry had a lovely dinner together on 24th August at the Wooden Spoon Thai Restaurant on Logan Road, Holland Park. Ten people including Fr Thomas were there to enjoy some very tasty food and to share stories about their lives and also to discuss and comment on our Music Ministry in our Parish. There were many positive comments about the wonderful and talented people who come to play and sing for us on a regular basis. Some have been coming for many years even though they have moved away from the Holland Park/Mt Gravatt area. We would like to sincerely thank all of them for giving their time and commitment to this very important ministry.

Yolanda

**MULTICULTURAL MASS 2024: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

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](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au) or 0735218025.

**Parish Spotlight**  
**Lynda and Michael Tathem**

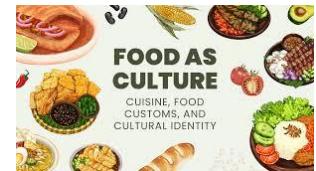
We have lived in the Parish since 1978 where we raised our four beautiful children, who all attended St Agnes' Primary School. During that period, we made many lifelong friends.

We helped with the St Agnes' P&F Bingo for many years, assisted at numerous St Agnes' Fêtes and P&F activities. Lynda served on the Parish Council for a number of years, and we conducted Hospitality Sunday morning teas for a considerable period.

More recently we joined the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Conference of St Vincent de Paul. Currently serving as president and vice-president. The SVdP team provides a "Hand UP" to numerous companions in the Holland Park and Mt Gravatt areas by way of food, clothing and furniture assistance and other assistance on a case-by-case basis. We also provide support for schooling expenses, e.g. uniforms and levies via the Vinnies Children Education Fund program. Along with social and caring support when needed.

We all receive far more in return from our Companions by way of gratitude, satisfaction, smiles and heartfelt stories of the difference we make to their situations.

If you wish to know more about our activities with Vinnies or maybe have some time to spare and wish to be involved in anyway, please see Lynda or I or one of other dedicated SVdP team members at any time or speak to the Parish Office.



# Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass



To be celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary or more are invited to attend, together with family and friends

**Saturday 28th September 2024**  
**11:30am**

RSVP: Wednesday 25 September  
Email: cathedral@bne.catholic.net.au | Phone: 3324 3030  
The Cathedral car park will be available

# ST JOACHIM'S CASH SPLASH FETE RAFFLE



DRAWN 2.30PM SUN 8 SEPTEMBER

ST JOACHIM'S SCHOOL FETE

**\$9000 IN CASH PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!**

1ST PRIZE **\$5000 COLD HARD CASH**

\$5 TICKETS

SCAN QR TO ENTER!



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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**