

**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)

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**Year B****October 5th/6th, 2024**

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

©Greg Sunter

Francis' Focus

'They were testing him.' This sentence is key to understanding this Gospel passage. The Pharisees, having firm ideas about what the rules were, deliberately put a tricky question to Jesus.

Unfazed, Jesus questions his questioners: 'What did Moses command you?' After they give a legalistic reply, which he probably expected, Jesus speaks not of commands but of creation. As Pope Francis says, 'Jesus firstly, with the wisdom and authority that come to him from the Father, puts the Mosaic prescription into perspective.' Rules should always serve a higher purpose.

Crucial to Jesus' teaching on marriage is its mutual nature, where lives are joined. It has purpose and meaning. As the Pope puts it, 'the man and woman are called to recognise each other, to complement each other, to help each other.'

Jesus was evidently keen to encourage people to focus on the sacred attributes of marriage more than the issue of divorce itself. Interestingly, he did not even use the word translated for us as 'divorce' until later pressed to do so by the apostles. Even then, he used it in the sense of something done by one party to another. Recognising this, Pope Francis suggests that the Church should always strive 'to make her maternal closeness tangibly felt by those who experience relationships that are broken or that continue in a difficult and trying way.'

© Nick Brodie

First Reading

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace!.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Genesis 2:18-24

Parish Diary

Thursday, October 10th

Funeral Mass - Isabel Sheehan
St Joachim's 10:00am

Saturday, October 12th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 12th

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

Sunday, October 13th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

May we look beyond our local communities to pray for peace in the world, as we are confronted with the daily reality that many people across the globe are in desperate need of peace and security.

Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting for peace on Monday, October 7th.

Peace Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

*For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.*

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

Readings - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

This weekend we welcome:

Saturday Evening – Fr John Lai
Sunday Morning – Fr Gerry Hefferan
Sunday Evening – Bishop Brian Finnigan

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Isabel Sheehan. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

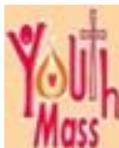
Robyn's team.

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, October 14th, join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone is welcome and you are free to just turn up.

ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Mass of Remembrance will be offered on Saturday, November 2nd commencing 10:00am at St Agnes' Church. If you have lost a loved one during the last 12 months and you would like to have them remembered during the mass please let the office know.



SUNDAY OCTOBER 13TH @ 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.

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

MENTAL WELLBEING MORNING

A Catholic Mental Wellbeing morning is held weekly on a Wednesday morning at 58 Morgan Street, 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

ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL MASS 2024

This year's Multicultural Mass will be held on Sunday, November 3rd commencing 9:00am in St Joachim's Church. This will be followed by morning tea and a cultural display from various members of our community in the parish hall.

As this is a Parish event, our aim is to enable all parishioners to have the opportunity to attend and/or participate in the event. With this in mind, it has been decided **to only have one mass on this Sunday**.

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!

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!



**BP. MICHAEL PUTNEY
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**You are My Flesh and Blood
The Ecology of God**

Tuesday 22 October

7:00pm to 9:30pm | The Hanly Room,
Francis Rush Centre, 196 Charlotte Street
parking available

\$10 in person | \$5 livestream

**Featuring guest speaker:
ARCHBISHOP
MARK COLERIDGE**

SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER



or visit tinyurl.com/BMLecture24

Through Queensland Churches Together - Christian Churches across Queensland are working together to host "candidate forums" for their electorate in the up-coming State election.

The purpose of the candidate forums is to get Christians of the electorate together to meet their candidates, ask them questions and hear their responses.

It is not about preferring one party over another, but about giving all candidates a fair chance to hear our concerns and respond to them. It also gives the members of your church the opportunity to hear directly from the candidates on the important issues, so they can make an informed choice at the ballot box.

Please note they are not in EVERY electorate – just 23 of the 93 electorates across the State.

You can find details if one is being held near you and of the closest forum to you on the

website below: <https://meetyourcandidates.org.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>



Mission: Transform Lives - - theirs...and yours

Are you ready to embark on a life-changing journey that combines your professional experience with meaningful community impact and living our faith in practice?

Hear inspiring stories from Palms mission participants at our Discovery Online session Wednesday 9 October. Explore unique opportunities matching your skills to sustainable solutions.

Venue: Online via Zoom- register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Wednesday 9 October 2024

Time: 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Phone: 0422 472 567
palms@palms.org.au



For however you choose to say goodbye...

Burial, Cremation, Church or Chapel Pre-arrangements & Funeral Bonds

An Outreach of the Catholic Church



Phone: 07 3293 0555

www.holycrossfunerals.com

A little bit of Mercy makes the world less cold and more just.



POPE FRANCIS



Binh Nguyen
Mob: 0452 162 656
QBCC:15 113 118
ABN: 82 674 256 581

info@tgcmaintenance.com.au

* Carpentry *Decks *Patios
* Kitchen and Bathroom Renovations
* Carports * Garages

Domestic | Commercial

Harvey & Co

Lawyers

Kieran Harvey, Principal

- ❖ Property
- ❖ Wills & Estates
- ❖ Commercial

07 5554 6994

0408 640 008

enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

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**