



# HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



**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](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)  
PAGER: 07 3521 8025

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.hollandparkmtgravatt.catholicparish.com.au](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt.catholicparish.com.au)

**FACEBOOK:**  
st joachim's & st agnes' parish

**PARISH SCHOOLS**  
St Agnes' School  
07 3349 5130  
St Joachim's School  
07 3397 9087

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL WELFARE**  
1800 846 643

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**  
Dot Lomax 0474 297 201  
(Safeguarding purposes only)

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR C**

**NOVEMBER 30TH / DECEMBER 1ST, 2024**

## The coming of the kingdom

Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

© Richard Leonard 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.

## READINGS FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**RESPONSE:** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;  
to them he reveals his covenant.

### SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

## PARISH DIARY

### Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Cancelled

### Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

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

### Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'



## Have you thought?

### Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

*I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.*



## READINGS – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Baruch 5:1-9

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

## 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

Robyn's team.

### COFFEE AND CHAT

This Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### ADVENT REFLECTION – HOPE REIGNS

The Advent Reflection Group will be gathering on Monday night in St Agnes' Church at 6:30pm. The evening will be led by Lesley van Trier.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION

There will be baptism preparation held in the Parish Centre on Monday evening commencing 7:00pm for baptisms being held during December and January.

### CANCELLATION OF MASS THIS WEDNESDAY

Due to St Agnes' School Rite of Passage there will be no mass this Wednesday evening, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

### HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

There will be hospitality after 7:30am mass at St Joachim's next weekend.



Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
St Agnes' Church  
9:am – 5:00pm

The day commences with the regular 9:00am Mass which is then followed by quiet time. There will be prayers at 12noon then another period of quiet time until 4:00pm. Benediction will commence at 4:00pm and the day will conclude approx. 4:30pm.

It is encouraged that there is always someone in attendance. There is a timetable available this weekend for people to fill in when they wish to attend.



For the past 3 years, the archdiocese has been working with parishes to develop more efficient and contemporary ways to reach parishioners. Earlier this year we undertook a new Parish Census in readiness to transition to the new system Flocknote.

In recent times parishioners would have received a Welcome to Holland Park Parish email. One of the features of Flocknote is that you personally can keep your and your family's details up to date. The email you have received allows you to do this. On the bottom right-hand side of the email, you will notice "Your info". If you click on this, you are taken to a page with your details on it. This connection is to your personal page only and the email is sent to the address you provided on the census. No-one else, besides the Parish Office, can access your details, Flocknote is the ultimate secure solution for managing communication between you and the parish.

## ANNUAL ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The local conference will be conducting this appeal in the parish next weekend, November 30<sup>th</sup>/December 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year's appeal shines a light on the ongoing impact on the vulnerable people in our community who being pushed to the brink of poverty, including those like Tania, who is doing her best to provide a safe and caring home for her 3 children.

According to reports, 13% of Queenslanders are living in poverty – the highest rate in Australia, and a shocking 17.3% of children are experiencing poverty. Nearly a quarter of Queenslanders are going hungry because they can't afford to eat.



## THIS CHRISTMAS FAMILIES LIKE TANIA'S NEED YOUR URGENT HELP.



The ongoing cost-of-living crisis is pushing more and more vulnerable people beyond breaking point, into poverty and disadvantage. Give generously today to provide immediate assistance and ongoing support.



Donate to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal today.  
Please give online [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or call 13 18 12

Funds raised through the Vinnies Christmas Appeal will be used to fund our core programs including supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and also people struggling with poverty and cost-of-living pressures.



## GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS 2025

This book of Daily Reflections which commences on January 1<sup>st</sup> are now available in the churches. The cost will be \$15 each.

## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

The Summer edition of the Australian Catholic magazine is available in the churches this weekend. The theme for this quarter is Living Faiths – Catholicism and world religions, Tunnels of friendship, Journeys through faith and culture.



### ADVENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY BRUCE DOWNES

Experience the life-changing love of Christ and be strengthened in your faith journey this Advent alongside many people from around the world with The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes. To help you go deeper, you are invited to attend the Advent Mission Event Retreat online from 7-9th December with unlimited streaming until the end of Advent. To find out more and register, go to: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>. For more information, email: [info@brucedownes.org](mailto:info@brucedownes.org)

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT



5.12.24

ALL MATERIALS  
SUPPLIED

BUILD & DECORATE  
YOUR OWN  
GINGERBREAD  
HOUSE

REGISTER AT [EC.ORG.AU](http://EC.ORG.AU)

### GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT

Thursday 5 December, 7:00pm at Emmanuel City Mission, 10A Cordelia Street, South Brisbane. Come and join us for a festive evening, build your own gingerbread house and support a great cause!

Cost \$55 each, or \$250 for 5 tickets. All materials provided. Register at [www.ec.org.au](http://www.ec.org.au). Enquiries to [events@ec.org.au](mailto:events@ec.org.au). All profits support the mission of Emmanuel Community.



**7pm Saturday 7 December 2024**

**St Francis of Assisi Church Hall, West End**



Young adults (18 - 39 years) are invited to a tropical summer-themed dance next Saturday 7 December, raising funds for St Francis Table Ministry!

The night will include some easy called partnered/ progressive dances, plus plenty of the usual favourite St Francis Social tunes for those who love a bit of classic swing and jive. There will also be prizes for best dressed male and female, so start planning your tropical outfits... the brighter, the better!

Ticket sales close soon at [www.trybooking.com/CWKVR](http://www.trybooking.com/CWKVR)

GOOD TUNES + GOOD DANCING + GOOD CROWD +  
FOR A GOOD CAUSE = A GOOD NIGHT OUT



[stfrancissocials](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancissocials)



[stfrancissocials](https://www.instagram.com/stfrancissocials)



SCAN FOR MORE INFO  
& TO PURCHASE YOUR  
\$25 TICKETS!



*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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au)

Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

### SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY



We are committed to the  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

*... 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 safely 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.