



# 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

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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)

32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>/10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

## **The Widows Mite**

The willingness to give all that one has is the central theme of today's readings. They offer us three models.

Jesus is the ultimate example of heroic generosity. He first offered himself as expiation for our sin. Now, as the eternal high priest, he stands before God as our mediator, pleading on our behalf, bringing salvation to those who eagerly await him.

It is interesting to note that the other two models of selfless giving are widows, individuals who are doubly disadvantaged by the patriarchal societies of which they are members. Their generosity is religiously inspired, and it comes from women who had the least material possessions to give. This kind of giving requires that we reach deep into ourselves and almost strip ourselves of our hold on life, and that we do this for religious reasons. The giving that is pictured in today's readings is nothing less than heroic generosity.

God will not be outdone in generosity. Sometimes we become the beneficiaries of obvious blessing, as was the case in the story of the woman of Zarephath who was granted a year's supply of flour and oil. At other times, we simply continue living life as usual, like the woman in the temple who was unaware of the commendation that Jesus had given her. The truly generous do not look for reward. They carry out their responsibilities and place the rest in God's hands.

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## **Francis' Focus**

After denouncing the flamboyant religiosity of the scribes, Jesus watched people putting money into the treasury. He saw rich people putting in 'a great deal', probably because such donations were clearly meant to be noticed.

But, as Jesus tells his disciples, a 'poor widow' gave more. As Pope Francis points out, 'she does not pray to make herself seen, she does not show off her faith.' Trusting God and acting humbly, Jesus notices her.

Yet there is another aspect to this incident, which plays out against Jesus' description of ostentatious scribes as 'men who swallow the property of widows.' The contrast between pious scribes and the poor widow could not be greater.

Jesus is not only praising humility; he is reacting to injustice. As the Pope points out, Jesus 'denounces the exploitation of this woman.' After depositing those tiny coins, she 'must return home without even the little she had to live on.'

The Pope challenges us to take this Gospel fully to heart. We are all called to be humble, but also to work for justice. 'This is a warning for all time and for everyone, Church and society,' he says. We must 'never take advantage of one's role to crush others, never make money off the backs of the weakest!' God will remember every penny ever given, but also those unjustly taken.

© Nick Brodie

## FIRST READING

## 1 KINGS 17:10-16

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives', she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**RESPONSE:** Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever  
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 bowed down.

It is 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

## HEBREWS 7:23-28

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

## MARK 12:28-34

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

## PARISH DIARY

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary TimeSaturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

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

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

# Historical Context

## The Widow

In ancient Jewish culture, until a woman was married she was literally the property of her father. Upon marrying, the woman left her family and became part of her husband's family and became specifically the property of her husband. If the woman's husband were to die, leaving her a widow, she no longer had anywhere to belong. Because a woman's identity was based on which man she belonged to, she effectively ceased to belong anywhere. It is for this reason that the Torah names widows as deserving of special care and protection from the whole community.

## READINGS – 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Daniel 12:1-3

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-32

The Parish Office will be closed on this Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to allow the staff to attend their annual PD Day. In the case of an emergency please use the pager, 3521 8025.

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Tomas Macaranas. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

### WE REJOICE

With the Wren and Crossan families as they celebrate the baptism of Lennox in the parish this weekend.

### COUNTERS

Alison's team.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, November 12th at 3:30pm for cuppa followed by the meeting at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

### DEMOLITION OF OLD PRESBYTERY/PARISH OFFICE

The demolition of the old Parish Office/Presbytery at St Agnes has had to be put on hold. As a result, there will be no changes to our regular mass timetable as was previously advertised.

### SATURDAY RECONCILIATION

Please note there will be no Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, November 16<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, November 17<sup>th</sup>. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

### UNCOLLECTED DISHES

There was a plate and toothpick holder left at St Joachim's last Sunday. They are now in the parish office awaiting collection.



### CLOSURE OF SETON COLLEGE

After 60 years of providing a secondary education in this Parish Seton College will be closing its doors on November 16<sup>th</sup>. In recognition of its contribution, we will be remembering Seton College at our Mass of Thanksgiving on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Any parishioner who had a connection to Seton College or the Elizabeth Seton community are invited to join us on this evening.



## INVITATION TO THANKSGIVING MASS

### WITH THANKS WE:

- Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries
- Celebrate Milestone Birthdays
- Celebrate Volunteer's Service
- Celebrate & recognise Seton College



### A J SERVERS GATHERING

INCLUDING SOME FUN AND PIZZA !!!

WHO: [CURRENT SERVERS AND INVITATION TO NEW SERVERS](#)

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

TIME: 10.30AM—12.00PM

WHERE: PARISH CENTRE, 1227 LOGAN RD, MOUNT GRAVATT

RSVP: PARISH OFFICE BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

[SACPR.HPMG@BNE.CATHOLIC.NET.AU](mailto:SACPR.HPMG@BNE.CATHOLIC.NET.AU)

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE. FR THOMAS

### NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

It is our Christian tradition to make a special effort to offer masses and pray for our deceased family members and friends during the month of November. We should also pray for those who have died and have nobody to pray for them. If you would like to have those who have gone before us remembered in all Masses in November, could you please write their names in the Book of Remembrance in either of the churches.

Mass envelopes are also available in both churches if you would like to have Fr Thomas offer a mass for you.



### LITURGICAL READERS WORKSHOP

Fr Thomas and the Liturgy Committee are inviting readers to attend a

Formation Workshop on Tuesday, November 26th commencing 6:30pm in St Agnes' Church. It is expected the workshop will take 45-60 minutes. Ongoing formation is important and we ask readers to make the time to attend. The workshop will be facilitated by Sr Mel Williams.

### SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY

Have you celebrated a significant anniversary or birthday this year. If so, we would like to celebrate it with you at our Thanksgiving mass. If you would like us to do so, please let the Parish Office know by Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.



On behalf of the Church in Mongolia, and people like Chuluunbaatar, we would like to again thank you for your generosity.

**Your gift is already working towards programs like the House of Mercy, which will support people that have been affected by a range of issues, such as homelessness and domestic violence.**

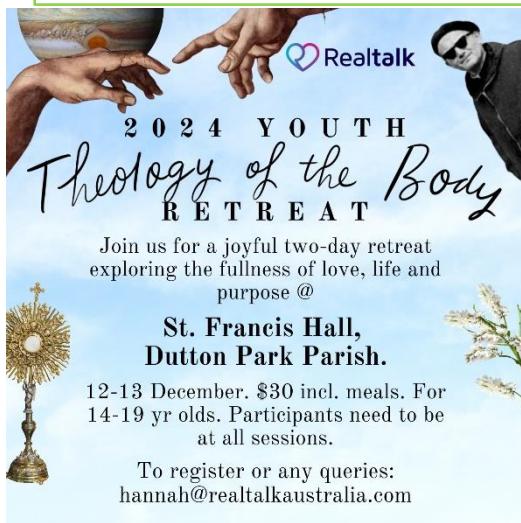
To learn more about the impact your support is making, please visit [catholicmission.org.au/our-work](http://catholicmission.org.au/our-work). Here, you can also sign up to our regular newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at [catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia). Your action will make a positive impact for many around the world.

SCAN ME

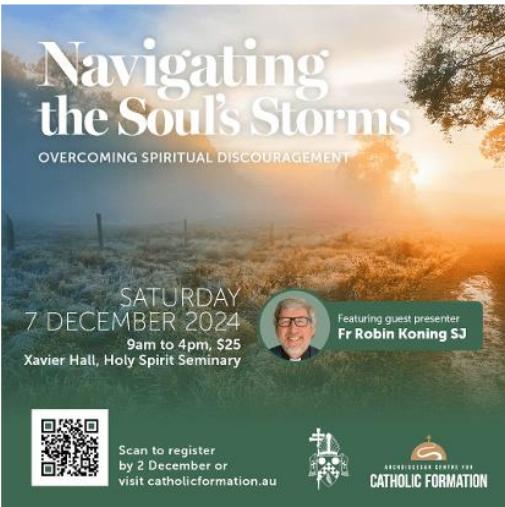


Freecall: 1800 257 296  
[catholicmission.org.au/mongolia](http://catholicmission.org.au/mongolia)



**SMALL GARAGE SPACE WANTED TO RENT FOR SMALL CAR LOCAL TO HOLLAND PARK/GREENSLOPES AREA.** A local resident from Holland Park West/Greenslopes is looking for a small parking space, garage or carport for a small registered vehicle. The car is very small (3.75 x 1.45w x 1.8h).

Reason is, I prefer not to park my vehicle on the street or in the weather. I can only afford \$50/Month. Initially, it will be for a period of 3 to 6 months. Please contact Adrian, 0405 095 395.



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**Harvey & Co**

**Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

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- ❖ Wills & Estates
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07 5554 6994  
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[enquiries@harveylawyers.com.au](mailto: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**