



# 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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**WEBSITE:**  
[www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.com.au](http://www.hollandparkmtgravattcatholicparish.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)

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR C**

**DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>/15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

## What must we do?

When asked the question, "What must we do?" John gives advice that is as appropriate in our time as it was in his. He tells us, "Share with those in need, be fair in your dealing with others and don't abuse your power." Luke's community is thought to have been the city of Antioch, the third largest city in the Roman Empire at that time. His Gospel must deal with the real-life issues that affect his hearers, such as how to live as a Christian in a complex, urban, economically driven and multi-racial world: does this sound familiar? Being a Christian is far more than one hour of worship each week. We live out Christian values in the choices we make at the supermarket and the bank, the petrol we purchase, and the brand of clothes we wear. John's answers were no doubt uncomfortable to his listeners who may have been expecting a more "religious" answer, such "Pray longer in the Synagogue", but John plunges to the heart of the Gospel message. You can desire God's reign, or you seek after wealth and power, but you cannot have both. This may sound impossible, but John holds out a message of hope: for having spoken to the people about what they must do, John then speaks of what Gd will do – baptise you with the Holy Spirit. The symbol of fire associated with the Spirit suggests that the Spirit will purify us. God's gift of purifying Spirit can empower us to choose the values of God's reign (the basileia) over against the attractions of wealth.

As Christmas approaches ask the Baptist your own question, "What must I do?" And listen for an answer.

© Mary Coloe PBVM

## Francis' Focus

When people asked John the Baptist what they must do, he responded with examples, as Pope Francis points out, 'that are different for each group' and situation.

As the Pope indicates, the Baptist 'directs a specific word to each person that responds to their actual situation in life.' People with two garments should give one to those who have none. Those with food should share with those without. Tax collectors needed to be fair, soldiers to be restrained, and so on.

This specificity, the Pope reflects, 'offers us a precious teaching: faith is incarnated in concrete life. It is not an abstract theory.'

This Advent we might remember that we are called to practical service for the world. The Pope suggests that we should each consider: 'what can I do concretely during these days as we draw near to Christmas? How can I do my part?'

We might therefore turn our efforts to doing something, however small, to serve our Lord. With actions suited to our own time and place and situation, our faith should take on some 'concrete commitment', and in doing so bring a little bit more justice into the world.

© Nick Brodie



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 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FIRST READING

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!  
The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

Zephaniah 3:14-18

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**RESPONSE:** Cry out with joy and gladness:  
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

### SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

Luke 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them..

## PARISH DIARY

**Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Advent Prayer and Reconciliation

St Agnes 6:30pm

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's  
Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'  
Mass 6:00pm

*"Advent is the time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, not just at Christmas but every day."*

*~ Unknown ~*



Dear God, help us slow down  
and reflect on  
the true meaning of Christmas.  
Fill our hearts with gratitude, kindness  
and a deeper sense of Your presence.  
Amen.

## READINGS – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Micah 5:1-4

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-44

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REJOICE

with the Grove family as they celebrate the baptism of Mila and Noah in the parish this weekend.

### HOSPITALITY THIS WEEKEND

There will be hospitality at St Joachim's after the 5:00pm mass and the 9:00am mass at St Agnes'.

### COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

### MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, December 17th

### 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 though faith and culture.



Moving to  
One Collection  
Starting  
January 2025

Dear Parish Family,

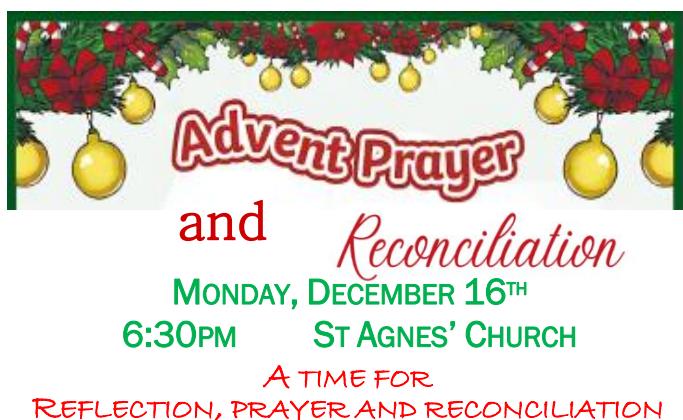
Beginning in January 2025, we will transition to a **single collection** at all Masses. This decision has been made after thoughtful consideration, with the following reasons in mind:

1. Both our current collections serve the same goal – supporting our Parish mission, liturgy, and ministries. So, no meaning in keeping two collections.
2. The single collection allows everyone to present all their offerings at the Offertory time, symbolizing that we offer everything together with bread and wine.
3. By eliminating movements after Communion, we create a peaceful space for personal prayer and reflection during this sacred moment.
4. From January those who give through envelopes there will only be a single envelope.

We deeply appreciate your continued generous financial support, which enables our Parish to continue its mission.

Should you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your understanding and continued commitment to our parish community.

Please collect envelopes from churches today.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

### Tuesday, December 24th

4.45pm	Christmas Carols	St Joachim's Church
5.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Joachim's Church
6.45pm	Christmas Carols	St Agnes' Church
7.00pm	Vigil Mass	St Agnes' Church

### Wednesday, December 25th

7.45pm	Christmas Carols	St Agnes' Church
8.00am	Mass	St Agnes' Church

The Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish would like to wish all families a happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

May you have a safe and happy holiday.





## THE BEATITUDES MINI RETREAT

PRESENTED BY FR NEV

Saturday 18th January 2025 from 10am - 12pm followed by lunch.

St Oliver Plunkett Church Hall,  
21 Beauvardia St, Cannon Hill.

RSVP: David and Maria  
Email: [gldbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:gldbookings@wwme.org.au); Ph: 0481 307 821

Lunch: Please advise any dietary requirements for lunch.

# MOOGERAH PASSION PLAY AUDITIONS

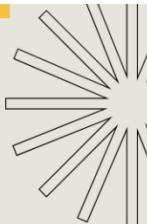
📍 4 Little High St, Boonah QLD 4310

🕒 3PM-6 PM

Online Registration:

<https://moogerahpassionplay.org.au/contact/>

Further Information: Contact our Team on 0499 277 763



**JAN 18,  
2025**

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**Harvey & Co  
Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

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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**