



# 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)

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR C**

**DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>/22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024**

*Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.*

Dear Parishioners,

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we have been journeying together in faith and preparation — both externally and spiritually. Over the past weeks, we have lit the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy, and now we light the fourth candle, the candle of Love. This final candle reminds us of the profound love of God, who revealed His greatest gift to us by giving His only Son, Jesus (John 3:16).

In our parish community, we have been blessed with many opportunities to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Lesley Van Trier for leading the Advent reflection group on Mondays, providing us with moments to reflect and grow spiritually. Our one-day Advent adoration on Thursday, 12th December, was another meaningful time for prayer and connection with God. The Advent prayer and reconciliation service on the last Monday brought us together as a community to seek God's mercy and prepare for Christmas.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us pray for the needs of our world — especially for peace, healing, and unity. May we share the joy and peace of Christmas with everyone we encounter, just as we have been called to do as disciples of Christ. I would also like to express my gratitude to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in our parish for their selfless ministry, reaching out to those in need and bringing Christ's love to life in our community.

This Christmas, let us take inspiration from those who prepared for the first Christmas. Like the Magi, may we search diligently to find Jesus. Like the shepherds, let us listen for God's voice and move toward Bethlehem to encounter Him. And like Mary and Joseph, may we prepare our hearts and lives to give Jesus a place within us.

Looking ahead, the Holy Father has announced 2025 as a Jubilee Year with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." This will be a special time to reflect on and embrace hope amidst the challenges our world faces today, including the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate crisis. Let us look forward to this holy year with prayerful anticipation, trusting in God's providence.

As we welcome the new year, may 2025 bring many blessings to your lives and to our parish community.

Fr. Thomas

## Parish Office Closure

The Parish Office will be closing at 4:00pm on Tuesday and will not reopen until Thursday, January 2nd. If you require urgent assistance during this period please use the pager, 3521 8025. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.

There will be no newsletter next weekend.



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 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### FIRST READING

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.  
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.  
He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power  
to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Micah 5:1-4

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**RESPONSE:** Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

### 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 1:39-44

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

## PARISH DIARY

### Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

### Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Carols 4:45pm  
Mass 5:00pm  
St Joachim's  
Christmas Carols 6:45pm  
Mass 7:00pm  
St Agnes'

### Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

Nativity of the Lord  
St Agnes'  
Christmas Carols 7:45am  
Mass 8:00am

### Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>  
Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm  
St Joachim's

### Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

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

### Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass 6:00pm  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm  
St Agnes'

### Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

### Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Includes Anointing of the Sick

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm  
St Joachim's

### Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

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

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

We remember Sr Ursula O'Dwyer osu. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**COUNTERS**

Elisabeth's team.

**MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY**

The mass on Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

**ST JOACHIM'S CARPARK**

The car park on Yuletide Street will be closed from Boxing Day until the end of January. The car park behind the church will be available and is accessible via Crown Street.

**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.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES**

If you have not already done, so please collect your new set of envelopes this weekend. Please take note that the new set only includes single envelopes from January.

**WEEKEND HOSPITALITY**

There will be no hospitality after masses during January.

**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM**

We will be commencing our new Planned Giving year in January. If you would like to join the program, please contact the Parish Office. Giving by envelopes, credit card or direct debit can be arranged through the Office.

For existing givers through the envelope system your new set is available from the churches this weekend if you have not already got them.

If you would like to contribute by internet banking our details are: BSB: 064 – 786; A/c No: 100013625; A/c Name: Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish. Reference: PG "Name"

The Parish Giving app has been set up specifically for parishioners to be electronically connected to their parish for regular or one off giving. Download the app <https://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au/auth/login>

There is also the option of the Tap and Go Machines. These are located at the main door to the churches.

1. Select a monetary value ranging between \$5 to \$50, or a custom amount.
2. Once you have selected your chosen donation amount you will be asked to tap your card to complete the transaction.

Thank you for your support of the parish.



THANK YOU

The members of the Holland Park Mt Gravatt Conference would like to extend the sincere thanks and gratitude to parishioners for the generous support you showed during the recent Christmas Appeal. These funds will go a long way in helping the disadvantaged living in our local community.

To date we have received donations totalling \$ 2,858.

**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.



### VANUATU EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Vanuatu has experienced two earthquakes within 24 hours impacting over 116,000 people and causing significant damage to buildings and infrastructure. The main hospital in Port Vila has sustained extensive damage and is overwhelmed by the mass causalities.

There are hundreds of people have been injured or trapped under rubble and at least 14 people deceased with the death toll expected to continue to rise. People remain fearful of further disaster, as Vanuatu is one of the most susceptible countries to natural disasters such as earthquakes, storm damage, flooding, and tsunamis.

This appeal will provide support to our on the ground partners who are ready to respond to the humanitarian requirements by providing emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support, and recovery efforts.

Please

Donate today: <http://www.caritas.org.au/vanuatu>



**SUPPORT VANUATU EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

Thousands of people have been severely impacted by the earthquake in Vanuatu. Please help provide emergency shelter, food and other essentials, psychosocial support to those who are experiencing hardship.

**DONATE NOW**

[caritas.org.au/Vanuatu](http://caritas.org.au/Vanuatu)  
1800 024 413









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



**POPE FRANCIS**

**BINH NGUYEN**  
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**INFO@TGCMAINTENANCE.COM.AU**

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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**