



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

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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)

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR C

DECEMBER 7TH/8TH, 2024



One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is *The Flower Thrower*. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.

John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all that John currently preaches.

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate but which is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the entirety of life's circumstances.

Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (On Violence, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.

In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LBGTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weill in *Waiting for God* describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us."

Sophie Clements
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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 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.
When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.
The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

PARISH DIARY

Monday, December 9th

*Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, December 11th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, December 12th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, December 13th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, December 14th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 14th

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

Sunday, December 15th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

LIVING gospel

Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

READINGS – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1ST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18

2ND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

PARISH NEWS

WE REJOICE

with the Donald family and the Glanville and Turek and the Burns and Poulton families as they celebrate the baptism of Oliver, Zoe, Micah and Henry in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

ADVENT REFLECTION – HOPE REIGNS

The Advent Reflection Group will continue this Monday night in Parish Centre at 6:30pm. The evening will be led by Lesley van Trier.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, December 10th in the Parish Centre with a 3:30pm start this week.

HOSPITALITY AT ST JOACHIM'S

There will be hospitality after 5:00pm mass at St Joachim's next weekend.

GOD'S WORD DAILY REFLECTIONS 2025

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



and
Reconciliation

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH
6:30PM ST AGNES' CHURCH

A TIME FOR
REFLECTION PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION

REGISTER TODAY

1 Follow the URL (or scan the QR code) for your parish and enter your email address: <https://hollandparkmtgra.flocknote.com/register>

2 Flocknote will email you a secure 4-digit code to verify your email address. Enter this code to begin the registration process. If you are already registered, you can update the information we already have.

3 Register yourself, and your family much like a parish census form. You can enter as much or as little information as you want.

Your information is secure, and we will never share your information with anyone else. For more information, please refer to our Privacy Policy: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/privacy-policy/>



If you are new to the Parish or did not get the opportunity to register on our Parish Census weekend you can do so by logging into Flocknote following the instructions above and complete the details.

One of the features of Flocknote is that you personally can keep your and your family's details up to date. Your login is the email address you supplied when you completed the census.

Flocknote is the ultimate secure solution for managing communication between you and the parish. Parish staff are the only ones who can access the site.

Advent Adoration

SHARING THE LOVE
of Jesus

Thursday December 12, 2024

From 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

At St. Agnes' Church,

1227 Logan Road

CONTACT US

Parish office: 07 33492280
hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

Please bring along a plate
to share for refreshments

9.00am Mass

10.00am Advent Reflections

11.00am Silent Adoration

12.00pm Angelus &

Intercessory Prayers

2.00pm Silent Adoration

3.00pm Mercy Chaplet &

Rosary

4.00pm Refreshments

A Day of Prayer in Advent 2024

A spiritual event hosted by Holland Park Mount Gravatt Catholic Parish as an Advent preparation. All are welcome.

If you plan to attend the Advent Adoration, we ask you fill in the timetable which is situated on the Gifts Table. The idea is to have someone always present during the day.

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 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.

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.



For however you choose to say goodbye...

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**Harvey & Co
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Kieran Harvey, Principal

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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 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.