



HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



PARISH PRIEST

Fr Thomas Varkey

OFFICE STAFF

Dot Lomax

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

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)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

YEAR C

JANUARY 11TH /12TH, 2025

Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity.

His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.'

Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you."

Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity?

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

© Fr Michael Tate

Francis' Focus

Pope Francis draws our attention to a couple of interesting aspects of Jesus' baptism, which offer useful lessons for Christians today.

One of these is his humility. The Pope wants us to reflect on how remarkable it was that sinless Jesus was there among the crowds, 'joining the queue of the penitents, mingling among them.' The Son of God did not separate himself or seek special treatment!

The crowd which Jesus joined therefore shows us something profound about the Incarnation. Being baptised among the common people, Jesus shows us what the Pope termed his 'willingness to immerse himself in the river of humanity.' Even the Lord of All does not lord it over ordinary folk! Nor then should we.

On another occasion, the Pope focuses our attention on Jesus' prayer life. In telling us how the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove, Luke makes it clear that this happened while Jesus was praying. This, the Pope indicates, is an important point worthy of our contemplation: 'Jesus prays.'

'Prayer opens the heaven,' the Pope says, borrowing the image from today's Gospel. He then adds that prayer also 'enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father.'

© Nick Brodie

READINGS FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

PARISH DIARY

Monday, January 13th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 15th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, January 16th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, January 17th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, January 18th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 18th

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

Sunday, January 19th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Historical Context
Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

READINGS – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Sr Ursula O'Dwyer osu, George Zangerle and Juanita D Borromeo,. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, January 14th commencing with a cuppa at 3:30pm followed by meeting at 4:00pm in the parish centre.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARE AND CONCERN GROUP

Are you interested in helping the sick and elderly who are no longer able to do the things they used to do. The parish is interested in developing a group who could assist when the time arises.

Initially, we are looking for help in two areas starting as soon as possible.

The parish looks after the residents of Esida Lodge Aged Care in Mt Gravatt East in the way of visiting on a Monday morning and distributing communion them. Once a month we celebrate mass with the residents and Fr Thomas requires assistance to ensure the residents get to the mass. The current volunteer can no longer continue but will be willing to show someone the ropes.

Fr Thomas visits parishioners who can no longer come to mass on Monday mornings. With an increase in people requiring visitations, we are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to assist by taking communion to them in their homes.

If you feel that this is a ministry that you would like to be involved with, we would appreciate hearing from you. You may speak to Fr Thomas after mass or you can contact the Parish Office on 3349 2280 or by email hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au.



Due to the ongoing success of this fund raising activity, the Parish is now seeking help in the collection on these containers.

Please contact Dot in the Parish office on 07 3349 2280 if you are able to help out with collecting 2 bags every fortnight to drop off at a local recycling centre.

FAREWELL KATE AND GOOD LUCK



This week we farewelled Kate Waymouth who took on the role of Office Coordinator in April 2023. During her time with the parish she has overseen the relocation of St Agnes' OSCH and the establishment of their new spaces, was instrumental in the procurement and installation of the new AV and Sound System for St Joachim's Church and has been managing the ongoing works with regards to the old Presbytery/Parish Office at St Agnes' along with many other smaller projects.

Kate has been a great support to myself and the Finance Council as well as being a much regarded member of the administration team.

On behalf of the Parish, I would like to extend our thanks to Kate and wish her well as she takes on her new role as a Project Manager.

Fr Thomas

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.





JOIN THE GUIDES & WELCOMERS TEAM

Could you be the face of St Stephen's Cathedral that greets and welcomes our many visitors? If you have an interest in history and like being a part of a good team - this could be for you!

We are holding an Information Day at the Cathedral on Thursday February 6th for prospective Guides & Welcomers.

To find out more and register, please email CathedralGandWebne.catholic.net.au or contact the office on 3324 3030



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BRISBANE SINULOG

FEAST OF HOLY CHILD JESUS

SUNDAY, 19 JANUARY 2025, 1.30PM

join us at

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

249 Elizabeth St., Brisbane City QLD

1.30 pm Novena to Sto Nino
2.00 pm Holy Mass
3.15 pm Cathedral Grounds Parade
3.45 pm Sinulog Cultural Presentations

---- please bring a plate ----



Glenn 0468820353

Paul 0450957181

LAY VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING PASTORAL CARE TO THE SICK IN HOSPITALS

Volunteers providing Pastoral Care to the sick in hospitals are invaluable as part of holistic patient care. Centacare provides accredited training for compassionate men and women who would like to explore if this ministry is where God is calling them to practical Christian action in their lives. The next training course will start in February 2025. To express your interest or to find out more about the course and the volunteer role email judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au or phone 3324 3193



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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**