



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

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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 IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

JANUARY 18TH /19TH, 2025

Unsung Heroes

Have you ever visited a great cathedral? Usually, the tabernacle of the Glory of the Real Presence of Our Lord is so far distant from the people that it is practically inaccessible, barely able to be seen. Had the theologians and builders who devised these great edifices read today's gospel? It ends: 'He let his glory be seen.' Where? In a nondescript Galilean village at a wedding feast about to become a disaster for the couple.

This is the message of today's gospel. The Divine Presence is no longer remote and distant from you and me and our everyday concerns. The Divine Presence is as close as if we were all at a wedding feast together.

So, what is the story? Something is in danger of going horribly wrong. A young couple are about to be the talk of the village for generations to come. The wine is running out. A fiasco is impending. So, we need a hero to step in and save the situation.

Who is the hero, or perhaps the heroes, who will save the day? Jesus is a very good candidate. He ended up coming to the rescue. And Catholics would emphasise the 'Mother of Jesus'. She persisted in the face of this retort from her son: 'Woman, what is this to me?' Yes, she was the heroine of the story.

But, the unsung heroes are ... the servants. With all due respect, Jesus and Mary did what Jesus and Mary do. But the servants took a huge risk. They are going to look utterly stupid if they do what this wedding guest tells them and end up drawing mere water out of the jars to give to the steward. They took a huge risk by doing exactly what this stranger told them to do, exactly. In fact they were like children. If one asks a ten year old boy to fill a glass, he will fill it to the brim just to test you. The gospel tells us that Jesus said: 'Fill the jars with water' and the response is said to be 'they filled them to the brim'. And then they started to ladle it out and found they were ladling out 'far better wine than anything served before' and the situation was saved.

How is the Divine Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ going to come into the everyday occurrences of daily life? Not with great pyrotechnics of thunder and lightning, but with you and with me doing our best to follow what Jesus asks us to do, and sometimes that requires us to become childlike again and to do what he asks exactly. You and I are servants. We are the servants.

This requires a certain naivety, and a certain refusal to be embarrassed in front of the crowd for whom what you are doing may seem ridiculous. One or two of you may get the call to do something extreme – filling to the brim – in your imitation of Jesus. Perhaps like St Francis of Assisi, discarding his fine clothes (his father was a cloth merchant) and following Jesus in utter poverty. But for most of us, it will all happen in the usual round of life.

It might be forgiving someone in the family where others in the family think you are fully justified in keeping a cold distance. It might be caring for the life of a newly conceived or very sick child or elderly parent where the world might suggest more self-serving alternatives. It might be by being generous, overly generous, with your time or money; time or money which could be spent on yourself, which is what the world expects.

There is a myriad of ways, foolish in the eyes of the crowd, but when you do it like the servants ladling the liquid from those huge pots, you allow the Divine Presence of Our Lord to save the situation. Then, Cana is there. The creative power of Jesus Christ is there. The Divine Glory is seen. The Divine Glory is at work among us.

© Fr Michael Tate

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 IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch.

The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.

You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded';

for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding.

Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you..

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE: Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. (R.)

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!!

GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

PARISH DIARY

Monday, January 20th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 22nd

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, January 23rd

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, January 24th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, January 25th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 25th

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

Sunday, January 26th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

**DEAR YOUNG
PEOPLE,
DO NOT BURY YOUR
TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT
GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU!
DO NOT BE AFRAID
TO DREAM OF
GREAT
THINGS!**
POPE FRANCIS



PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Desiree Nevis and Sr Ursula O'Dwyer OSU. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

with the Stewart and the Kowalik and Vici families as they celebrate the baptism of Vincent and Roman in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Maureen's team.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Joachim's team - Tuesday, January 21st.

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.

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.

Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish

We're trying to be more sustainable, but we need your help!

Volunteers Welcome!

When visiting a depot use our QR code or account number

Team Member number
C11371867

Fund raising towards MCBS Missions & Parish Hospitality

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.



ARE YOU SEEKING SOME SPIRITUAL DIRECTION OR SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT?

**THERE IS A LIST OF DIRECTORS ON OFFER IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE AND THESE CAN BE ACCESSED EASILY VIA
THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

<https://bit.ly/3QwPIpSPiRiTUALDiRection>

PORTUGAL, SPAIN, FRANCE & ITALY

**17
DAYS**

Our Lady of Lourdes Platinum Jubilee Pilgrimage

In this dedicated Jubilee year, be inspired to encounter the pathways of some of the Church's greatest saints, from the apparition village of Fatima, through to the walled city of Avila, onto Santo Domingo de Silos, Loyola and Lourdes, this will truly be a pilgrimage so full of grace. Continue onto Rome and be inspired by Sts Peter and Paul in the Eternal City, where we cross the threshold of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica and receive the Jubilee blessing.

DEPARTS MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2025 • 14 NIGHTS / 17 DAYS

Lisbon (1 night) • Santarem • Fatima (2 nights) • Salamanca • Alba de Tormes
• Avila (2 nights) • Segovia • Caleruega • Santo Domingo de Silos (1 night) • Loyola
• Lourdes (3 nights) • Rome - Jubilee (5 nights)



Accompanied by
Fr Enoch Iheme

 **Realtalk**

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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 pmHoly Mass
3.15 pm Cathedral Grounds Parade
3.45 pm ...Sinulog Cultural Presentations
---- please bring a plate ----

 Glenn 0468820353
Paul 0450957181



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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.