



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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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 IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

JANUARY 25TH /26TH, 2025

It is all about today

Returning home after more than eleven years 'on mission' overseas has been a challenging and confronting experience. So much has changed. I've changed. Society has changed. The Church has changed. So much is unfamiliar to me and I'm 'unknown'. I feel like a foreigner in the country I call home.

Luke portrays something similar in the gospel. After being away, Jesus has returned home for a visit. Some people will remember him growing up in Nazareth. Others will know his parents. Others may have benefitted from his carpentry skills. Others may be curious or uncertain about why he's returned. Others may treat him with suspicion if he's unknown to them.

He's not some 'local lad' who's come home after travelling or working away. He has a reputation and it's gone ahead of him. He's somewhat of a 'celebrity'. Will he live up to his reputation? Will he be as wise as they've heard? Will he say or do something special in his home town? Will he challenge them to live differently and change their way of life?

As expected, Jesus goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath, where he would have spent time as a boy and young man. He's handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and he reads: "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour."

Jesus then says something that disturbs and challenges those who are gathered: "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen." Surely he's not suggesting that he is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy? The people were expecting the Messiah sometime in the future. They can't believe that the time is now. The Messiah is there in their midst! Naturally, they can't comprehend what's just unfolded in their presence. In time, they will want him to prove his prophetic words through special deeds and miraculous signs.

"Today" has really disturbed them. Jesus says nothing about the future. Rather, he claims that he has the power to transform the present. Good times are not some future dream. They are here now, and the Kingdom of God is among them. Today is what counts. Today grace abounds. Today the kingdom is realised. Today God is revealed.

"Today" is the very reason that this gospel challenged the people of Jesus' home town, and it challenges us to be open to the life of Christ here and now, and to live our lives to the full. The fulfilment of God's promise today is important for us to understand and embrace, so that we'll not miss the grace of God's saving action in the simple, ordinary and everyday experiences and encounters of our lives.

David Hore CSsR

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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 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

PARISH DIARY

Monday, January 27th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 29th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, January 30th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, January 31st

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, February 1st

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

Presentation of the Lord

Saturday, February 1st

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

Sunday, February 2nd

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

JUBILEE YEAR 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE.



In front of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, on 9 May 2024, Pope Francis delivered his papal

bull *Spes Non Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint) declaring that 2025 would be a year of Jubilee. The Holy Door was opened on 24 December 2024, and will close on 6 January 2026.

A Year of Jubilee is a special time for remission of sins and universal pardon. It is a time of pilgrimage, reconciliation and spiritual renewal that occurs every 25 years. In special cases, the Pope may call for an extraordinary year of Jubilee. This occurred in 2016 when Pope Francis announced a Holy Year of Mercy, to highlight the Catholic Church's mission to be a witness of mercy which is "the beating heart of the Gospel".

READINGS – PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

1ST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

2ND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Desiree Nevis. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, January 28th commencing at 4:00pm in the Parish Centre.

MEALS ON WHEELS

St Agnes' next roster day is Thursday, January 30th. Please advise the MOW kitchen on 3397 9150 of your availability.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)



All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' next Sunday, February 2nd. All parents are very welcome however children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality after the 9:00am mass next Sunday.

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Monday, February 3rd join other parishioners for morning tea and fellowship at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone is welcome and you are free to just turn up.

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.

PARISH YOUTH MASS

The Youth-led Mass and gathering will resume on Sunday, 9th February, at 6pm Mass at St. Agnes' Church. We warmly welcome back our youth to lead this Mass and look forward to celebrating their gifts and talents together.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

– Proverbs 22:6

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will resume next Sunday, Feb 2nd, 9am, St Agnes' Church. It is held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month during school term. This is a special time during Mass for children to experience the Gospel in a way that is meaningful to them.

We have a small dedicated team of volunteers who assist in this ministry, and we need more volunteers to ensure this ministry can continue. If you attend the 9am Mass, could you please consider helping once a month?

No prior experience is required—just bring your enthusiasm to help nurture and grow the children's faith. Each team consists of two people, so you won't be alone. Feel free to sit in on any Children's Liturgy to see how it works.

This is a wonderful opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our young ones and share the joy of faith with the next generation. Please consider offering your support!

How to Volunteer: If you're interested in supporting this ministry and making a difference, please contact Mary at sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au or phone the Parish Office and speak to Dot or Mary advising your interest.

Together, let us continue, to share and pass on our faith to our children, for they are the future of our Church.

Australia Day Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the blessings of this land and its people.

We honour the First Nations peoples and pray for reconciliation and unity.

Guide our leaders with wisdom and help us care for the vulnerable and Your creation.

May we work together for peace, justice, and the common good. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Our Lady, Help of Christians,
Patroness of Australia, pray for us.

A Prayer to St. Agnes, Patroness of Our Parish

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of St. Agnes, the patroness of our Holland Park Mount Gravatt Parish.

Through her example of unwavering faith, purity, and courage, Inspire us to grow in holiness and deepen our love for You and one another.

St. Agnes, intercede for our parish community,
That we may be united in faith and strengthened in our mission to serve.
Guide us to follow Christ with the same devotion and trust that you showed.

Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.



SCHOOL CHAPLAIN - MACKENZIE

This role is for a 2 day per week paid position.

Applicants should have a –

New Applicant Form filled in-

<https://forms.office.com/r/TBCscKbvCb>; Photo ID, Current resume, Endorsement letter from a Local Church they attend, Transcripts of a Certificate IV in chaplaincy, youth work, community services, or ministry or equivalent. (Equivalent study contain these three units: CHCCS016 Respond to client needs, CHCMHS001 Work with people with mental health issues & CHCYTH013 Engage Respectfully With Young People). **Applicant should also be able to obtain – Blue Card.**

More details are available in the churches.

ACU CLEMENTE PROGRAM – COMMENCING FEBRUARY 2025

Australian Catholic University in partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul, Sisters of Mercy, Common Ground and Micah Projects is offering a free Certificate of Liberal ARTS to people in the community who have experienced disruption to their education, or who are experiencing social isolation or disadvantage and would like to re-engage with community and learning.

To apply, you must be able to: -

- Commit to 4 hours attendance each week for a 12 week program
- Write a paragraph
- Read and discuss a newspaper article

Only one subject is taken at a time, and a mentor is provided.

The program cohort is diverse in age (17 to 75 years), abilities and cultural and social backgrounds. The program is also inclusive of people who have been unable to access tertiary education in Australia due to their visa status.

Two subjects will be offered: -

Philosophy/Ethics - South Brisbane –

Sociology - ACU campus, Banyo Both of the above units are first-year mainstream units.

For more information about the program or to apply, please contact: *Alice Bettles* on 0419 502 531 or *Janine Quine* on 0432 607 751 .



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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**