



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

P O Box 281

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

TELEPHONE: 07 3349 2280

E: hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au

PAGER: 07 3521 8025

WEBSITE:

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)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

YEAR C

JANUARY 4TH / 5TH, 2025

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.

There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Francis' Focus

In reflecting on the Gospel reading for Epiphany, Pope Francis draws our attention to the Magi's humility. It 'seems a contradiction,' he says, for these 'wise, rich, educated' men to lower themselves before a baby!

'The Magi humbled themselves before the unheard-of logic of God,' the Pope points out. 'They welcomed the Lord not the way they had imagined him to be, but as he was, small and poor.'

As the Pope says, this episode provides us with an important example. The Magi put aside their own ideas and expectations. They responded to the reality before them, rather than any preconceptions in their own minds. They knew they were looking for something meaningful and were open to finding it in an unexpected person and place.

The humility of the Magi, the Pope intimates, has much to teach the Church today. As it embarks on the next stages of its pilgrimage through time, it must be open to surprises.

In this light, the Pope asks us to reflect on how well we humble ourselves before Jesus today. 'Do I know how to set aside my own perspective to embrace that of God and others?' he asks. Do we let habit become pride?

© Nick Brodie

READINGS FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FIRST READING

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.
Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.
Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.
At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to
you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.
In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.
The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.
For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he
meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge
of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to
his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations;
it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of
the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ
Jesus, through the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King
Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant
king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to
do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was
the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes
of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At
Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the
exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem.
'Go and find out all about the child,' he said, 'and when you have found him,
let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to
what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star
they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child
was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house
they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him
homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and
frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to
Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

PARISH DIARY

Monday, January 6th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, January 8th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, January 9th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, January 10th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, January 11th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, January 11th

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

Sunday, January 12th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

gospel focus

Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

READINGS – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

1ST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

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

GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

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

COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

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.

PLANNED GIVING

The new Planned Giving program starts this weekend. There will be only one collection at masses moving forward which will be occur at the time of the Offertory.

WEEKEND HOSPITALITY

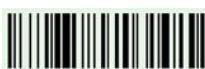
There will be no hospitality after masses during January.



We are wanting to provide an opportunity for our community to benefit from the parish recycling program. To do this we are seeking donations of bottles, cans and other containers to recycle through the Containers for Change program.

<https://www.containersforchange.com.au>

The Parish has now set up a wheelie bin to be placed next to the Parish office on Sundays during mass times.



Team Member number
C11371867

Alternatively, you can use our client number to deposit the return into our containers for change account when you are recycling at the depot. In addition, if you are holding a function or have large amounts of containers to recycle the Parish can make pick up arrangements.

The Parish would like to support the mission programs of the MCBS Congregation that Father Thomas is a member of. A share of the funds raised through Containers for Change will go towards this.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL AT ST JOACHIM'S



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.



THE BEATITUDES MINI RETREAT

PRESENTED BY FR NEV

Saturday 18th January 2025
10am - 12pm followed by lunch.

St Oliver Plunkett Church Hall,
21 Beauvardia St, Cannon Hill.

RSVP: David and Maria
Email: gldbookings@wwme.org.au; Ph: 0481 307 821

Lunch: Please advise any dietary requirements for lunch.



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



MOOGERAH PASSION PLAY AUDITIONS

4 Little High St, Boonah QLD 4310

3PM-6 PM

Online Registration:

<https://moogerahpassionplay.org.au/contact/>

Further Information: Contact our Team on 0499 277 763

JAN 18, 2025



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY
of DIVINITY

2025 Enrolments are open

*Study scripture, theology, pastoral ministry
and spirituality*

- Introductory or further studies
- Face-to-face or online modes
- Audit, undergraduate or postgraduate level

For more information: view our [2025 Prospectus](http://2025.Prospectus.ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/)
ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/

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



For however you choose to say goodbye...

*Burial, Cremation, Church or Chapel
Pre-arrangements & Funeral Bonds*

An Outreach of the Catholic Church

Phone: 07 3293 0555



www.holycrossfunerals.com

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



POPE FRANCIS



**BINH NGUYEN
MOB: 0452 162 656
QBCC:15 113 118
ABN: 82 674 256 581**

INFO@TGCMAINTENANCE.COM.AU

*** CARPENTRY *DECKS * PATIOS *
KITCHEN AND BATHROOM RENOVATIONS
* CARPORTS * GARAGES
DOMESTIC | COMMERCIAL**

**Harvey & Co
Lawyers**

Kieran Harvey, Principal

- ❖ Property
- ❖ Wills & Estates
- ❖ Commercial

07 5554 6994
0408 640 008
enquiries@harvelylawyers.com.au

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**