



# HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



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**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**  
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(Safeguarding purposes only)

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**YEAR C**

**JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> /5<sup>TH</sup>, 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.

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## 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

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 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

**Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

**Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

**Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

2<sup>ND</sup> 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 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.

## 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.



worldwide  
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encounter

## THE BEATITUDES MINI RETREAT

PRESENTED BY FR NEV

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

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

RSVP: David and Maria

Email: [gldbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:gldbookings@wwme.org.au); Ph: 0481 307 821

Lunch: Please advise any dietary requirements for lunch.

## CHRISTMAS VIGIL AT ST JOACHIM'S





**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 [CathedralGandW@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:CathedralGandW@bne.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**



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For more information: view our [2025 Prospectus](https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/) [ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/](https://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](mailto:judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au) or phone 3324 3193



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Shop 4, 11 Kuring Gai Avenue, Tarragindi

### 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.