



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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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)

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

FEBRUARY 22ND/23RD, 2025

No such thing as too much love

In the Book of Samuel, we find two mortal enemies, David and Saul, in conflict. Saul is the anointed King of Judah and David has been anointed to succeed him. What happens next is an all too familiar human story. David is jealous of Saul's power; Saul is suspicious of David's motives.

How often family feuds and human relations take on these negative forces of jealousy and suspicion, resulting in the breakdown of relationships. We also see this operating at the international level between ethnic groups and nations, resulting in open conflict and even warfare.

To return to the story of King Saul and the yet-to-be appointed King David, there is a glimmer of light.

Previously, in a rage, Saul had attempted to kill David by throwing a javelin at him! In this week's story, David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but relents. Choosing not to kill your enemy is a good first step! Even here we note David's motives are not entirely pure. He acts partly out of guilt, fearing divine anger if he was to kill one of God's anointed.

However, fear of God has its role as a pathway to a more authentic and loving life.

Let us now compare this approach to the words of Jesus in the gospel: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you". At a logical level, Jesus' reasoning is difficult to dispute: "If you only love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?" No, says Jesus, you must overcome all those narrow views of love and forgiveness: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate". Moreover, "don't judge others, don't condemn, always forgive".

We may complain that Jesus is asking too much of us! Surely all this love and forgiveness will be seen as pure weakness, leading us to being eaten up, spewed out and trodden underfoot by our enemies! Yet, something within us knows we must break the cycle of violence and vengeance if we are to achieve peace, harmony and goodwill among people and nations. This is the way of the gospel as lived and proclaimed by Jesus.

This is also the centre-point of Pope Francis' encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020), where Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to insist that love must go beyond tribe, family and nation to include stranger, migrant and refugee. We also note Francis' joint statement with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi (2019) which acknowledged that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters".

In today's world, 'loving your enemy' is best expressed in terms of commitment to dialogue and mutual respect among peoples of diverse religions and cultures. This enables us to open our hearts to become people of love, service and compassion.

This way, we allow God's love to enter our lives and world, mindful of Jesus' words: "The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back!"

Gerard Hall SM
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READINGS FOR 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

1 Samuel: 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.'

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

PARISH DIARY

Monday, February 24th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, February 26th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, February 27th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, February 28th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, March 1st

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, March 1st

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

Sunday, March 2nd

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Jubilee Pledge

We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.



READINGS – 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1ST READING: Sirach 27:4-7

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

GOSPEL: Luke 6:39-45

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Allan Kavanagh and Makisi Manu. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, February 25th commencing at 4:00pm in the parish centre.

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, March 2nd. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.



Each year a series of talks online are available to reflect on the Sunday readings during Lent. The speakers are some of our best scripture scholars in Melbourne.

This year we would like to invite anyone interested to come to the Parish office at St. Agnes on a Tuesday from 6 – 7.30pm to listen to the talk together and share some reflections. It begins on Tuesday 4th March.

Please sign your name on the sheet on the table near the door of the church if you would like to come.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2025

The Cook Islands
'I made you wonderful'



Prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, World Day of Prayer will this year be hosted by the Broadwater Road Uniting Church.

Friday, March 7th
10:30am
481 Broadwater Road,
Mansfield.

Our parish received wonderful support when we hosted this event last year, so let us give that same support to our friends at Broadwater Road Uniting Church. Remember men are most welcome to attend.

If you would like any information please contact Trish O'Brien , 0434 533 157



The Parish has set up a Container for Change initiative to provide an opportunity for you to be part of our recycling program. For this we are seeking donations of bottles, cans and other containers to recycle through the program.

You can drop your donations into the parish office or if you are attending mass on the weekend there are containers outside each of the churches for you to use

Alternatively, you can use our client number (C11371867) to deposit the return into our Containers for Change account when you are recycling at the depot.

Thank you



JUBILEE 2025 – OPENING THE DOORS OF OUR CHURCHES



A Jubilee Year is a special year of grace and conversion when the Catholic Church encourages the faithful to renew their faith. It's a time for prayer, pilgrimage, and sacramental repentance.

Our parish will mark the start of our Jubilee Year with a special Mass on **Saturday, 1st March at the 5pm Mass at St. Joachim's and Sunday, 2nd March at the 9am Mass at St. Agnes**.

For this weekend only, the 7.30am and 6pm Masses will be cancelled.

Fr Thomas will symbolically open the door of each church and a Jubilee candle will be lit for our continued prayer for the world.

Following the 5:00pm mass we will be offering a light supper and refreshments and after the 9:00am mass there will be morning tea. We encourage parishioners to stay and enjoy the company of each other.

WELCOME
NEW PARISHIONERS



If you have recently joined our Parish we welcome you to our community. So that we can keep up-to-date on who is part of our parish we ask that you consider registering via our secure, online portal of Flocknote.

You can register using the following link or by scanning the QR code.

<https://hollandparkmtgra.flocknote.com/register>

Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Catholic Parish
welcomes you all to
Shrove Tuesday Ecumenical Service
with
Prayer, Scripture, Song and Reflections.

Tuesday 4th March at 6:30pm

St Martin's Catholic Church

Cnr Chester Rd and Logan Rd

Eight Mile Plains

Please join us for light refreshments (pancakes of course) afterwards



A Living Hope - Guided Retreat

An opportunity to embrace this Jubilee year of Hope with a weekend guided retreat facilitated by the Adult Formation team at Archdiocesan Ministries. This weekend is a chance to come away from the busyness of life, to take time to be in the presence of God and be revitalised in your faith.

When: Friday 4 - Sunday 6 April 2025

Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre - 267 Wellington Street, Ormiston

Cost: \$250 per person live-out/ \$450 per person live-in

To find out more and register your attendance, please visit tinyurl.com/guidedretreat25

**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/3QwpIdpspiritualdirection>



Scan the QR code
to find out more, or call 1300 133 544
www.vocationbrisbane.com
Follow us on socials
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I WILL LIFT MY EYES AN EVENING CONCERT WITH TONY ALONSO

All are invited to an uplifting concert by internationally renowned USA Catholic composer & recording artist Tony Alonso. Tony will be joined by St Laurence's College students and a Combined Parishes Choir.

• 6.30 pm – 8:00 pm, Friday 16 May 2025 • St Laurence's College, South Brisbane • \$20.00.

To purchase tickets: Click [Tony Alonso Tickets](#) or email liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au



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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**