



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:
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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)

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

MARCH 1ST/2ND 2025

Dear Friends,

With great joy and anticipation, we embrace the Jubilee Year 2025, a sacred time proclaimed by Pope Francis under the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope."

A Jubilee is more than a celebration – it is a spiritual journey, a pilgrimage of the heart, calling us to renew our faith, deepen our hope, and strengthen our love for God and one another. In a world so often marked by uncertainty and struggle, we are reminded that hope is not mere optimism; it is rooted in the unwavering promise of God's presence and grace.

As a parish community, this Jubilee invites us to walk together – to become true pilgrims of hope. Whether through prayer, acts of charity, or moments of reflection, let us open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and allow this year to inspire us to build bridges of peace and compassion.

This weekend, we gather as one family of faith to celebrate this special moment – the opening of the Jubilee Year 2025. In this spirit of renewal and grace, we will mark this occasion with a special Jubilee Mass. As part of the celebration, we will symbolically open the door – a powerful reminder of Christ, who is the Door to salvation and the source of our hope.

We will also light the Jubilee candle, a sign of Christ's light guiding us through this year of grace. Just as a single flame can pierce the darkness, may our collective faith and hope shine brightly in our parish and beyond.

Together, we will pray the Jubilee Prayer, uniting our voices with Catholics around the world, asking the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth and inspire us to be true pilgrims of hope.

As we journey through this Jubilee year, we are also preparing our hearts for the season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, 5th March 2025, we will begin this sacred time of reflection and repentance. I warmly encourage you to join our Lenten Reflection Group every Tuesday during Lent, starting 4th March 2025. These gatherings will be an opportunity to pause, pray, and deepen our understanding of God's call to conversion and hope.

I request you to keep Pope Francis in your prayers, asking the Lord to grant him strength and healing. May he continue to lead us with faith and courage, as we journey together in hope.

May this Jubilee be a time of renewal for our parish, a time to rediscover the joy of the Gospel, and a time to share the light of Christ with the world. Let us journey together, guided by hope, trusting that the Lord walks beside us every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas

READINGS FOR 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

PARISH DIARY

Monday, March 3rd

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 5th Ash Wednesday

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's
Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 6th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, March 7th (includes Anointing of the Sick)

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, March 8th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 8th

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

Sunday, March 9th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
Youth Mass +

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of our journey we are all pilgrims of hope brought together by your love and your wish that we may all be one.

We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are called to greater justice and care for our common home that we may Unite Against Poverty.

May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed and the renewal of creation.

May our compassionate minds and generous hearts help bring about a world where all can live in peace.

May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer bring us closer to your loving heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus.
Amen

READINGS – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

1ST READING: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

2ND READING: Romans 10:8-13

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

We remember Fr Leo Burke and Kerri Mulhall. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)

All children are invited to join us for CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' TODAY. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A baptism preparation evening for families who are having their child baptised in the parish is being held on Wednesday, March 5th commencing 7:00pm in the parish centre. Ring the parish office to register.

MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday March 7th will include an Anointing of the Sick.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

From Friday, March 14th Stations of the Cross will be held at St Joachim's after the regular 9:00am mass during Lent.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

The Autumn edition of the Australian Catholic magazine is available in the churches this weekend.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. By taking home a Project Compassion donation box or envelope, you'll be answering the Gospels' call to care for our global family and walk alongside the most vulnerable.

Your generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to communities facing poverty, food insecurity, lack of education, and water shortages, while building resilience against future challenges. Together, through faith and action, we can bring compassion and opportunity to those most in need.



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



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.

SUNDAY MARCH 9TH

**6:00PM ST AGNES
CHURCH**



The mass will be followed by hospitality and a meeting. All young members of our parish are invited and encouraged to come along and check it out.



Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart

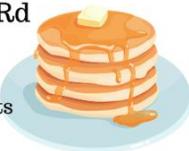
**Catholic Parish
welcomes you all to**



**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

If any parishioner is planning on attending this event Upper Mt Gravatt Wishart Parish Office would appreciate hearing from you as they would like to include a people from other communities in the liturgy. Please call Pauline Thomas, 3849 7158.

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 info please contact Trish O'Brien , 0434 533 157

WELCOME
NEW PARISHIONERS



We love
having you as part of our Flock



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://hollandparkmgra.flocknote.com/register>

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

Palms International Volunteering formerly known as Palms Australia invites you to join an intimate group of just eight to twelve travellers for an extraordinary journey that goes far beyond typical tourism.

Our Encounters program; *Timor-Leste from July 8-19, 2025 and Samoa from 27th September to 4th October 2025* offers you:

- Authentic connections with local communities and Palms Australia partners
- Unique insights into sustainable development initiatives
- Cultural immersion experiences you won't find anywhere else
- Expert local guides sharing hidden historical sites and natural wonders
- Delicious local cuisine and comfortable community guesthouses

At \$3,500, your Encounter includes accommodation, meals, activities, expert guides, visas, and in-country transportation. This is an opportunity to understand how you can contribute to reducing global poverty while experiencing the genuine warmth and richness of Timorese and Samoan culture.

Our comprehensive program includes:

- Pre-departure preparation materials
- Fully guided in-country experience
- Post-trip engagement opportunities

Spaces are limited to ensure an intimate experience. Reserve your place today by clicking on the link: <https://palms.org.au/encounters/> or calling us at (02) 9560 5333.



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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**