



# HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



**PARISH PRIEST**  
Fr Thomas Varkey

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Dot Lomax

**PASTORAL COORDINATORS**  
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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:**  
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**PARISH SCHOOLS**  
St Agnes' School  
07 3349 5130  
St Joachim's School  
07 3397 9087

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL WELFARE**  
1800 846 643

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(Safeguarding purposes only)

**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**YEAR C**

**MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>/23<sup>RD</sup>, 2025**

## **Leave it one more year; it may bear fruit**

As we settle into our Lenten journey, the first two readings of today's liturgy remind us of our destination. And the gospel reading brings us the advice of Jesus to be alert, ready to enjoy the blessings that can be ours at the end of the journey.

The reading from Exodus is one of the most significant texts of the Old Testament – a graphic summary, in fact, of old Israel's faith. That faith derived its definitive shape under the leadership of Moses; in the name of God, he led the people out of slavery; as a prophet called by God, he made them aware that this deliverance was the work of the living God, revealed to them as the champion of the oppressed – in stark contrast to the gods of other peoples, venerated as the patrons of oppressive regimes. This breakthrough revelation is summed up in the divine name, Yahweh ('I AM WHO I AM'). The divine being affirmed in this name is an active-being-present ('I will be with you; I will express all that I am in what I shall do for you'). The call of Moses takes place at the Mountain of Horeb (another name for Sinai), where God's covenant with the liberated people will be solemnised – calling them to bring to the whole world the good news of God's generous and merciful ways.

Thirteen centuries later, standing in the fullness of light brought by the Paschal Mystery, Paul writes to the Corinthians, confidently interpreting the Exodus and Covenant of old Israel as a foreshadowing – or type – of the final liberation of humanity in the Risen Lord. And he initiates a Christian tradition that finds this foreshadowing in the details of the Old Testament story: passing through the sea to freedom – a foreshadowing of Baptism; the miraculous food and drink provided in the wilderness – a foreshadowing of the Eucharist; the rock providing miraculous water – a symbol of Christ. This dramatic interpretation Paul uses, however, as the lead-up to an admonition: those whom God liberated in the first Exodus 'failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert'. Their fate is a 'warning' to the Corinthian community – torn apart by disputes.

Paul's admonition serves as an introduction to the down to earth advice the Lord himself has for us in the gospel reading. News of catastrophes leads thoughtful people to reflect upon the meaning of life. Jesus warns against the common temptation to interpret the designs of God in such events. They should be a reminder to put our lives in order: 'Unless you repent you will all perish'.

Another Lent! How many Lenten journeys have we made – and with what profit to show? How many Lents will we see in the future? Luke – sensitive to the fullness of the Good News brought by the Saviour – links Jesus' call to conversion with the parable of the barren fig tree. As we ponder Lent's call to a more generous Christian commitment, we do so in the presence of the compassionate and patient God revealed to us in Jesus Christ: 'Leave it; it may bear fruit'.

John Thornhill sm  
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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 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

### FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

### 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 does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

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

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

## PARISH DIARY

### Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Mass 8:00am

St Joachim's

### Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

### Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

### Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am

St Joachim's

### Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 4:30pm

St Joachim's

### 4th Sunday of Lent

### Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Mass (Vigil) 5:00pm

St Joachim's

### Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am

St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am

St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm

St Agnes'

## GOSPEL FOCUS

### Repent

*Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart - to take on an attitude of compassion.*



## READINGS – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Joshua 5:9-12

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Virgil Hayes . May he rest in the peace of Christ.

### COUNTERS

Elisabeth's team.

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> commencing at 4:00pm in the parish centre.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday morning following the regular 9:00am mass.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation will be held at St Agnes' Church on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> commencing 6:00pm. **Please note that there will no Reconciliation held on Holy Saturday prior to the Vigil.**

### A LENTEN GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

This guide is available from the churches this weekend. You will find them on the tables in the middle/back of churches.

### CHRISM MASS – A CELEBRATION FOR THE WHOLE ARCHDIOCESE

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites parishioners to the annual Chrism Mass on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> commencing 7:00pm in the Cathedral of Stephen. Car parking will be available after 6:00pm. Supper will follow mass.

### ANNUAL HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

Once again, we will be conducting our annual clothing collection for the homeless in support of Emmanuel City Mission, South Brisbane. Donations can be brought to the weekend masses, Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday or be dropped into the Parish Office.

Emmanuel is a lay-led Catholic mission community in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INVITATION TO REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION



Registration **NOW OPEN**

The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is open to all children in year four (4) and above who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Preparation for the Sacrament of First Communion **begins the end of April.**

To secure your place or for more information contact:

Mary at [sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:sacpr.hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Registration close Monday 7 April 2025.**

## Do You Want To Fast This Lent?



(In the Words of Pope Francis...)

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Source: USCCB.org

**How am I going with my Lenten fasting?**

## Lenten Adoration

Friday March 28, 2025

From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

At St. Joachim's Church,  
Holland Park West

### CONTACT US

Parish office: 07 33492280  
[hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

Please bring along a plate  
to share for refreshments

**A Day of Prayer in Lent 2025**

A spiritual event hosted by Holland Park Mount Gravatt Catholic Parish as an Lenten preparation. All are welcome.

### SHARING THE MERCY of Jesus

9.00am Mass

10.00am Adoration & Rosary

11.00am Stations of the Cross

12.00pm Angelus &

Intercessory Prayers

2.00pm Silent Adoration

3.00pm Mercy Chaplet &  
Spiritual Talk

3.45pm Benediction of the  
Blessed Sacrament

4:00pm Refreshments

## How nice is a clean church?

Would you like your church looking spick and span for Easter?  
Come along and help.

When: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April

Where: St. Joachim's and St. Agnes' churches (choose)

Time: 8am to 11am (followed by morning tea).

Let's work together and have some fun!!

See you on the 5<sup>th</sup> !!!

Please let us know you are coming.

Phone 3349 2280

### AND THERE'S MORE !!

Calling all brass cleaners!

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 9am at St. Joachims.

Let us know you are coming.



## HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

Monday	2nd Rite of Reconciliation	Monday April 7	6:00pm	St Agnes'
Sunday	Palm Sunday	Sunday April 13	Regular Mass Timetable	
Holy Thursday	Mass of the Lord's Supper	Thursday April 17	6:30pm	St Joachim's
Good Friday	Stations of the Cross	Friday April 18	10:00am	St Joachim's
	The Lord's Passion	Friday April 18	3:00pm	St Agnes'
Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil	Saturday April 19	6:30pm	St Joachim's
<b>There will be no reconciliation available prior to the Vigil Mass</b>				
Easter Sunday	Mass	Sunday April 20	7:30am	St Joachim's
		Sunday April 20	9:00am	St Agnes'

(PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL NOT BE A 6PM MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY)



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### 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 safely 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.