



# HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



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St Agnes' Church  
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Mt Gravatt

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday – Friday  
8:30am – 4:00pm

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(Safeguarding purposes only)

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**YEAR C**

**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>/30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

## Your brother was dead and has come to life.

Yes, you have heard today's Gospel parable before, but did you ever realise that the point of the parable is not the younger son who wastes his father's money? The story sets the scene for the introduction of the second son, the older "stay-at-home" brother. To understand this parable, take notice of the context. Jesus is at a meal surrounded by tax collectors and sinners, people just like the younger son. The good, religious people of Jesus' time are scandalised by this behaviour. They complain about Jesus' dinner companions. The parable is directed to them. They are like the older son in the story. Their lives have been faithful to their Jewish Law and now Jesus, apparently a man of God, spends more time with outcasts and sinners. "What about us?" they complain.

But notice how they miss the point. The older son has been living a sterile life, not really in relationship with this father. He has been like a "slave" and he distances himself from his father and his brother – "this son of yours". Even though he stayed at home, his relationships are dead. It is the younger son who discovers a living and loving father when he knows he doesn't deserve one.

The father's love is a gift. Neither son earns it, nor deserves it. God's love is like this - totally, even irrationally given. This is the love that Jesus reveals as he lives out God's welcome to all. The father in the parable welcomes both sons and invites both to join the celebration. We are all freely invited into the kin-dom of God, but we cannot be choosy about our table companions.

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## Francis' Focus

Pope Francis says that today's Gospel parable 'leads us to the heart of God'. On the one hand, it shows us that 'God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness.' What the prodigal son's Father shows us is God's boundless mercy.

But on the other hand, the parable also shows how easily we humans can slip into what the Pope calls 'the indignation of the elder son'. If we do not see God as our merciful Father, then we can easily fall into 'living a distant religion, made of prohibitions and duties.' When we judge and exclude, we try to limit God's mercy.

Falling into that mindset, we lose sight of our relatedness. We can become like the resentful elder son who calls his own brother 'this son of yours'.

To combat this mindset of 'rigidity towards our neighbour' the Pope suggests that, like the Father, we 'make merry and rejoice'. We should try to 'demonstrate our closeness to those who repent or who are on the way, to those who are in crisis or who are far away ... we have to offer them a warm welcome that encourages them to go ahead.'

In our lives, we should always treat others without judgment. And in our churches, we should always warmly welcome them home.

© 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 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

### FIRST READING

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response:** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.

### SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

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

### GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

## PARISH DIARY

Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

Mass 8:00am  
St Joachim's

Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Mass 9:00am  
St Joachim's

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Reconciliation 4:30pm  
St Joachim's

5th Sunday of Lent

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

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

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Mass 7:30am  
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am  
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm  
St Agnes'

Have you thought?

*The Prodigal*

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word prodigal is in relations to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

## READINGS – 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: Philippians 3:8-14

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

## PARISH NEWS

### WE REMEMBER

We remember Joyce Lehman and Terry Illidge. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

### COUNTERS

Robyn's team.

### LENTE PROGRAM

The Lenten Program continues this Tuesday from 6 – 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

### MASS OF ANOINTING AND HOSPITALITY

The mass on Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> will include an Anointing of the Sick. This will be followed by hospitality.

### COFFEE AND CHAT

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at BrizStar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza commencing 10:00am. Everyone welcome.

### 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, April 6th. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

### 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.



**EMMANUEL**  
CITY MISSION



### 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.

Emmanuel provides hot meals every day, showers and washing facilities, clothing and toiletry packs and a place to have your voice heard. They are in need of underwear, socks, t-shirts, pant/trackpants, jumpers in all sizes for men and women.



Donations can be brought to the weekend masses, Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday or dropped into the Parish Office.

We do ask that donations are new and unused.

Emmanuel is a lay-led Catholic mission community in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia. If you would like to know about the work of Emmanuel click on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOviNghIOlc>

### Lenten Sacrament of Reconciliation

2<sup>ND</sup> RITE

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm

St Agnes Church



# LCNC

How is your Lenten journey going?

Laetare Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent and is a day of celebration within the Lenten season. The vestments are pink and it is considered a day of relaxation from normal Lenten practices; a day of hope with Easter at last in sight. A few reflective questions to ponder from the readings this week.

**First reading:** Lent can be considered a new beginning in preparation for Easter. The community in this reading are facing a few beginning-a transition that requires Celebration (Passover) and Commitment (gathering & cultivating the fields).

*To what do you wish to transition as a society, community, family, person....??*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *How do we taste the goodness of God?*

Reflect on your own experiences – using your senses. We have been given our senses, as ways of knowing. *How can we use these to know God and God's goodness?*

**Second Reading:** What does it mean that a Christian is a *New Creation?*

Becoming the righteousness of God – is our Lenten challenge? This means overcoming the hurt, reaching out in love, not letting animosity have the last word in our hearts and actions – this is the new creation in action.

**Gospel:** A familiar story to all of us.

Why does the younger son decide to go home?

What does he ask for?

What does a hired hand get?

Is he repentant?

Spend some time this week asking

Who am I in the parable?

The wayward child?

The anxious and hurt parent?

The responsible child feeling taken for granted?

OR

Is there a bit of each of them in me?

Make the parable your own this week!

Reflection questions from Lenten Virtual series – Garratt Publications. 2025

## 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!

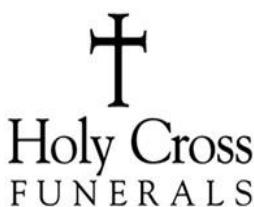
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 9am at St. Joachims.

Let us know you are coming.

## HOLY WEEK TIMETABLE

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

... 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**