



HOLLAND PARK MT GRAVATT PARISH



PARISH PRIEST
Fr Thomas Varkey

OFFICE STAFF
Dot Lomax

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Mary Ginty
Yolanda Apelt

CHURCHES
St Joachim's Church
41 Yuletide Street
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St Agnes' Church
1227 Logan Road
Mt Gravatt

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

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st joachim's & st agnes' parish

PARISH SCHOOLS
St Agnes' School
07 3349 5130
St Joachim's School
07 3397 9087

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1800 846 643

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
Dot Lomax 0474 297 201
(Safeguarding purposes only)

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR C

MARCH 8TH/9TH, 2025

Today's Gospel brings us a wonderful moment in the education of Jesus' friends.

Jesus was always trying to teach them about the mystery of life, and we can take heart from the fact that they were often slow learners. Peter, James and John see Jesus transfigured on the top of a mountain. But the vision doesn't last long. Peter, always practical, wants to build tents so they can stay in the moment. But no, the journey to Calvary lies ahead where they will see Jesus disfigured. Eventually, they will put it together that transfiguration and disfigurement are two sides of the same coin.

This week, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion shares another story of education. We visit a primary school in Samoa with 400 students and 11 teachers. Until 2023, the school had no reliable access to fresh water. At times, teachers had to fetch water from neighbouring families, and this took considerable time out of the day and limited classes. It also meant that each class had a single bucket of drinking water for everyone to share. Thanks to your generosity, this has now changed.

Education can continue uninterrupted. You might even say, that thanks to those who support Project Compassion, disfigured lives have been transfigured.

Samoa may seem a long way away but let us think for a moment of some of the words Jesus said on the night before he died. He prayed 'may they all be one.' We see the high price of division and conflict in so many places. People face each other with such hostility. As we Unite Against Poverty, we are slowly creating the solution. Our actions are teaching the world to see possibilities more than problems. Just as his friends saw Jesus in a brilliant new light, so too must we see the whole human family with its true dignity.



Toefuata'iga, (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) is a 13-year-old, 8th grade primary school student in Samoa.

Her primary school in Upolu, Samoa, grappled with severe water scarcity that disrupted education and jeopardised students' health. Toefuata'iga and her classmates faced frequent early dismissals and missed lessons due to a lack of clean water.

The situation changed dramatically when Caritas Samoa, a partner of Caritas Australia, installed a 10,000 litre water tank at the school. This new water tank enabled the school to maintain regular class schedules, improving both educational outcomes and student health.

Attendance and enrolment numbers increased, as parents no longer worried about sending their children to a school without access to clean water.

The tank also alleviated financial burdens on teachers, allowing the school community to focus on education rather than the constant struggle for water.

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 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!'

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell.

For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone.

On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon.

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name.

When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'

I will save him in distress and give him glory.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

PARISH DIARY

Monday, March 10th

Mass 8:00am
St Joachim's

Wednesday, March 12th

Mass 6:00pm
St Agnes'

Thursday, March 13th

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Friday, March 14th

Mass 9:00am
St Joachim's

Saturday, March 15th

Reconciliation 4:30pm
St Joachim's

2nd Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 15th

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

Sunday, March 16th

Mass 7:30am
St Joachim's

Mass 9:00am
St Agnes'

Mass 6:00pm
Youth Mass
St Agnes'



The logo depicts four stylized individuals from all across the world, symbolizing mankind as a whole. To symbolize the unity and connection that ought to bind all people together, they embrace one another.

READINGS – 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

1ST READING: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

2ND READING: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36

PARISH NEWS

WE REMEMBER

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

WE REJOICE

with the Mowen family as they celebrate the baptism of Remi in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS

Alison's team.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Tuesday, March 11th commencing with a cuppa at 3:30pm followed by meeting at 4:00pm in the parish centre.

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.

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 16th. All parents are very welcome! Children under 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

There will be hospitality next Sunday after the 9:00am mass.

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.

LENTEN ADORATION

There will be a day of adoration on Friday, March 28th commencing with the regular 9:00am Mass and continuing until 4:00pm.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

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

POPE'S LENTEN MESSAGE

Click on the link below to read the Pope's Lenten message -

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/docu-ments/20250206-messaggio-quaresima2025.html>

WHAT IS LENT?



At Mass this Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, a few features of the liturgy during this season will be obvious - no Glory to God, no joyful Alleluias to greet the Gospel, and the use of purple vestments and hangings.

We all know that Lent is 40 days long – well around 40. The number 40 has symbolic rather than literal meaning. It is based on Christ's 40 days in the desert and on the fasts of Moses and Elias, so exact calculations are not important.

Please take home the Lenten Formation sheet for your own reading and reflection. May it enrich your Lenten journey as together we focus on the essence of our faith and relationship with God.



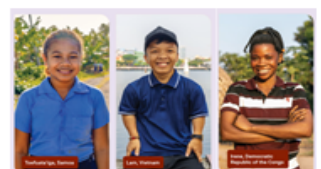
First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

This Lent, we're invited to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year - *a time of renewal and solidarity*.

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a young student from Samoa who faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her school now has a 10,000 L water tank, improving access to clean water and allowing teachers to prioritise education

We'll get to know **Lam** from Vietnam. Born with short stature, Lam faced social exclusion and limited employment opportunities. Through the I-SHINE program, Lam completed a course and is now a freelance graphic designer.

And we'll meet **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



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

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://hollandparkmtgra.flocknote.com/register>

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.

ST PATRICK'S DAY MASS

The Annual St Patrick's Day Mass, organised by the St Patrick's Day Parade Association, will be celebrated again this year in the Cathedral of St Stephen, Elizabeth Street at 10.00am on 17 March 2025. Fr Gerard McMorrow will be the celebrant.

All are welcome to attend. And, for those who may be unable to do so, the Mass will be live-streamed on this link - <https://www.youtube.com/@ArchdioceseofBrisbane>

You may wish to pass the link on to someone overseas.

And we invite you also to join your fellow attendees for morning tea afterwards in the Hanly Room



Our Lady of Victories Centenary

Our Lady of Victories Church, Bowen Hills is Queensland's premier Catholic WWI memorial. This year it is turning 100 years old and everyone is invited to celebrate.

Bowen Hills Parish would like to encourage our parishes and wider community to assist with the promotion of this special event, and urge anyone who would like to attend one or more of the upcoming events to book in early.

Friday 25 April will see special Anzac Day events held at the Church, with the Centenary Mass to be held at 11 am on **Saturday 26 April**, followed by an afternoon of entertainment, an exhibition and activities for all ages.

For more information about the events and to register your attendance, please visit bowenhillsparish.org.au/100years or call 0468 723 724.



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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**