



## Holland Park Mount Gravatt Parish

† St. Joachim's Church, 41 Yuletide Street, Holland Park West † St. Agnes' Church, 1227 Logan Road, Mt Gravatt

† St. Joachim Primary School, 41 Yuletide Street, Holland Park West † St Agnes' Primary School, 29 Tudor St, Mt. Gravatt

5th Sunday of Easter

Year C

May 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### PARISH PRIEST

Fr Thomas Varkey

### PARISH SECRETARY

Dot Lomax

### SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR

Mary Ginty

### MUSIC COORDINATOR

Yolanda Apelt

### LITURGY COORDINATOR

Sr. Helen Dyson

### PARISH FINANCE CHAIR

Ron Pugh

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

### PARISH DETAILS

P O Box 281

1227 Logan Road Mt

Gravatt Qld 4122

Telephone: 07 3349 2280

E: [hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:hpmg@bne.catholic.net.au)

Emergency: 07 3521 8025

### WEBSITES

[www.hollandparkmtgravatt](http://www.hollandparkmtgravatt)

[catholicparish.com.au](http://catholicparish.com.au)

### FACEBOOK

St Joachim's & St Agnes' parish

### PARISH SCHOOLS

St Agnes': 07 3349 5130

St Joachim's: 07 3397 9087

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WELFARE

1800 846 643

### OUTSIDE HOURS SCHOOL CARE

St. Agnes & St. Joachim

07 3367 6300

### SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Dot Lomax: 0474 297 201

(Safeguarding purposes only)

### A life beyond death

John's vision of a new heaven and a new earth speaks of a time when sorrow, death and suffering will be no more. Some two thousand years later we might think that John's utopian vision is little more than wishful thinking. Moreover, if we take the words of Jesus in this week's Gospel – *"You must love one another as I have loved you"* – we can also recognise that Christians honour this commandment more in the breach than in reality.

In the words of the English playwright, G K Chesterton: *"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried"*.

However, looking at the gospel, we see the new vision of creation and the new commandment of love emerge in a world of sinfulness and evil. This is demonstrated in Judas' act of betrayal culminating in Jesus' execution on the Cross. Knowing his life was coming to such a brutal and violent end, Jesus says he is entering into God's glory. In other words, even the most barbaric human activity is ever open to the mystery of the Father's forgiveness and love being poured out over the whole of God's creation.

Elsewhere, John tells us *"no one can see God"* (Jn 1:18). And yet the divine glory is manifest throughout the whole of creation – even or especially when humans are too blind to see. Czech theologian, Tomas Halik, says we fail to see God, not because God is too distant, but because God is too close. God is the light by which we see everything, but we do not see the light, only that which the light reveals.

In the Old Testament we are told God's glory is manifest to Moses in a pillar of cloud and in a burning bush. God appears to Elijah in the still, small, gentle breeze. Yet God's glory is also manifest throughout all creation as in every human experience not excluding the reality of the vilest forms of human evil – such as wars, death camps, genocides, and ecological destruction. If God's glory is present in the death of Jesus, how could it be absent from anything in our entire world?

This week's readings about the "new creation" are also signals of life beyond death where we are invited to share in the Resurrection of Jesus. Such "good news" is something we should want to let the whole world know.

This is the story of Paul and Barnabas in the first reading. However, if we are to be real missionary disciples, our first task is to be evangelised ourselves in order to witness to the divine Creator by *"loving one another as Jesus loves us"*.

Yes, this is a profound challenge. Equally what a wonderful privilege, called to be instruments of the "new creation" through our attempts and failures to be faithful disciples of Jesus. As Pope Francis says: *"whoever is in Christ is a new creation"*. And in the words of St Paul: *"nothing can separate us from the love of God"* (Rom. 8:31).

Gerard Hall SM

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## Parish News

**WE REMEMBER** Brian Daly, Janet Costa and Sr Veronica Littleton OSU. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**WE REJOICE** with the Jones family as they celebrate the baptism of Elsie in the parish this weekend.

### **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 1<sup>st</sup> HOLY COMMUNION**

Parishioners are invited to take a *Pray for me Card* from the table on the altar so as to pray for a child preparing for First Holy Communion.

- **please take one after Mass.**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)** All children are invited to join CLOW at the 9am mass at St Agnes' TODAY. All parents are very welcome, however children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

**COUNTERS** Maureen's team.

**MEALS ON WHEELS** The St Joachim's team is rostered for this Tuesday.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING** Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> commencing 4:00pm.

**FEAST OF THE OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS** is a Solemnity and a mass in honour of our patron saint will be celebrated at St Joachim's on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> commencing 8:30am. **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

**FAMILY SESSIONS** Attendance is required at one session **only** for children who are already enrolled.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 6pm-7.30pm St Joachim's Church

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 6pm-7.30pm S Agnes' Church.

**ST AGNES' SCHOOL FETE** Join the school community at their Fete on

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 3pm in the school grounds and oval.

Don't miss out on our amazing raffle with wonderful prizes up for grabs!

Link to purchase tickets here:

<https://www.raffletix.com.au/stagnesprimaryraffle2025>

**UPPER MT GRAVATT WISHART PARISH RAP TEAM** invite you to attend a Wine and Cheese Evening to commemorate National Reconciliation Week on Thursday, May 29 @ 7:00pm in the Aspinall Centre, St Bernard's Church. Guest Speaker: Ren Sculthorpe, proud Palawa Kani woman, mother, teacher and parishioner will take us on a journey linking the culture and spirituality of First Nations People with Christian/Catholic culture and spirituality. Ren will share her family experiences and the importance of making these connections for her children. RSVP: pa.umg@bne.catholic.net.au by May 27.

**Marian Valley Pilgrimage**

**When: Saturday, 31st May 2025**

This is the final week to secure a seat and to make payment. Booking and payment must be finalised by Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Payment can be made with cash, credit card (in person or by phone or by electronic transfer to: Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish; BSB: 064 786; A/c # 100013625.

Time	Event
08:00 AM	Arrival at St. Agnes Church
08:15 AM	Pilgrimage Begins
09:45 AM	Arrival at Marian Valley
10:30 AM	Rosary
11:00 AM	Holy Mass
12:30 PM	Lunch & Sharing
02:30 PM	Departure

## Weekday Masses

Date	Day	Time	Location
May 19	Mon	8:00am	St Joachim's
May 21	Wed	6:00pm	St Agnes'
May 22	Thurs	9:00am	St Agnes
May 23	Fri	9:00am	St Joachim's
May 24	Sat	8:30am	St Joachims

## Weekend Masses

May 24	Sat	5:00pm	St Joachim's
May 25	Sun	7:30am	St Joachim's
May 25	Sun	9:00am	St Agnes
May 25	Sun	6:00pm	St Agnes

## SACRAMENTS AND SPECIAL LITURGIES

**RECONCILIATION** - Every Saturday  
at 4.30pm at St. Joachim's Church.

**MASS OF ANOINTING** - First Friday  
9.00am at St. Joachim's

**ADORATION** - First Wednesday  
5:30pm at St Agnes'

**BAPTISM, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS**  
by appointment

**BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 1st and 3rd  
Sunday 9.00am at St. Agnes' Church

Youth Mass and Meeting on 2nd Sunday of the  
month at 6.00pm at St. Agnes' Church

Family and Children's Mass on 4th Sunday of  
the month at 9.00am at St. Agnes

## EVENTS & MEETINGS AT PARISH CENTRE

20<sup>th</sup> Tues Meals on Wheels – St Joachim's

20<sup>th</sup> Tues St Vincent de Paul Meeting 4:00pm

24<sup>th</sup> Sat Mass at St Joachim's 8:30am  
Our Lady Help of Christians

**New to the parish – register via  
Flocknote by scanning the QR code.**

