



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

Second Sunday of Easter

Year A

April 11th/12th 2026

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

Emergency: 07 3521 8025

WEBSITES

www.hollandparkmtgravatt

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

Lyn Russo: 0474 297 201

(Safeguarding purposes only)

The gospel story about doubting Thomas has to be one of the most misunderstood episodes in the New Testament.

If you're like me, for years we have been consoled by Thomas doubting that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Thomas' doubts were in Jesus, we have been led to believe. But let's read the story very carefully. It's not Jesus Thomas doubts, it's the disciples. In fact, when Jesus appears to them seven days later, Thomas has the opportunity to, share in the experience of the Risen Lord and like the others he immediately confesses Easter faith.

There are three elements in this story that should give us great comfort. The first is that Thomas doubts the early Church, and not just in regard to a minor issue of discipline or procedure. He doubts the central Christian message: that God raised Jesus from the dead. Some of us, too, at various times in our lives, can have doubts about all sorts of things in our faith. There are very few Catholics who get through life without asking some serious questions of God, about Jesus, the Spirit and the Church. These questions are good in themselves. They are necessary for a mature, adult faith. What we need to ensure is that we sincerely want answers to the questions we ask and not just use them to justify our wandering away from our faith. Thomas is the patron saint of all of us who sometimes struggle to believe what everyone else in the church seems to accept. And he is also the patron saint of those of us who seek the courage and patience to wait for the answers.

The second consoling fact to this story concerns the earliest Church. Even though they were filled with the presence of the Risen Lord and though Thomas refuses to believe their witness, they remain faithful to him in his doubts. We know this because he is still with them a week later. They didn't expel him from the group or excommunicate him; they held on to him in the hope that he would experience the Lord for himself.

Sadly, for us, today, there are some who argue that Catholics who struggle with their faith should 'shape up or ship out'. While every group has its boundaries and there are limits to what people can dissent from, we could take the earliest Church as our model and stay faithful to our doubters and help them come to see the transforming truth that has changed our lives.

The final element in this extraordinary story which can help us in our Easter faith concerns the significance of the time between the first and second appearances of Jesus. We're told it was seven days and the parallel to the story of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of John's Gospel. And even though the earliest disciples experience the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, they are still locked in their fears one week later. The creation of the early Church, the movement of its earliest leaders from timidity to boldness took time and having a doubter in their midst ends up a great blessing for them all, for Christ is present at every step of the Church's creation and re-creation as well.

This story was written for people like us who do not have access to the historical Jesus. The birth of the Church is an ongoing act of God's creation in every generation. It takes time, and people will be at different stages at different moments. Our fidelity to one another on the long journey of faith is only surpassed by our Crucified God who does not give up on us, no matter how many questions we ask or how much we doubt.

May this Eucharist give us confidence enough to hold on to each other in good times and bad so that we can all continue to experience his presence and have life in his name.

© Fr Richard Leonard SJ

Parish News

WE REMEMBER Charlotte Quinn, Maria Gennari and Mark Tiainen. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE with the Stone family as they celebrate the baptism of Lydia and Theodore in the parish this weekend.

COUNTERS Alison's team.

COFFEE AND CHAT will be held this Monday, April 13th commencing 10:00am at Brizstar Café, Mt Gravatt Plaza. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026
SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
INVITATION TO REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION**



Registration NOW OPEN

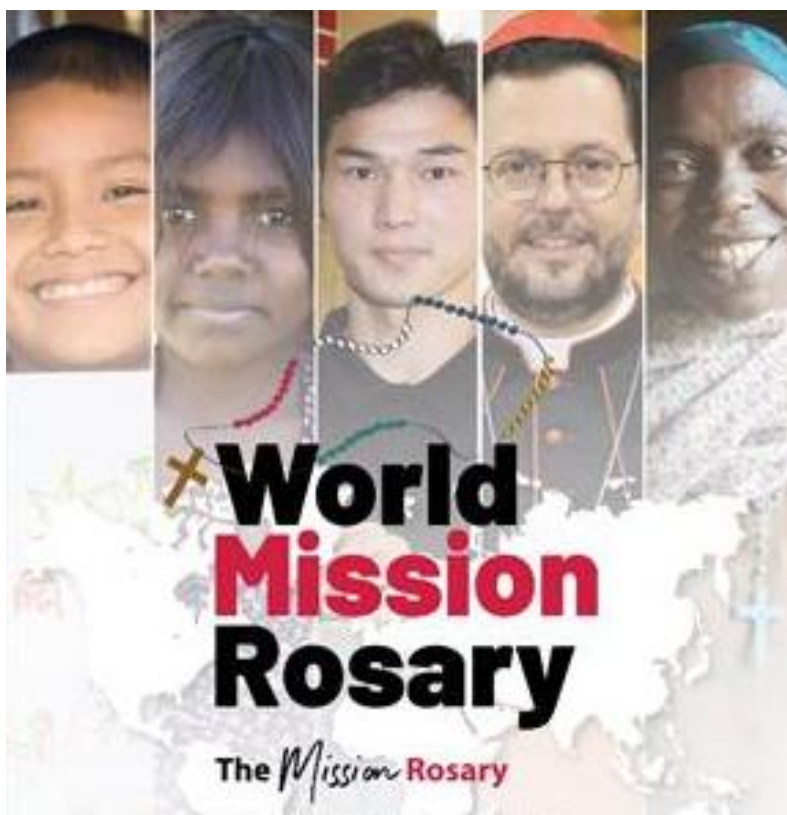
The Sacrament of First Holy Communion is open to all children in year four (4) and above who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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

Registration close Monday 10 April 2026.



Dates: Monday to Friday, 1 May – 31 May

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: Online via Teams – [Join here](#)

RSVP by 24th April if you can attend online via Brisbane.admin@catholicmission.org.au

Weekday Masses

Date	Day	Time	Location
Apr 13	Mon	8:00am	St Joachim's
Apr 15	Wed	6:00pm	St Agnes'
Apr 16	Thurs	9:00am	St Agnes'
Apr 17	Fri	9:00am	St Joachim's

Weekend Masses

Apr 18	Sat	5:00pm	St Joachim's
Apr 19	Sun	7:30am	St Joachim's
Apr 19	Sun	9:00am	St Agnes
Apr 19	Sun	6:00 pm	St Agnes

SACRAMENTS AND SPECIAL LITURGIES

RECONCILIATION - Every Saturday

Every Saturday 4:30pm St Joachim's Church

HOLY ROSARY

Every Wednesday 5:30pm St Agnes Church

MASS OF ANOINTING - First Friday

9:00am St Joachim's Church

ADORATION - First Wednesday

6:30pm at St Agnes'

BAPTISM, WEDDINGS, AND FUNERALS

by appointment

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

1st Wednesday of the month

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 1st and 3rd
Sunday 9.00am 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

New to the parish
Register via Flocknote
by scanning the QR
code.



STOpline is an independent service that receives information about suspected abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by workers (including priests, religious, employees, educators, practitioners, support workers and volunteers).

STOpline

Phone: 1300 304 550

Email: AOB@stoline.com.au

Online Report: bne.catholic.stolinereport.com