



Mother of Mercy Parish

Living and Growing in the Spirit

St John's church
688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate

Our Lady Help of Christians
9 Bowman St, Hendra

St Cecilia's church
30 College St, Hamilton

PARISH MISSION

To co-create a welcoming community where all can encounter and be transformed by Christ, realise their call to discipleship, be empowered to serve, and attract new disciples.

Parish Office Telephone: 07 3268 3040

Priest— Urgent After Hours Telephone: 0417 718 119

PARISH PRIEST: REV NEVILLE YUN

Email: pp.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

SACRAMENTAL CO-ORDINATOR: Teresa Gittins

Email: pmc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR: TBA

Email: yc.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION Telephone: 07 3268 3040

Monica Johnson and Erin McMillan (Parish Secretaries)

Email: hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Helen Price (Finance Secretary)

Email: finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office - 9 Bowman St, Hendra Q 4011

Mail: PO Box 3109, Hendra Qld 4011

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:00am-12noon

Website: www.motherofmercyparish.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council: Neville Canham

Parish Finance Council: Max Walters

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:

◆ **Compliance Officer:** Mrs Kath Shaw

Email: safeguard.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

◆ **Incident reports:** Vicki Ward M: 0407 550 571

Workplace Health & Safety Officer: TBA

PARISH SCHOOL: Our Lady Help of Christians

23 Bowman St, Hendra 4011 **Telephone:** 07 3268 3070

PRINCIPAL: Mr Adam Bennie

AP-RE: Kym Waters

Email: phendra@bne.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses: See listing on back page

Weekday Mass: Friday 9:00am St John's, Northgate

Reconciliation/Confession: By appointment

What's happening in the Parish this week?

Sunday 17 to Saturday 23 December 2023

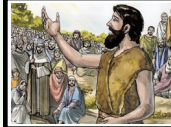
Sun Morning tea after 9.30am Mass (Parish Centre Courtyard)

Tue *Advent Adventures for Children* (Parish Centre) 9am to 4pm

Fri 9:00am Mass (St John's, Northgate)

Sat 6am-5pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament (OLHC)

Baptism of Bobby Devereux



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 17 DECEMBER 2023

13-12-23 – 3rd Sun of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Hi all,

We are speeding towards Christmas. **Rejoice in Anticipation**

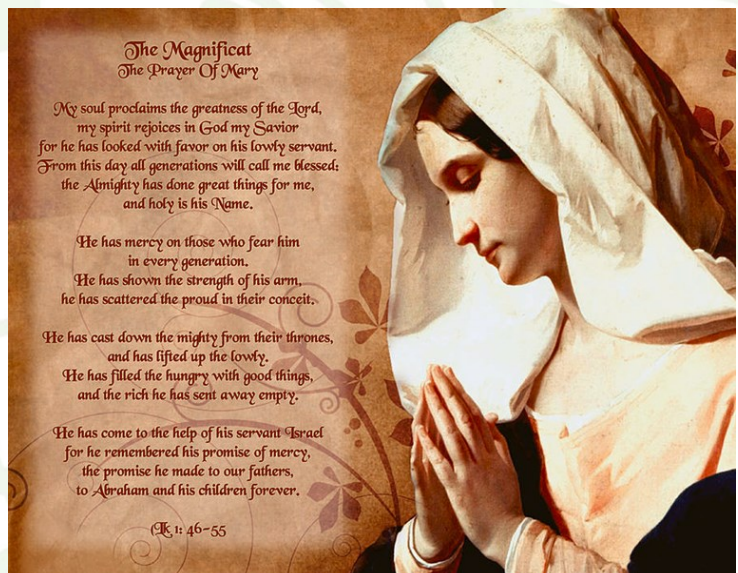
The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent fill our hearts with anticipation and joy as we journey through the season of Advent. Isaiah's prophecy paints a vivid picture of the Messiah, the anointed one, who comes to bring good news to the oppressed and proclaim freedom to the captives. This vision echoes through the ages, resonating with the deep longing of humanity for a saviour, a liberator, and a bearer of glad tidings.

As we listen to Mary's Magnificat, we are invited to join in her song of praise. Mary, a humble and obedient servant, exalts in the greatness of God's mercy and faithfulness. Her soul magnifies the Lord as she reflects on the extraordinary role she has been chosen to play in God's redemptive plan. In her joy, we find inspiration to magnify the Lord in our own lives, recognizing the blessings and grace He pours upon us.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians adds a layer to our reflection. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances," he exhorts. These are not mere suggestions but a roadmap for a life attuned to the Advent spirit. The anticipation of Christ's coming should fill our hearts with unceasing joy, a joy that is not contingent on our circumstances but rooted in our relationship with the Lord.

In the Gospel according to John, we encounter John the Baptist, the voice crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Messiah. His humility and self-awareness are evident as he denies being the Light but points to the true Light that is coming into the world. John's role as a witness calls us to reflect on our own testimony. How are we, like John, preparing the way for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us?

As we reflect on these readings, let us embrace the spirit of Advent with open hearts. Let us rejoice in the anticipation of the Messiah's coming, finding inspiration in the joy of Mary, the exhortation of Paul, and the witness of John the Baptist. May our lives be a testimony to the Light that shines in the darkness, and may we prepare the way for Christ with unceasing joy and gratitude.



Have a blessed and joyful third week of Advent.

Fr Nev

Parish Messages.....

- ◆ **Advent Adventures 2023: A Mother of Mercy Parish and St Agatha's Parish initiative—***Tickets close this Sunday 17th December. Get in quick!** All primary school-aged children are welcome to join us for a fun-filled day of crafts, games and prayer. Let's have fun as we await the coming of the Christ child this Christmas! * Use the QR code to book tickets.



Christmas Masses at all churches—Volunteers needed:

The Parish is keenly calling volunteers to assist with the Christmas Masses at all our churches as these are extra Masses this year. We are looking for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers and children interested in being part of the Nativity Play at the Christmas Vigil at Hendra. If you and/or your family are going to be attending Christmas Masses in the parish, please consider whether you could help out!! Please place your names on the contact sheets at the doors of the churches. Christmas blessings to all!

- ◆ **Giving Tree 2023—Hendra Branch St Vincent De Paul:**

Parishioners are invited to donate to our Christmas Giving Tree. All grocery items to support hampers being prepared St VdP can be placed under the tree in the Churches and your generosity is very much appreciated. **Thank you for your support!**



Farewell Fr Nev—Sunday 7 January 2024

All parishioners are most warmly invited to morning tea after the **9.30am Mass on Sunday 7 January 2024** to say farewell and thanks to Fr Nev. Fr Nev takes up his new position as Parish Priest at Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish, Springfield on 8 January 2024. Please bring a plate to share for our morning tea.



- ◆ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024:** Preparations are underway for the World Day of Prayer, held in March 2024. The country being prayed for this year is Palestine. If anyone is interested in assisting our current Parish Representative in this role, please contact the Parish Office.



17th January
9 am - 5 pm
Mother of Mercy Parish
Centre, Hendra

For primary school aged children.
A day filled with fun, games,
activities and engaging
messages and prayer.



More info here

www.encountercatholickids.com.au/clayfieldhendra



Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down.
- Pope Francis



Parish Activities

Parish School Playgroup: Currently operating each week (in school terms). Held in the OLHC OSHC, 23 Bowman St, Hendra, every Friday 9:00am-11:30am (babies to Prep). All welcome. For enquiries, call School Office 3268 3070.

Parish Spirituality Group: The group meets at 9.30am on the first Tues of the month in the Parish Centre to discuss the gospel reading for the next Sunday.

Mother of Mercy Parish Prayer Engine of the Parish: This prayer group prays for the intentions of the parish and the personal intentions of parishioners. Prayer intentions can be placed in the special baskets at each of the churches and Parish Office. **The Prayer Engine will meet at OLHC Church, Hendra every Tuesday, from 1:00-2:30pm.** All are welcome to join in prayer! **The Prayer Engine will be on recess for the holidays from Tues 5 December 2023 resuming Tues 30 January 2024.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: First Friday of the month after the 9:00am Mass at St John's, Northgate. All welcome.

Anointing and Healing Mass: Second Friday of the month at 9:00am at St John's, Northgate. All welcome.

Portofino Mass: Fourth Wed of the month at 11am. Due to safety and security reasons, only residents of Portofino attend. Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion distribute Holy Communion to residents every Sunday.

SATURDAY ADORATION: The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every Saturday, including holiday times, from 6am—5pm at OLHC Hendra for personal prayer. Entry to the Church is via the Bowman St side door. Please sign in and out. **For enquiries, please contact Julie Anne on 0418 193 235 or Pat on 0411 597 781.**



ALPHA Have you been involved with Alpha? Are you curious to know more about Alpha?

All are invited to the **Festive Season Alpha reunion** on 27/12/23. Please BYO drinks and a plate of food to share to the MoM Parish Centre, 9 Bowman St. **Time:** 6-8pm on Wednesday 27/12/23, No need to RSVP.

We're planning for our next Alpha to begin in May 2024. Please consider inviting yourself and/or someone else. All are welcome. For more information please go to: www.alpha.org.au/try

Piety Shop - Christmas Items Available

Come to St Gerard Majella's Piety Shop and see our great range of Nativities, Cards and various Christmas items.

We are located at 146 Maundrell Tce, Chermside West

Open 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday. Also open at weekend masses.



Simbang Gabi 2023, a Filipino tradition of 9 day pre-Christmas celebration in joyful waiting and preparation for Jesus' birth in our hearts, will be on **15 to 23 December 2023 at St. Joseph and St. Anthony's church, 30 Eldorado St. Bracken Ridge.** (Sunday to Friday 6:45pm-Rosary; 7:00pm-Carols; 7:30pm-Holy Mass and Saturday 7:15pm-Rosary; 7:30pm-Carols; 8:00pm-Holy Mass). **Further info: Jima 0432374239**

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

We ask all parishioners to please make themselves familiar with the Emergency Evacuation Plans that are located at the Church doors. In the unlikely event of the need for an emergency evacuation of the Church, please immediately and calmly proceed to the nearest exit and gather at the meeting point as outlined in the plan.



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH SCHOOL

School resumes on **Tuesday 23 January 2024**.

Every blessing for a wonderful holiday break. May it be filled with fun, festivities and moments that will be treasured in years to come.

Warm regards, **Adam Bennie** Principal

Observe in Faith, Reflect with Courage, Improve through Action



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

24 DECEMBER 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL

First Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Second Reading: Rom 16:25-27

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38



Commemoration of Saints December 2023

Thu 21 St Peter Canisius, *priest, doctor*

Sat 22 Saint John of Kanty, *priest*

PRAY FOR US.....



4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Masses 2023

4th Sunday of Advent—Saturday 23 December

St Cecilia's, Hamilton 4.30pm - Vigil Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians 5.00pm - Vigil Mass



4th Sunday of Advent—Sunday 24 December

St John's, Northgate 7.30am Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians 9.30am Mass

Christmas Vigil Masses—Sunday 24 December

St Cecilia's, Hamilton
4.00pm - Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians
4.00pm - Carols and Christmas Vigil Mass



Christmas Day Masses—Monday 25 December

St John's, Northgate 7.30am Christmas Day Mass

Our Lady Help of Christians 9.30am Christmas Day Mass



Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Concert Series

Dominic Perissinotto (organ) | Sunday 3rd December | 5:00pm

Christopher Trikalis (organ) | Sunday 10th December | 5:00pm

Susan Collins (violin) | Sunday 17th December | 5:00pm



MUSIC AND POETRY
TO CELEBRATE THE ADVENT SEASON

Tickets through www.trybooking.com/CNAC20



Parish Birthdays

Have you entered your birthday in our Parish Birthday Book?

Each last Sunday of the month, we celebrate the birthdays of our Parish family members with a Birthday cake after the 9.30am Mass at Hendra.

The next celebration is **Sunday 31 December**, so please come along to join us! The Birthday Book is at the Coffee Spot in the Parish Centre Courtyard—please add your name!



WE PRAY FOR.....



The Recently Deceased: Dorothy Beatrice Gebbett

Anniversaries: Denise Lillian Clifford, Sergio Mario Baruzza, Cecil Kenneth Menzies, Shirley Patricia Stewart, Bernice Horn, Janine Margaret Kingston, Bella Judith Wright, Carol Anne Robertson

The Sick: Matthew Hand, Maria Ward, Stan Janssen, Hadge Banks, Paddy "Peter" Ryan, Lyn Smith, Linda Farrell, Tina Watson, Mary Gilmer, Rosaria Fazio, Monica Johnson, Alison Leis, Val Walsh, Carole and Gordon Hodge, Frank McHugh, Trevor Gozzard, Nick Newton, Theresa Claffey, Salustia Zavaleta, Brenda Gueizelar, Robert Montalegre, Gloria Morris (sister of Elaine Eneberg), Charlie Richards, Naomi Garden, Carmel Bates, Heather Skinner, Fiona Brogan, May Donaldson, Keith Wiskar, Leanne Gracie, John Conroy, Anthony Hallin, Br Tom Dempsey, Michael Hardy, David Edmunds, Betty Mahony, Michael Hand, June Thompson, Jan O'Donoghue, Peta Ziegenfusz, Andrew Price, Angela Krista

ITEMS WANTED—OLD/WORN/UNUSED STATUES:

If anyone has old/worn/unused statues, I am happy to collect them. During the floods in Lismore a lot of people lost statues. These will be given to the Carmelite Nuns, Goonellabah, Lismore who will restore/paint them. Contact Annette 0404 247 958.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION POLICY

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.



VOCATION VIEW: There was a man sent by God who came as a witness to testify to the Light so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?



To talk to someone about your vocation, please make contact with Vocation Brisbane: 1300 133 544

vocation@bne.catholic.net.au vocationbrisbane.com



We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationships of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Items for inclusion in this Newsletter

Please email or write out to: hendra@bne.catholic.net.au

Cut Off Deadline - 1:00pm Tuesday.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH: We very much appreciate your continued financial assistance and donations to the Parish are most warmly welcomed. This can be best achieved by direct debit to the following account:

Mother of Mercy Parish Account BSB 064 786 Acc—100007977

Please note "Donation" and your name as a reference. Please your receipt to: finance.hendra@bne.catholic.net.au after your payment has been made.

Another way to donate easily is via the **PARISH GIVING APP**: Scan the QR code below, or the code attached to the church collection plates, to your mobile telephone and follow the prompts to complete your giving donation.

<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au>



Do you have a Family Trust? Did you know that making your weekly gift to the Parish through dividend income from your trust reduces your tax obligations? Additionally, these gifts are not counted against your family tax benefit payments. Contact your financial advisor for details on how you can save taxes and help build our Parish community at the same time.

MASS TIMES

- Saturday 5:00pm Vigil:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra
- Sunday 8:00am Mass:** St Agatha's Clayfield (Families Mass)
- Sunday 9:30am Mass:** Our Lady Help of Christians Hendra (Families Mass)
- Sunday 5:30pm Mass:** St Agatha's Clayfield (Youth Mass)

Fr James O'Donoghue has been asked to say the following Masses for the time being at:

- Saturday 4:30pm** St Cecilia's Hamilton
- Sunday 7:30am** St John's Northgate

WEEKDAY MASSES

- Thursday 9:00am** St Agatha's Clayfield
- Friday 9:00am** St John's Northgate

Please be considerate of mask wearing at this time.
Please DO NOT attend Mass if you are UNWELL

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROSTER OLHC 9:30am

Date	Reader	Eucharistic Minister
17 December	George, Clara, Sylvie Shillington	Barbara Nelson and Lorelei Gozzard
24 December	Kathryn Bourke	Robyn Jeynes and Pat Shine

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