



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 24 to Saturday 30 December 2023

Sun No Morning tea after 9.30am Mass (OLHC)

4.00pm Christmas Vigil Carols/Mass

(St Cecilia's)

4.00pm Christmas Vigil Carols/Mass (OLHC)

Mon 7.30am Christmas Day Mass (St John's)

9.30am Mass Christmas Day Mass (OLHC)

Wed 6.00pm **Alpha** Reunion Dinner (Parish Centre)

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

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

Wedding of Clydee and Zac at OLHC



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS NATIVITY VIGIL 24 DECEMBER 2023



25-12-23 – 4th Sun of Advent and Christmas

Hi all,

Welcome to a busy weekend for both the 4th Sun of Advent and Christmas.

I pray Advent has been a wonderful time of preparing yourselves for Jesus' coming and how he will grow in your hearts in 2024. Remember to thank Jesus for this year in amidst your celebration. I would like to wish everyone a holy, safe and restful Christmas. Remember the Holy family didn't have the smoothest first Christmas but God was present and never left them.

Below is a photo from our combined staff and volunteers lunch. Thank you to all of our volunteers at all four communities for your commitment of service and time. One last thing - **I'll be blessing salt and water for at my last two weekends at OLHC and St Agatha Masses only. (30-31st Dec and 6-7th Jan)**



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS LIKE MARY

Dear friends, today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and the last Sunday before Christmas. The long-awaited light of God is almost here! In the Advent season, we prepare for the arrival of Christ, not only in the world but also in our hearts.

Mary serves as a role model for the ideal reception of Christ, as seen in today's Gospel. As we heard, Mary listened and sought clarity when the Angel announced that she would bear and give birth to Christ. Christ has given us his Word to listen to, reflect on, and be nourished in, and his Church to guard us. No doubt, welcoming Christ entails listening as Mary and David did today.

Mary listened and welcomed the message from the Angel despite initially being unsettled by the Angel's salutation. Friends, do we accept God's will quickly even when they appear too strange?

Mary's significant role in the economy of salvation is rooted in her 'fiat'. As God's handmaid, she believed by claiming all the Angel revealed to her. Today, we are called to become the handmaid of the Lord, people who do the will of the Father.

This belief of her presupposed her obedience to God's invitation to be the *Theotokos*- God-bearer. Through her obedience, she became an instrument of reconciling humanity to God.

Friends, this Christmas, we are invited to conceive and give birth to Jesus by listening, accepting, believing, and obeying as Mary did. This is to make Jesus continually present in the world. Let us open our hearts so Christ may be born in them

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Fr Nev

The Parish office will be closed from **Friday 22 December 2023** to **Tuesday 2 January 2024**.

Parish Messages.....

Father Nev, together with Helen and Monica, wishes all of you every blessing at Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Travel safe and enjoy this special time of gathering with family and friends.

- ♦ All parishioners are warmly invited to share Christmas cake and cheer after each of the Christmas Masses this weekend.

Farewell Valentine Ohaneje (Seminarist)

Val will finish his parish placement with us on Christmas Day. We wish Val every blessing for Christmas and for his journey through the Seminary to the priesthood.

May God be with you, Val!



From Fr Nev: Thanks Val for throwing yourself into activities including Mass duties, funerals, baptisms, visiting every class at both schools and eating and drinking at every event from Christmas breakups, Volunteer gatherings and 10th anniversary and farewell gatherings. Lent cannot come fast enough for you Val.

- ♦ Thank you—Hendra Branch St Vincent De Paul: Sincere thanks to all who contributed items under the Christmas trees for the St Vincent de Paul hampers this year. **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. Please bring a plate to share for our morning tea.



encounter catholic KIDS
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



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

CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF FR JOHN GOWEN

On Wednesday, 20th December 2023, the centenary of the death of Fr John Gowen is remembered. Fr Gowen was the first Parish Priest of St Cecilia's Church, Hamilton and supervised the construction of the first section (the nave) of St Cecilia's Church.



THANK YOU TO PARISH VOLUNTEERS

We would very much wish to thank all our fabulous volunteers for the dedicated support of parish activities throughout the year.

You are a blessing to us all...THANK YOU!

Thank you! Through your generosity, you have been the face of Christ for those in need in your local community.



At the end of 2023, nine priests will retire from active ministry.

Your support will provide them a home and basic healthcare in their retirement.



Holy Spirit Seminary welcomed three young men to the transitional diaconate in 2023.

Through your gift, you ensure priests for the future of our faith.



Six Mary MacKillop Bursary recipients graduated Year 12 in 2023.

Your support makes it possible to award bursaries to eleven new children in 2024.



With your gift, you have given women and children fleeing domestic violence a safe space this Christmas.

Because of you, they look forward to a brighter 2024.

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

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

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.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

31 DECEMBER 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (F)

First Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Second Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40



Commemoration of Saints December 2023

Tue 26 St Stephen, the first martyr FEAST

Wed 27 St John, apostle, evangelist FEAST

Thu 28 The Holy Innocents, martyrs FEAST

Fri 29 St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr



PRAY FOR US.....

WE PRAY FOR....



The Recently Deceased: Dorothy Beatrice Gebbett

Anniversaries: Denise Lillian Clifford, Anthony Paul Norris, Berta Ximena Alarcon Cordova

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: Christmas, the promise fulfilled. God comes to dwell among his people. Before the Second Coming of Jesus, the world needs people like you to continue His work. Are you ready?



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.

Merry Christmas

*May the peace and blessings
of Christmas be yours;
And may the coming year
be filled with happiness.*



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 |
|-------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 24 December | Kathryn Bourke | Robyn Jeynes and Pat Shine |
| 31 December | Neville Canham and Kathleen McClafferty | Louise Nott and Barbara Nelson |

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