



# St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Mt Gravatt



## Parish Profile 2025



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## Our Church Community

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, often referred to as St Bart's, was established over 100 years ago with a 'little wooden church' on the hill, which over time evolved to become the more modern premises that it is today. The church is part of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, being one of twenty-three dioceses that comprise the Anglican Church of Australia.

The church has had a longstanding history of vibrant and active ministry, which although consolidated over time, continues with a dedicated community. The congregation, while ageing like many church parishes, is diverse in its multicultural representation including Sri Lankan, Indian, South African, Anglo-European, and Pacific Island backgrounds.

The Church is in a prime location, on the corner of the very busy Logan Road and Mountain Street, at the foot of Mt Gravatt. Situated within what is known as the Mt Gravatt shopping precinct, it is ten kilometres south of the Brisbane CBD. The local area is well serviced with churches from across varied denominations including large Pentecostal churches.

The parish sits within an area designated by the Brisbane City Council as marked for [Suburban Renewal](#). This will bring a significant reshaping of the local area and reflects the changing nature and demographics of the Mt Gravatt area, and responds to the prevailing need and demand for housing. While in the past the local demographics of Mt Gravatt consisted of a lower to middle class residential community with traditional families and ageing population, the demographics are shifting towards a population with high levels of education, and a predominance of single people and single parent families.





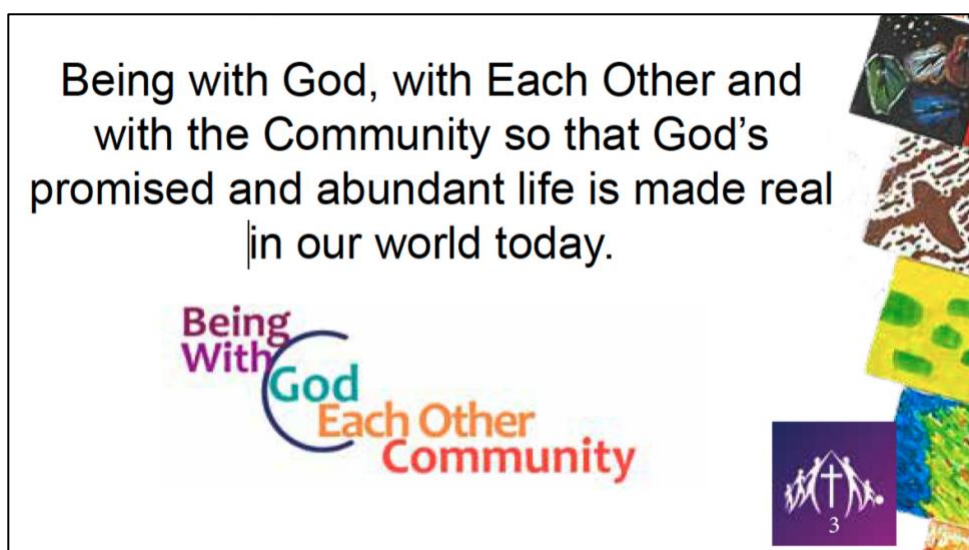
# Our Vision and Mission

The current Mission Action Plan (MAP) for St Bart's was brought together through input by the parish community in 2023. This has provided the strategic priorities for the parish and underpins our direction, our ministry, and community outreach.




Our vision is ...



Our mission is:



Initiatives held within the three aspects of 'Being with God', 'Being with Each Other', and 'Being with Community', are further outlined:

 <b>Being With Each Other</b> Celebrating life together so with one voice, we might glorify God through Jesus Christ. <b>Current</b> Home groups, Youth group, Pastoral Care Social events eg. coffee mornings, shared lunch Retreats, Morning teas/ supper <b>Emerging</b> Walking group, picnics Partnerships with other churches and church organisations ie. Anglicare, Charleville Parish. Hospital chaplaincy support	 <b>Being With God</b> Responding to God's abundant love in Christ with all our heart, soul and strength. <b>Current</b> Worship, Contemplative services, Prayer Aged Care Home worship services Prayer and Anointing services Faith Formation, Seasonal study groups <b>Emerging</b> Intergenerational focus All of life Faith formation Deepening of Faith life	 <b>Being With Community</b> Responding to the call to cooperate with God in the world for good. <b>Current</b> Partnership with the MG Community Centre. mainly music Social Card Day <b>Emerging</b> Sustainability planning and other social responsibility planning.
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A consultative 'Next Steps' approach has been utilised as a means of implementing the step-changes inherent within these initiatives. This has led to the following changes provided as examples:

- Changes to the fixed furnishings of the church to open the space for intergenerational and participatory worship.
- Meaningful differentiation in liturgy between the 7am and 9am services.
- Greater focus on partnership with the Mt Gravatt Community Centre.
- Focus upon improved sustainability for the parish in property and environmental needs and in compliance requirements.
- Greater consistency and offering of prayer and anointing across all services.
- More contemplative prayer space and reflective time provided within and around services.



# Our Team

Currently the parish supports the following team structure:

## **Paid roles:**

- Rector – Full-time Stipend
- Assistant Curate- Full-time Stipend
- Parish Office Administrator - Part-time
- Parish Cleaner - Casual

## **Support and voluntary roles:**

- Licensed Supporting Ministers (One Retired and One Hospital Chaplain) support presiding and preaching rosters as needed
- Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer (Voluntary)
- Three Wardens
- Three Parish Councillors
- Three current vacancies for Parish Council
- Eleven Liturgical Assistants/Servers and one additional Sacristan/Server
- Lay volunteers support worship, music, and church upkeep
- Volunteer Sidespeople, Welcomers, Readers, Intercessors, Morning tea coordinator, Flower Coordinator
- Pastoral care team.
- Volunteer Musicians:
  - 7am rostered pianists
  - 9am music coordinator and rostered musicians (pianists, guitarists, various instrumentalists) and singers



# Our Ministry

## ‘Being with God’

### Worship Services

Sunday 7am is a traditional Holy Communion Second Order service from A Prayer Book for Australia. Traditional hymns are sung from hymn books, predominantly Together in Song, and supported by piano or videos. Attendee numbers vary but tend to be approximately 20 parishioners per service at present.

Sunday 9am is a contemporary Holy Communion using a mix of liturgy from A Prayer Book for Australia and/or new resources from the Church of England and at times, from Iona Community for contemplative prayer spaces. Modern songs of praise are sung during the service, with music provided by a roster of varied instrumentalists and vocalists. Attendee numbers vary but currently tend to be between 60 to 90 parishioners per service. At times, during specific seasons or on special days, worship is intergenerational through participatory sermons and active prayerful spaces.



Wednesday 10am is a traditional Holy Communion of the Third Order service from A Prayer Book for Australia. Hymns are sung ‘acapella’ from Praise Songbooks. This service tends to have small numbers between 4 to 8 parishioners.

Two nursing home Holy Communion services are run at Tricare Terrigal Lodge Retirement Living and Tricare Agay Street.



## Children's Ministry

Currently our regular form of children's ministry is via mainly music held Monday mornings. Currently this has over 10 families regularly attending.





## Healing & Prayer Ministries

The parish has had a history of prayer and healing services which were previously held once a month in Holy Communion services. As part of the MAP and Next Steps process, our prayer and anointing ministry has been expanded and is available after every service on Sunday mornings, provided by clergy and trained Liturgical Assistants. We also offer contemplative and creative prayer at selected services throughout the year. A devotional prayer space is available all year round. This ministry is supported by an active prayer chain for any prayer needs that arise from within the community.

## Small Groups

Bible Studies are held internally as short-run studies on Wednesday mornings after the 10am service. These are usually held during Lent, around the Season of Creation and in Advent. Attendance numbers range from approximately 10 to 12.

Mountain walks up Mt Gravatt have also been led internally as short-run groups. A mindful mountain walk was held during Lent attracted around 10 attendees each week, and an '8-week Mountain Walk Challenge' during Winter has attracted around 8-10 attendees each week.

Additionally, St Bart's has a longstanding history of active and well-run external home groups with approximately five continuing currently. These groups meet either weekly or fortnightly, in-person or online, and cover a range of varied demographics for varied needs and interests.



## St Bart's Ladies Retreats

For many years St Barts has held a bi-annual one-day St Bart's Ladies Retreat at Santa Theresa Retreat Centre, bringing together a strong group of women from within the parish. This experience provides an opportunity for fellowship and exploring the way God works specifically in the life and empowerment of women.

Historically, the parish has also held Men's Retreats, however, these are currently in recess.





## ‘Being with Each Other’

### Community Events

An annual Pancake Party is held as a way of marking Shrove Tuesday and that Lent is about to commence. These have been held either on a Saturday evening or as Sunday morning tea after service with pancakes served and games played, particularly following the 9am service.

Annually on St Bartholomew’s Day (late August) the parish’s 7am and 9am communities come together in a joint celebration, including one shared Holy Communion Service and parish lunch. This has taken on different forms from ‘pot luck’ style, to volunteer organised catering, to fully catered events. Optional donations are sought and volunteers help with set up, any service required, and pack down. Attendee numbers have tended to be 100 to 110 for this highly favoured event.





Each year St Barts holds a Community Christmas Carols at the beginning of December, which incorporates mini Christmas Markets, a sweet stall for BMF/ABM donations, a sausage sizzle, Christmas Carols, music and participatory activities. We have at times involved members of the parish's multicultural community to perform multi-lingual carols, and performances by the Salvation Army band, and also invited guest speakers from the Mt Gravatt Community Centre and In-Synch Youth Services to provide some insight into the fruitfulness of the partnership between these groups and the church.



### **Card Day**

This is held weekly for seniors in the church hall. This is well attended with over 30 attendees participating in cards and hospitality. Locating volunteers tends to be difficult in continuing to support this vibrant ministry.

### **Ladies Coffee and Conversation**

This popular monthly social group, instigated by lay members of the parish after COVID-19 to reconnect, meets at various venues, including a coffee shop atop Mt Gravatt. Attendance numbers can range from approximately 10 to 20.



## ‘Being with Each Other’

### Community Partnerships and Outreach

The parish participates in active partnerships and outreach in the following ways:

- We partner with the Mt Gravatt Community Centre by providing donations for Food Parcels, Blanket Drives, Christmas gift donations for disadvantaged children and meeting any arising and ongoing needs as required by the Centre.
- Through volunteer leadership from within the congregation, St Bart’s is a member of the Queensland Community Alliance (QCA) which is a collaborative lobbying group comprising of community groups, churches, and trade and professional unions. In Mt Gravatt, the Alliance has responded to the need for greater assistance in the area of social isolation, obtaining funding for a social worker, and lobbies for environmental and local social needs during election campaigns.
- St Bart’s clergy attend inter-church events and ministerial fellowship through the ecumenical Ministers Fraternal.
- Annual support of and involvement in World Day of Prayer.
- Financial support of local Religious Education programs.
- Support for missions and Bush Ministry including ABM, BCA, BMF and CMS
- Participation through parishioner involvement with the Mt Gravatt Men’s Shed, being the largest in Queensland.
- We liaise with Insync Youth Housing and Nathanael House which are managed by Anglicare, seeking to find ways of providing participation and support. This has been a legacy for the parish who, through parish volunteering, established the original support services of Bart’s House and Nathanael House. They have provided the foundation for these Anglicare services today.



## Our Property and Facilities

The **Church** is a relatively modern worship space which consists of offices, a Teams meeting room, vestry, kitchen, hospitality and outdoor areas, children's playhouse, and accessible amenities. There are also AV facilities within the parish, supporting music for worship, presentation of liturgy, music videos, live streaming for funerals, uploading of sermons for the website, mainly music and other audio visual requirements.

The **Hall** was renovated with a commercially-styled kitchen, stage, annex room, disabled access, and solar panels. The hall attracts quite an active group of hall hirers that provides a solid income stream for the parish.

There is a building on the premises known as the '**Former Parish Office**'. This was fully renovated in 2024 and is rented commercially to various medical professionals.

The **Church Grounds** include off-street car-parking and native gardens.

The **Parish Rectory** is a four-bedroom, family-friendly home with fully ducted air-conditioning. It is located in nearby Mansfield in the sought-after Mansfield State School and Mansfield State High School catchments. It was purchased in 2019 by the parish, and is now 15 years old.

The Parish currently has one motor vehicle being a 2024 Hyundai Hybrid SUV.

## Finance and Governance

Core sources of income are mostly derived from hall rental, commercial lease of former parish office space, and offertory income. The specific percentage split of these based upon 2025 year to date income is as follows:

- Property/Investment income – 15% (hall and commercial lease)
- Offertory income – 75%
- Diocesan grants – 10% (provided for securing Assistant Curate)

Special donations and bequests contribute to major purchases (e.g. Rectory purchase, carpet replacement).

The hall solar system and the hybrid motor vehicle contribute towards cost savings for the parish.

Compliance and governance are overseen by wardens and parish council. Each February is compliance month where the parish covers compliance requirements for the year ahead.



## The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

We are open to a Rector who will discern what God is calling us to do in response to the changing landscape of our local community, its urbanisation and demographics.

Seeking to respond to and draw in the demographics of the changing community, and positioning of the church within the urbanisation program, present potential opportunities for the parish.

Like many areas of the church, we are challenged by the lack of the younger generation in our parish, the ageing of our current parishioners, and the impacts that these have on our ability to attract volunteers to assist with the varied programs that are enjoyed within the community.

St Bart's is considered a 'training parish' which carries a history of training newly ordained Assistant Curates under the supervision of experienced Rectors. This provides an opportunity for professional development and parish growth.

Additionally, the parish is proactively supportive of clergy development and wellbeing by supporting use of the Diocesan Flourish Program, while ensuring time is adequately provided for annual leave, retreats, professional development and conference attendance.



## Expressions of Interest

We invite expressions of interest to be made to Bishop John Roundhill via [bsecretary@anglicanchurchsq.org.au](mailto:bsecretary@anglicanchurchsq.org.au).