



ST AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Road Clayfield Q 4011

Phone 3262 2859

E-mail clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

Web <http://www.clayfieldparish.org.au>

Aggies Youth facebook.com/aggiesyouth

Parish Priest

Assistant Priest

Parish Secretary

Administrative Assistant

Parish Office Hours

School Principal

Outside School Hours Care Coordinator

Fr Anthony Mellor

Fr Stephen Jeon

Mrs Rosemary Greer

Mrs Jane Cameron

Monday - Friday: 8.00 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30pm

Please note Office is closed 12.30 - 1.30pm.

Mrs Carol Sayers **APRE:** Mr Nick Fogarty

Ms Harmony Domaille

PLEASE NOTE:
Monday 28 December
(Boxing Day Holiday)
Mass will be
celebrated at 9.00am

**A Parish of the North East Deanery in pastoral association with Hamilton Hendra Northgate Nundah
Banyo Wavell Heights Aspley Geebung Zillmere Bracken Ridge Sandgate and Brighton**

Readings - Second Sunday of Advent - 6 December 2015

1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Gospel: Luke 3:1-6



Dear sisters and brothers,

It's December. Summer is in the air, storms come – or not – with their usual hit-and-miss routine, and our school family is already on their long holidays. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, as they say. Already we have hit the halfway mark of Advent – or thereabouts. Even so, only the last eight days of Advent focus our attention on preparing for Christmas. These first three weeks of Advent are really about giving us a good shake, and telling us to “keep awake” and “stay awake”. We are not meant to be sitting passively, waiting for Christmas to come in a sudden mad rush.

The readings of Advent and the characters in them tell us, with great force and passion, to keep an eye out for God who is already here. And the God who is already present amongst us is continually calling us to a change of heart. Preparation is not the same as waiting. Waiting is passive. Preparation is about taking seriously what this moment of Advent is asking of us. St Paul prays an Advent prayer for us today that we might increase in love and never stop growing towards God. That's what this Advent time is all about.

During the week, I read an Advent reflection written by Kathleen Hirsch called “Candles in an Advent of Darkness”. She was reflecting on the meaning of Advent at a time when there seems to be some many acts of darkness in our world. Below is an extract, and her words are worthy of our further reflection:

All of the gestures of Advent were designed to bring a slower, more mindful pace to our days, so that when Christmas came, we would greet it with a renewed understanding of the incarnational message, “Christ is born” – the kingdom of God come among us.

“Resetting” the ordinary and seeing the holy in this season isn't as easy as it once was. Saturated by news clips and tweets of divisiveness, how are we to find the quiet in which we might discover our own navigational stars of hope? The shelter of mere tranquility has collapsed for many of us. If we are totally honest, we are wandering in a dark as deep as that of Mary, Joseph, and the Magi, harried by the same environment of conflict and uncertainty.

But maybe this is the point. Perhaps Advent is actually about accepting reality as it is, and surrendering our small certainties in order to hear a different message than the one we read in the news.

Christmas peace, by this measure, isn't the faux peace of the shopping catalogues that are pouring in like an avalanche this early December with their images of commercial Christmas perfection. Peace is accepting the life we are given, and beginning to build the things that matter, the works of value, in our world — to light our candles without demanding the comfort of certainty.

Peace and joy for the week ahead,

Fr Anthony



At the 9.00am Mass next Sunday 13 December, the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem will be celebrating their patronal Mass.

We welcome Fr Dudley McMahon and Fr Jim Spence who will preside at this Mass. They will be accompanied by the Knights of St Lazarus.



ST. AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY

LifeTeen MASS - Sunday 5.30pm

Join our talented musicians at this celebration of the Eucharist, where youth and young adults are invited to minister to each other.

Enjoy supper and friendship after Mass.

Visit Aggies Youth:

<https://www.facebook.com/aggiesyouth>

DINNER ROSTER

LifeTeen Mass - Sunday 5.30pm

If you can assist with this ministry by providing dinner to cater for 40-60 people please write your name on the roster in main church foyer. Please note:

Costs incurred are reimbursed with the presentation of docket to the parish office.

See notice board for menu suggestions.

Enquiries to the parish office on 3262 2859



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24 December:

- Christmas Eve - Vigil Mass at 6.00pm with carols from 5.30pm.

- Midnight Mass with carols from 11.30pm.

25 December, Christmas Day :

- Mass at 7.00am and 9.00am with carols from 8.45am.

2nd Rite Reconciliation for Christmas

will be celebrated on

- Monday 21 December at 7.00pm



ST AGATHA'S GIVING TREE - 2015

At Christmas time we may be overindulged with food and presents whilst many go without basic necessities.

The Giving Tree is loaded with little gift ideas which will help bring a smile to others on Christmas Day.

You are encouraged to take a tag and return the gift and leave it at the base of the tree.

Members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them for Christmas.

ST AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8 December

7.00pm Parish Office

If you have any questions or ideas please contact Anne O'Connor on 3256 6013 or 0419 796 988.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL



CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Every Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
in the Church. New members welcome.



* ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Are you available to be on roster at any of the Christmas Masses?



Please fill in the sheets on the clipboard near the Sacristy.

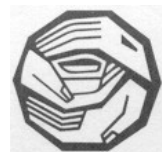
We need Communion Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers at all Masses.

Children who want to be angels, shepherds and wise people for the Entrance Procession at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve please write your name on the list provided. Also girls and boys are needed as Mary and Joseph. If you are aged 10-13 years old please place your name on the list provided.

Names from this list will be drawn out of the hat for the role of Mary and Joseph.

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Agatha's SVDP is conducting its Christmas Appeal, commencing this Sunday. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills, assisting families and single people, seeking food, clothing, and financial assistance. Any donations will be gratefully appreciated. Please use the envelopes provided on the church seats. If paying by cheque, please make payable to the St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference. If anyone would like to donate non-perishable food stuffs, please take a card from the Giving Tree, in the church. Thank you on behalf of the people that SVDP assist.



* **2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION** will be celebrated on Monday 21 December at 7.00pm.

* There will be **NO** Adoration and Benediction on Friday 1 January 2016.

* **VOCARE** - Available at the back of the Church are copies of the 2016 edition of VOCARE, the Annual Vocations Magazine of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Sr Pius Stubberfield, Elizabeth Hurley, Mike Carroll

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Len Williamson

Those who are sick:

Jack O'Hagan, Blue Doyle, Fr Michael Cooney, Craig Gerran, Ken Kipping, Bill Heap, Rosaria Fazio, Paddy Ryan Snr, Adele Walker, Paul White, Edward Clark, Cajetan Goves, Alexandra Barlow, Joshua Statis, Joyce Rodgers, Carmel See, Regina Hwan, Val Boevinlic, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, Gerry Maller, Ann Tully, Louise Horrocks, Nola Palm, Matthew Gray, Frank Wilkie, Don Martin, Patrick Gallagher, Rene Quinn, Eileen Clarke, Rob Bruce, Mel Purwo, Kath Delahunty, Hellen Passente, Philomena L'Hiullier.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

TICKETS: \$2.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5.00

Drawn: Sunday 20 December



Thank you to CCI Personal Insurance for their kind donation of a Christmas hamper (raffle prize) valued at over \$150.00. The hamper contains a range of Christmas goodies.

* **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** - Are you interested in being part of the Children's Liturgy Ministry for 2016? This ministry is open to all over 18 years of age. Each Children's Liturgy session is run by two adult volunteers - one to facilitate and the other to assist. Why not come along and observe a session for yourself to help you make your decision. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

* **ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL** - St Agatha's School Clayfield has limited vacancies in Yr 4 and Yr 6 for 2016. Please direct all enquiries to the Enrolment Secretary: wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au

* **ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL PREP FOR 2017**

If you have a child born between 1/7/11 – 30/6/12, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2017.

The enrolment process for Prep 2017 commences at the beginning of 2016.

If you would like your child included in the enrolments for prep 2017, please *email* your details along with your child's name, D.O.B. and address to the Enrolment Secretary: wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone the school on 3326 9222.

* **INSTALLATION MASS** - You are invited to attend the Installation Mass for Fr Joseph Vattaparambil Saturday 12 December 2015 at 6.00pm, at St Rita's Parish Church, 37 Benfer Road, Victoria Point. Mass will be presided by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Supper will be provided after Mass.

* **2015 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN**

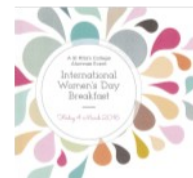
St Agatha's Parish raised \$5,927.40 for the Annual Catholic Campaign held this year in September. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy Campaign.

* **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST - Friday 4 March 2016**

St Rita's College Alumnae cordially invite Past Pupils and Friends to the International Women's Day Breakfast / Brisbane Marriott Hotel / 7.00am for 7.30am / Cost \$65 per person -

All bookings are to be made online through trybooking.com.

For more information and ticketing conditions, flyers are available at the back of the church.



* **THE STAFFORD PARISH** invites applications for the permanent part time position of Parish Secretary (12 hours per week, 9.00am to 3.30pm Monday and Tuesday). Interviews to be held in the first week of January 2016 and position to start on the 18 January 2016.

For job description and more information contact Cindy Hayer on 3367 6332 or hroffice@bne.catholic.net.au. Applications close on 18 December.

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (Philippians 1:9-10)

PARISH ROSTERS

Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable on your rostered day.

6.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS

5/6 Dec	Eric van der List Phil Zammit	Aleira Egan Jeanine Bygott	Volunteer Jane Arkinstall Wilma O'Connell	Life Teen Mass
12/13 Dec	Judy Bartels Paul Bartels	Ken Roberts Anne-Marie Quinn	Regina McGuire Diane Andrews Pam Casagrande	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS

5/6 Dec	Jan Zammit	Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwen	Anthony Carroll	Life Teen Mass
12/13 Dec	Eddie Foley	Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwen	Erin Bledsoe	Life Teen Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD - Prep to Grade 4 children are encouraged to participate.

Please note: any younger siblings need to be accompanied by an adult.

6 Dec	Jane Cameron	Erin Bledsoe
13 Dec - 24 Jan	No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays	

ORGANISTS:

5/6 Dec	Robyn Cuming	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass
12/13 Dec	Robyn Cuming	Mark Leung	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

SANCTUARY CARERS:

12 Dec	Santina Catalano	Maria Fistrovic
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Volunteers needed. These important ministries need more volunteers.
Please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859 if you would like to help.

WEEKEND TIMETABLE

Masses:	Saturday	6.00 pm
	Sunday	7.00 am
		9.00 am
		5.30 pm



Reconciliation:

Saturday 5 pm – 5.30 pm

Rosary: Before most masses

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Mass:	Monday	6.30 am
Mass:	Wednesday	9.00 am
Mass:	Thursday	9.00 am
Mass:	Friday	9.00 am

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

If you need to speak to a priest about an urgent matter, please phone pager 3835 9885.

Baptismal Preparation Meeting

We hold a preparation session for baptism on the first Sunday of the month after the 9.00am Mass.

We celebrate baptism on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month.



For bookings and further information, please phone the parish office on 3262 2859.

CARE AND CONCERN



- Do you need transport to a doctor's appointment?
- Do you need a meal cooked for you?
- Would you like someone to visit you?

If you or someone you know would like assistance with transport, meals or visits please call St Agatha's Care & Concern on **0419 988 811**

We are available and ready to help.

JUST CALL.



As a parishioner, do you have some time to give to help in the above ministry?

Are you interested in helping to bring parishioners to Mass?

If you can help please contact the parish office on 3262 2859 or email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Calendar

DECEMBER

Monday 7

- * SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

Tuesday 8

- * Youth Ministry Meeting 7pm Parish Office

Wednesday 9

- * RCIA 7pm Parish Office

Monday 21

- * 2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm

Friday 25 - 1 January 2016

- * Parish Office closed - reopens Monday 4 January

JANUARY

Friday 1

- * Mass 9.00am
- * No Adoration/Benediction

THE CATHOLIC LEADER COPIES ON SALE - \$2.00

In this week's issue

- * Pope Francis promoting peace and family unity on his first visit to Africa.
- * St Vincent's Hospital can help make lives better this Christmas.

Readings - Third Sunday of Advent - 13 December 2015

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18; 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7;

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18