



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:

**There will be no 9.00am
Mass celebrated on
Thursday 24 December**

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**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 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 20 December 2015

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel: Luke 1:39-44



A few years ago, I came across this image of a young refugee and child fleeing one of the world's never-ending combat zones, looking for some place of safety and shelter. There is the distant look in her eyes, with slightly anxious look on her face, searching the horizon, hoping for a safe haven; a place to rest and protect the child she carries. As a mother, she holds her child securely, with bottle at the ready, to offer her child some sustenance and comfort along the way. I do not know their particular story, or what has happened to them, but their story has re-told in millions of different ways since that photo was taken in 2009. Sadly, this is an image of Madonna and child for today.

We have witnessed the long trail of refugees flooding into Europe. We were touched, saddened, shocked and prompted into action by the image of the poor Syrian boy, Aylan Kurdi, whose lifeless body washed ashore on Turkish beach, wearing the clothes of our children or grand-children. We live in a world where almost 60 million people cannot go home because of conflict and war.

We will soon re-tell the story of a young mother and caring father, escaping to Egypt to protect their new born son from the wrath of a murderous king. This ancient story has been re-lived continuously ever since, with a dark, stinging accuracy for war-weary generations. If we scratch the surface of the Christmas story, we dig down into the realities of human darkness and Divine Light. Underneath all the tinsel, and all the glitter, and all the flashy lights, and all the wrapping paper, is the story of how God comes into the most human of situations – even the darkest of nights – and gives hope, if only as a spark of trembling light, a small and tender flame. Perhaps we can stand before the stable, and see not the image of fairytale, but the gift of God's presence amongst all our human turmoil:

*The Christ of the first Christmas is no longer a child;
He has grown up; he has risen from the dead.*

*But his place is taken,
The manger is filled with other Christs.
What do I see when I kneel before the Christmas crib?*

*He is no longer a cherub-like Christ
Who is enfolded in Mary's warm arms.*

*He is an infant born a refugee;
A Christ-child with disability;
A Christ-child abandoned, deserted of love;
A Christ-child bloated from hunger, eyes empty of hope.
Am I spoiling your Christmas?*

*Only if Christmas is a refuge from reality.
Only if you and I don't show by our actions that –
That new life, God's life, is born in us.
Only if you and I fail to realise that the most Christian of gifts,
the most human of gifts is to bring hope into the eyes of the hopeless.*

*After all, isn't this why the Son of God took our flesh,
Shivered in Mary's arms, had no place to rest his head.
He took what is ours, our flesh and blood, only to give us what is his, a share in his Godlife.*

With Christmas blessings, Fr Anthony

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:

- 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

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



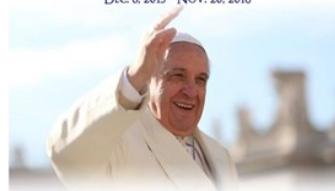
[facebook.com/aggiesyouth](https://www.facebook.com/aggiesyouth)

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL



EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."
- POPE FRANCIS

* ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS

We are still in need of Ministers of Communion for all the Masses and Altar Servers for Midnight, 7.00am and 9.00am Masses. Please fill in the sheets on the clipboard near the Sacristy. Any children that would like to be part of the entrance procession at the 6pm Vigil Mass, please come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise people. Children to please arrive no later than 5.45pm.



* With great joy we welcome **Heath Caruso, Charlotte O'Brien, Louis Perotin and Theodore Poiner** who will be baptised this Sunday.

* **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. Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am.

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained?

Fr. Stephen, the parish staff and I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas season,
and may the new year shower upon you every kind of good gift.
May the Christ-child be a light of peace, love and faith for you all.

...Fr Anthony



In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently :

Nicole Staats, Phyllis Agnew, Jennifer Taylor, Ron Close, Alice Conroy, Bill Heap

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Fr Francis O'Connell, Doris Webb, John Agnew, Florence Hinson, Dell Murphy, Peter, Noel & Eve Turnbull, Brad Tarrant, Alice Shun Wah, Douglas Munt, Don Button

Those who are sick:

Jack O'Hagan, Blue Doyle, Fr Michael Cooney, Craig Gerran, Ken Kipping, 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: this Sunday 20 December after 9.00am Mass



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.

*** 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.

*** 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.

*** THANK YOU**

On behalf of Mary MacKillop International, I thank you for your generous support in supplying and assisting with used stamps. During 2015 we raised approximately \$34,500.00. This has surpassed our 2014 effort, thank you to one and all. From 2001 till now our total is almost \$125,000.00!! It is through your efforts that the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today - *Sr Helen Saunders, for Sisters of St Joseph*

*** 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.



YEAR OF MERCY 20 DECEMBER - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."

- Padre Pio

PARISH ROSTERS

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

	6.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
<u>READERS</u>				
19/20 Dec	Jack Williamson Eddie Foley	Kirsty Stevens Annette Riba	Peter Ryan Trish Ryan Jane Arkinstall	Life Teen Mass
26/27 Dec	Graham Gibson Julie-Anne Gibson	Anne O'Connor Sr Cecily Foster	Heidi Cooper Michael Crutcher Eileen Duncan	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS

19/20 Dec	Ann Goves	Helen Roberts	Volunteer	Life Teen Mass
26/27 Dec	Trish Hickey	Deborah Hall	Volunteer	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.

13 Dec - 24 Jan *No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays*

ORGANISTS:

19/20 Dec	Robyn Cuming	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass
26/27 Dec	Volunteer	Volunteer	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass

SANCTUARY CARERS:

2 Jan	Victor Podesta	Jane Lynn
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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 21

- * SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

- * 2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm

Thursday 24

- * NO 9.00am Mass

Monday 28 (Boxing Day)

- * Mass 9.00am

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

- * Staff volunteer to sing Christmas carols for patients at Brisbane hospital.
- * Brisbane children, thinking of others, hand over toys they'd love to receive themselves for Christmas.
- * New book gives tips for parents to help their children come back to church.

Readings - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - 27 December 2015

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24;

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52