



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

Phone: 3262 2859 After Hours Emergency Pager: 3835 9885
 E-mail: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au Website: www.clayfieldparish.org.au
 Aggies Youth: facebook.com/aggiesyouth

Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Mellor Assistant Priest: Fr Kevin Njoku
 Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer Admin. Assistant: Mrs Jane Cameron
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8.00am to 12.30pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30pm
 (Please note: the Office is closed between 12.30 - 1.30pm)
 Local Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Representative: Marie Ho (0417 723 085)

St. Agatha's Catholic Primary School 6 Hunter Lane Clayfield Qld 4011.
 Phone: 3326 9222
 School Principal: Mrs Carol Sayers APRE: Mr Nick Fogarty
 Outside School Hours Care Coordinator: Ms Harmony Domaille

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24th July 2016

Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 18:20-32; 2nd Reading: Colossians 2:12-14; Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 25 July: 6.30am
Saint James
Wednesday 27 July: 9am
Thursday 28 July: 9am
Friday 29 July: 9am
Saint Martha

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm
 (1st Rite of Reconciliation:
 Saturday 4.30pm)
 Sunday 7.00am
 9.00am
 5.30pm

Rosary before Mass

Parish Calendar

AUGUST

- **Monday 1st**
 SVDP Meeting 5.00pm
 Parish Office
- **Tuesday 2nd**
 Youth Ministry Meeting
 6.45pm Parish Office
- **Saturday 6th / Sunday 7th**
 Catholic Mission Appeal
- **Sunday 14th**
 P26 Mass 9.00am
- **Monday 15th**
 The Assumption of the
 Blessed Virgin Mary
 Masses 6.30am & 9.00am

Dear sisters and brothers,

If you have ever gone to the markets or travelled overseas and bargained over the price of a purchase, you'll know what Abraham is doing in the first reading. Good merchant that he is, Abraham is 'haggling' with God, trying to beat God's price down, if you like. The continual pleas he makes for a lower number lend a rather wry tone to the conversation. This exchange is touching and exposes a deep friendship between God and Abraham. Abraham, the friend of God, knows that he can put pressure on God in this way - and get away with it.

In a similar way, Jesus draws on a deep relationship with the Father when he responds to a request from his disciples and teaches them how to pray. The disciples recognised that there was something special about the relationship between Jesus and the one whom he called "Father" and they wanted to share in that relationship. They wanted to pray the way Jesus prayed.

Jesus' prayer begins firstly with the sole focus upon God, and God's 'agenda' - that God's name be held holy, that God's kingdom come. Only after this, do the petitions turn to address human need - for food and sustenance, for forgiveness and, finally, for protection in the hour of trial. The prayer that Jesus teaches them begins by addressing God in a way that is characteristic of Jesus: as 'Father'. The Greek word in the text is "pater" (Father) but in all likelihood Jesus used the Aramaic word, "Abba" and perhaps "Dad" best translates it. Jesus' use of this highly familiar title for God made such an impression on the early believers that they retained the Aramaic word "Abba". After the death and resurrection of Jesus, and Pentecost, they found themselves 'daring' to call God "Abba - Father - Dad". This is an extraordinary way to address the God of all the universe - "Dad".

This prayer is so familiar to us and that we probably miss a lot of its beauty and power. The prayer is the prayer of a community that knows that it is the loved family of God. It is a prayer of a community that knows that it is on a journey through life, and in confidence and trust turns to their "Abba", their loving parent, to ask for those gifts that only God can give. It is not only a prayer in itself, but also is a model for all prayer. We turn to God in the most intimate way. We mightn't always get our way, but we trust that God will always and ultimately deliver us from every evil.

Fr. Anthony

2016 - The Year of Mercy

A Word of Mercy... By our efforts alone, we cannot be reconciled to God. Sin truly is the expression of the rejection of his love, with the consequence of closing in on ourselves, deluding ourselves into thinking that we have found greater freedom and autonomy. (Pope Francis)

Clayfield Conversations

This is the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Over these weeks, we will explore various aspects and dimensions of mercy.

Mercy and Bible

So this year is all about “mercy”. But what does that mean? Psalm 103:8 tells us that “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” We are reminded of this often throughout the Old Testament, even despite the bursts of divine anger and vengeance. For us Christians, Jesus becomes the face of mercy. We can think of the stories that he told, his actions when he offered forgiveness, and his celebrations of love and mercy around a common table. Even so, mercy in scripture is a multi-layered concept. Fr. Ron Witherup identifies four dimensions of mercy in the Bible. He writes:

There are four basic observations one can make on the basis of the overall biblical orientation towards mercy. **First**, mercy encompasses many interrelated qualities. It is closely associated with compassion, faithfulness, steadfastness, tenderness, grace, favour, forgiveness, pity, and so on, including love. Because of this diversity, it is dangerous to reduce the concept to only one word, such as mercy. It is rather a rich concept, as dictionaries indicate. Yet one can explore the nuances of the concept in various passages of the bible, for context can provide nuanced interpretations that we would otherwise miss.

Second, mercy is most evidently a quality or attribute of God towards human beings, especially towards the covenant people whom he has invited into relationship. In this covenant context, mercy has many dimensions. It is faithfulness, steadfastness, loving kindness, graciousness, and showing favour to human beings.

A **third** aspect is the reciprocal dimension to mercy in the bible. Those who receive mercy from God are also called to emulate it. Receiving it brings with it a responsibility to share it with others. Mercy is thus not only a divine quality or attribute but also a human virtue. It is something to be fostered in the arena of human interaction.

Finally, although mercy is the free gift of God and is not something earned or deserved, it is not simply a free pass to do whatever we want and then expect that God will gloss over our failings or sinfulness. Again, in the context of a covenant relationship, God extends mercy time and again, expecting that there is human resolve to rectify that which is lacking in human faithfulness to God’s covenant.

Mercy is thus related to God’s justice as well. He is both merciful and just, kind and demanding, forgiving and capable of judging. This complex concept warrants separate investigation on its own. The bible’s teaching on mercy is broad and more complex than we perhaps initially perceive.

God’s mercy is poured out upon sinful human beings, not so that we can do what we like, but so that we might come to be more like God. Mercy is a gift which creates new possibilities. Scripture contains many stories of human failings, sin and destruction. In the face of all this, God’s mercy takes what is broken and mends with a restorative vision of love. Mercy is our participation in God’s love which recreates and lifts up the broken.

CARE AND CONCERN

We are in the process of restructuring the Care and Concern Ministry.

In the interim if you need any assistance, please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

We would like to hear from anyone interested in coordinating or assisting the current team with this Ministry in the future. For further details please contact the Parish Office or email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

With great joy we welcome

Henry Dee

who will be baptised this weekend.

ST AGATHA’S YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Next Youth Ministry Meeting
Tuesday 2 August - 6.45pm Parish Office

You are invited to a
**FAMILY FUN DAY
AND WINTER FEAST**
Sunday August 28

Only one Sunday Mass will be held on this day at St Agatha’s Church at 10.00am, to be followed by a hot meal at the Presentation Centre at the school.

While this is a free event – donations will help us cover the cost.

Come along and enjoy:

Spit roast with roast vegetables, delicious desserts, sausage sizzle for the kids, magic show and snow cones...

More information on how to register for this event will be advertised in the coming weeks.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

John Carroll, Margaret Pearson, Albert Contessa

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Marie MacGinley, Emily Sherman, Peita Dodson, Pam McBride, Anthony McBride, Bill Wallin, Santo & Giuseppa Catalano, Mona Moynihan, Ray Hall, Lionel Orr, Laurence and Eileen Quinlan, Fr William McCarthy, Fr Tom Gard, Shawn Macgroarty, Edna Taylor

Those who are sick:

Sophia Horrocks, Dan McCluskey, Mario Di Filippo, Betty Beaton, Norma Fiore, Joan Healy, Rakesh Akhil, Dell McHugh, Trevor Elms, Fr Michael Cooney, Craig Gerran, Ken Kipping, Paul White, Edward Clark, Alexandra Manning, Joyce Rodgers, Carmel See, Regina Hwan, Val Boevinlic, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, Ann Tully, Matthew Gray, Frank Wilkie, Don Martin, Patrick Gallagher, Rene Quinn, Eileen Clarke, Rob Bruce, Mel Purwo, Kath Delahunty, Hellen Passente, Philomena L'Hiullier.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

The dedication you have for St Agatha's Parish can go on forever when you make a gift to our parish endowment fund. With endowment funds, the principal is kept intact and the distributions to the parish come from growth and earnings. This provides a steady stream of income to our parish forever.

For more information on naming St Agatha's Parish Endowment in your Will, please call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or call the parish office.

SVDP WINTER APPEAL



The St Agatha's SVDP Conference is conducting its Winter Appeal. Envelopes can be found on the church seats. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills, assisting families and single people, with food vouchers, clothing, furniture. Any donations will be gratefully appreciated. Please use the envelopes provided. If paying by cheque, please make payable "St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference". Thank you on behalf of the people that the SVDP assist.



OUR PARISH WILL CONDUCT THE CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL ON AUGUST 6/7

It is fascinating to consider how Jesus taught His disciples the Our Father; it is hard to comprehend that a prayer which is now universally recited was once being shared for the first time. Were they all sitting down or were some of them standing around, thinking about what they were going to have for lunch? Did it take them long to remember all the words? And was there a method to the way Jesus structured the prayer? The way in which people learn and are taught is worth considering because it is that process which dominates much of the appeal campaign for Catholic Mission this year. In Cambodia, nuns like Sr Eulie are coming up with innovative ways to educate children who might otherwise miss out. And just as we join together in saying this prayer, so too we unite by giving to the universal work of the Church, to the best of our capacity. In anticipation, we thank you for giving so that others might receive their "daily bread" and also for helping ensure that "thy kingdom comes" and that "thy will" is done. *David McGovern, Diocesan Director / Archdiocese of Brisbane*

YOUTH & VOCATIONS EXPO 2016

Sunday 7 August / 11.00am - 3.30pm
Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street
12.00pm Vocations Mass celebrated by
Archbishop Coleridge

11am-3pm: Expo: Religious, Multicultural and Youth
Ministry stalls / Free BBQ / Live Music /
Food and drinks.

DINNER ROSTER LifeTeen Mass - Sunday 5.30pm

We will be providing dinner on the
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

HELP NEEDED: If you can assist with this ministry by providing dinner for 40-60 people please write your name on the roster in the Church foyer. The key to this ministry is "keep it simple". Sausage sizzles and spaghetti bolognese are always welcome! Costs can be reimbursed with presentation of dockets to the Parish office.

Enquiries to the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We are calling for nominations for our Parish Pastoral Council. As has been mentioned previously, with the new installation of a council, we will also change the name to *Community and Mission Council* to give clearer focus and tighter agenda to our work. We ask you to consider either nominating yourself or others for service to our parish through becoming a member of the Community and Mission Council.

Nominations forms are available on the church pews and also on our website. Please place your completed form in the box provided at the back of the church or hand in to the Parish Office. Thank you.

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

23/24 July	Ryan Smethurst Marie Ho	Andrew Douglas Chanelle White	Michael Crutcher Jane Arkinstall Heidi Cooper	Life Teen Mass
30/31 July	Eric van der List Phil Zammit	Anne-Marie Quinn Jeanine Bygott	Leanne O'Shea Eileen Duncan Peter Gilroy	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

23/24 July	Trish Hickey	Helen Roberts	<i>Volunteer</i>	Life Teen Mass
30/31 July	Michele Pink	Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwan	Deborah Hall	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

23/24 July	<i>Volunteer</i>	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass
30/31 July	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

23/24 July	Phoebe McGuire Isabella McGuire Ella Shepherd	Joey Douglas Lucy White Isabella White	Alyssa Godinho Sarah Baker Charlotte Corrigan	Caitlin Marshall Alex Oliveri
30/31 July	Xavier Coorey Milla Brady Lachlan Hinneberg	<i>Volunteers</i>	Billy Crutcher Sofia Lazzarini	Tia Manuel

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

24 July			Jane Cameron & Erin Bledsoe	
31 July			Julie Kordic & Ewa Marino-Cebulski	

SANCTUARY CARERS:

6 Aug	Victor Podesta & Jane Lynn
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BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

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.

BURNIE BRAE

The Burnie Brae not-for-profit community organisation at Chermside is in need of pre-loved clothing items suitable for ages 50+. You can leave your pre-loved clothing items at the Parish Office during office hours or at the Church on the weekend, by the last Sunday of each month. Pre-loved clothing items will then be delivered to those in need at the Burnie Brae "Project Pantry" event which is held on the 1st Saturday morning of each month.

You are invited to attend the **SOLEMNITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP**

celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge on Monday 8 August 2016 at 10am Cathedral of St Stephen. This year marks 150 years since the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart were founded by Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods. In honour of the sesquicentenary, celebrations will include the blessing and opening of the new MacKillop Walk in the Cathedral precinct. All the faithful are invited to celebrate the feast of Australia's first saint and guests are encouraged to join us for morning tea in the Cathedral grounds after Mass. RSVP by 1 August 2016 by email to rsvp@bne.catholic.net.au or call 3324 3200.



OPEN DAY and CARNIVAL

St Rita's College, Clayfield
Sunday 31 July 2016
Open Day: 10:00am to 12:30pm
Principal's Address at 10:00am and 11:00am
Register at: blog.stritas.qld.edu.au/open-day
Stay on and join us at the Carnival: 10:00am - 4:00pm

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

The Ministry of Communion to the Sick is an ancient and essential ministry of any Christian community. We are currently seeking people who are interested in this ministry to join our roster. Please give this ministry some consideration. For more information, please contact Fr Anthony or the parish office.

Readings - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 31 July 2016

1st Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; 2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Gospel: Luke 12:13-21