



St Agatha's
CLAYFIELD

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 (0448 840 040) 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: Parish Office 3262 2859

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: Ashleigh Stacpoole

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9th October 2016

Readings

1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17; 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 10 October: 6.30am
Wednesday 12 October: 9am
Thursday 13 October: 9am
Friday 14 October: 9am

SUNDAY MASSES

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

Rosary before Mass .

Parish Calendar

OCTOBER

- Monday 10th
SVDP Meeting 5.00pm Parish Office
- Tuesday 11th
Youth Ministry Meeting
7.00pm Parish Office
- Wednesday 12th
Pastoral Council Meeting
7.00pm Parish Office

THE CATHOLIC LEADER COPIES ON SALE - \$2.00

* Pope Francis says there is a global war on marriage and the family, calls on families and couples to stay strong.
* Catholic couples celebrate decades of marriage at Cathedral Mass.

Dear sisters and brothers,

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. (Ps. 118, 1-2).
Gratitude is from the Latin word, "Gratus" which means, "thankful, pleasing." It is an awareness of and appreciation for favours we receive in our life and not taking them for granted.

When was the last time you sincerely thanked God in appreciation of at least, the health and life he has given to you? Sometimes, it is too heavy on our lips and hearts to say, *"I thank you Lord Jesus"*. We take lots of things for granted including the gift of life and indeed other mercies that God granted us. I have noticed that about seventy percent of our prayers are more about lamentations, recounting of woes, failures and disappointments. But, if we can reflect for just a moment, we will see reasons to thank God in our lives.

In today's first reading, while Naaman did what simple courtesy demands of every one of us, to show appreciation and thank those who have been good to us, Elisha teaches us that the most important issue in thanking God is not how much material wealth we bring to Him. Rather, the heart and willingness to come back and give praise to Him. God does not come to our help just because of how much we are able to offer him materially in return. However, this does not, in any way condemn material offerings for the good of the Church in appreciation of what God has done for us. This is important because *the Church is the visible sign of God on earth*. Therefore, whatever we bring in thanksgiving to the Church is offered to God. Surely, He is always happy for our generous donations to maintain the Church.

In today's gospel, Jesus acknowledged the appreciation and faith expressed by one of the ten lepers healed, who came back to praise God. Let us continue to show gratitude to one another and God for favours granted to us. It must not be seen as a burden or as *"paying God back for what he has done for us."* The truth is that we cannot pay him back! The willingness to thank God must flow from our hearts and from a good and pure conscience, rather than from coercion, psyching, or out of fear of what would happen if we did not do it.

Count your blessings and name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done for you.

If we thank God for what he has done for us, he will be happy to grant us more blessings.

Fr. Kevin.

2016 - The Year of Mercy

A Word of Mercy....Live on mercy so as to be instruments of mercy: live on mercy and feel needful of Jesus' mercy, and when we feel in need of forgiveness, of consolation, let us learn to be merciful to others.

(Pope Francis).

Clayfield Conversations

This year's Social Justice Statement from Australia's Catholic Bishops focused on the value and dignity of older people. In her address at the launch of the Statement, Good Samaritan Sister Patty Fawkner asked: "what do the elderly of our world teach me for the journey of life?" Here is part one. Part two will be published next week.

The full article can be viewed on *The Good Oil* website.

Learning from the Elderly: Keep Working on Love (Part One)

An African proverb says, "The death of an old person is like the loss of a library". The Australian Bishops concur that the wisdom and lived experience of older people are priceless treasures. Briefly, I wish to share some stories from the library of elders I know, and the wisdom I find there for our human journey which is, of course, a spiritual journey. Have you noticed we seem to want a long life but don't want to become old? In preparation for this talk I interviewed five Good Samaritan Sisters who I think have made a good job of becoming old.

Three things struck me about these women whose average age is 87. Though they struggled with their diminishment, they accepted it. They were all still working on love and they were overwhelmingly grateful. Morris West wrote his autobiography at 80. West says, "Once you reach a certain age, there should be only one phrase left in your vocabulary: thank-you! With every birthday, gratitude should deepen until it colours every aspect of life".

I visited another sister who'd taught me. She was 98 and fully alert. "I have a gift for you," I said. She said, "I don't want it". With age comes wisdom and graciousness, but as Oscar Wilde observed, sometimes age comes alone. Lesson number one: be grateful.

The Bishops acknowledge the stereotyping and demeaning of the elderly in a culture besotted with youth, sexual attractiveness, status and productivity. We use the word "old" pejoratively: "old codger", the sexist "old woman", and "old fool". Richard Rohr says that if we live long enough we'll all become old fools, but that we have a choice about what kind of "old fool" we become. We can become a "pathetic old fool", an "embittered old fool" or we can, he says, become a "holy old fool", one who accepts their age and diminishment without pathetically clinging to the past and without bitterness.

My mother, Betty, has had dementia for ten years and it gets inexorably worse. Betty doesn't think about the future and she's lost all memory of the past. She lives in the NOW. She reminds me that any fixation on the past or the future prevents me from giving my full attention to the present moment. How hard it is to be present in the NOW.

The heart of the present moment is where God is. God, reveals Godself to Moses as I AM, not I will be, or I was, but the enigmatic I AM, the One who speaks a word of love to me in the here, in the now.

Betty wears no masks; plays no roles; has no duties. She is simply herself. I'm mindful of May Sarton's poem:

Now I become myself. It's taken time, many years and places.

I have been dissolved and shaken, Worn other peoples' faces.

Betty's treasure is not what she does, nor what she produces, but who she is.

Growing up I was somewhat awed by my mother and, sadly, there wasn't a great deal of obvious affection between us. I was Dad's girl. Betty's older age has released the affection genie between us. I can't tell you how grateful I am that when I visit her I can cup her soft-skinned face and say, "I love you, my darling Mother". She used to be able to say she loved me too, but not now. She doesn't know who I am. But she affectionately smiles – generally. Teilhard de Chardin says, "It is absolutely necessary to keep smiling. The essential and doubtless most fruitful gesture is to smile, with something of love in the smile". There was an elderly man in Mum's unit who must have been a ball-room dancer in his earlier life. Helmut would always be tripping the light fantastic a la Fred Astaire. My ageist mother used to say, "Look at that silly old fool". But Helmut was great. The dancing seemed to transport him. The lesson I learn from Helmut is: cultivate your interests now, don't wait till tomorrow.

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

ST AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Next Youth Ministry meeting
Tuesday 11 October 7.00pm Parish Office

WELCOME FR ORM RUSH

This weekend we welcome Fr Orm Rush, who will be celebrating the 5.00pm & 5.30pm Masses.



MOVERS & SHAKERS 2017
YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
Christian leadership training for young people 16-25 years old

9 to 13 APRIL 2017
James Byrne Centre TOOWOOMBA
moversandshakers.org.au

A dynamic week that inspires, transforms and challenges young people to be the best leader they can be.

Priority Sponsored by      

Visit: www.moversandshakers.org.au for more information or to register. Registrations close 25 March 2017

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Norrie Brennan

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Hon. Bruce McPherson, Melda Power, Ken Woodhead, May Schuh, Merv Devlin, William Hinson, Ken Russell

Those who are sick:

Carmel Elms, Angie Sturges, Helen Orosz, John McCluskey, Marie Ho, Trevor Simpson, Tony Druary, Lisa Bowes, Sophia Horrocks, Dan McCluskey, Mario Di Filippo, Betty Beaton, Norma Fiore, Joan Healy, Rakesh Akhil, Dell McHugh, 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, Patrick Gallagher, Rene Quinn, Eileen Clarke, Rob Bruce, Mel Purwo, Kath Delahunty, Hellen Passente, Philomena L'Hiullier.

“Your light must shine before all so that they may see goodness in your acts.” (Matthew 5:16)

We should view our giving in gratitude to God by considering how blessed we are... using our gifts and talents for the good of others. A gift in any amount given through your Will benefits future generations of parishioners.

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

WORK AND WELCOME PROGRAM

Multicultural Development Association (MDA) is a re-settlement agency that works to assist refugees with housing, skills and employment. They offer a “Work and Welcome” program by which a refugee is placed in a work environment for up to 12 weeks. Working with St. Rita's College, and our parish primary school, our parish community will assist a refugee through the “Work and Welcome” program in first school term of 2017. As it is a genuine employment opportunity, we will pay wages to the person who is employed. The total cost of a one term placement is around \$11000. This means that our parish community will be required to raise about \$3500 as our one-third share.

If you are able and willing to donate, below is the process to follow:

1. Go to MDA's website and select Donate: <https://mdaltd.org.au/mda-donation/>
2. Choose the amount you'd like to donate. If you'd like to donate an amount different than \$10, \$30, \$50 or \$100, please use “Surprise Us” option. Proceed to checkout.
3. In the field titled Company Name please use a reference name as per below:
Work and Welcome St Agatha's Parish (This is important to track our donations)
4. Upon completion of transaction, you will receive a confirmation email including an invoice.

Please note all donations above \$2 are fully tax deductible.



ST AGATHA'S PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St Agatha's Parish Children's choir is currently seeking new members in preparation for the Christmas season. It is not a big time commitment. We normally sing 6 or 7 times a year in addition to Christmas Eve and Easter, and practice once a month straight after school in the church for an hour. The practice schedule is very flexible, and although it is preferable to attend all the practice sessions, it is not essential. Not only is it a great opportunity to learn to sing or extend your singing repertoire and boost your confidence, but you will also make new friends within the parish community. Boys and girls from grade 1 upwards welcome.

Please contact nicolawarda@yahoo.com.au for further information.

PARISH MEN'S WEEKEND - Our Lady Help of Christians, Parish Hall, Hendra 15-16 October.

The experience of men gathering together at a menALIVE weekend is dynamic and powerful.

Many men are inspired, encouraged and feel that they have a new sense of purpose and mission.

menALIVE is a National Catholic Ministry for Men. Since the founding in 2003 menALIVE has run 280 events in 25 diocese in Australia and New Zealand for more than 15,500 men.

Come along to a menALIVE weekend and discover what it means to be fully alive.

Brochures (*which includes registration form*) are available at the front foyer of the Church.

Today and throughout this week we pray for all families in distress.

Heavenly Father, grant healing to all families in distress, especially those burdened with strained relationships.

Draw close to all families who have experienced violence, upheaval, illness or division.

May all who have been wounded find ready comfort and healing.

October

*Month of the
Holy Rosary*



Most of us live “easy” lives. We have food, shelter and clothing. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least amount of possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn't this be the other way around? Take time every day and thank God for all He has given you.

October is
**Breast Cancer
Awareness
Month**



PARISH ROSTERS

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

8/9 Oct	Ryan Smethurst Ann Goves	Rafael Chase Ruby Chase	St Agatha's P26 Mass	Life Teen Mass
15/16 Oct	Marian Nolan Eddie Foley	Annette Riba Kirsty Stevens	Wilma O'Connell Trish Ryan Jane Arkinstall	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

8/9 Oct	Eddie Foley	Helen Roberts	Erin Bledsoe	Life Teen Mass
15/16 Oct	Volunteer	Paulette Archer	Michele Pink	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

8/9 Oct	Volunteer	Mark Leung	Robyn Cuming Paul Fiumara	Life Teen Mass
15/16 Oct	Volunteer	Volunteer	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

8/9 Oct	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s
15/16 Oct	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s	Volunteer/s

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

9 Oct	No Children's Liturgy - P26 Mass			
16 Oct	Julie Kordic & Ewa Marino-Cebulski			

SANCTUARY CARERS:

15 Oct	Beverley O'Brien
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*"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"
Luke 17:18*

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.



ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL
has vacancies in Year 5 (only)
for 2017.

Please direct all enquiries to
the Enrolment Secretary:
wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au
or Phone: 3326 9222

CPPC MASS FOR MENTAL HEALTH WEEK FRIDAY OCTOBER 14

Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care
invites you to a Mass to celebrate
Queensland Mental Health Week.

The 2016 theme is:

"Value Mental Health".

Where: St Patrick's Church,
Fortitude Valley

(Cnr MacLachlan and Morgan Streets)

When: Friday 14 October at 1.00pm

Light refreshments will follow Mass.

Parking is available in
the church grounds.



ALL HALLOWS' SCHOOL - 1953-56 REUNION

A 60 year reunion for past students who did Junior in 1954 or senior in 1956 (and those who joined them along the way) is planned for Saturday 29 October beginning with Mass in the school chapel at 10am followed by morning tea. Please call Sr Anne Hetherington on 0409 075 739 for invitation and further details.

CATHOLIC MAN BREAKFAST - Thursday 20 October - Hosted by Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

The next menALIVE Catholic Man Breakfast is from 7am to 9am on Thursday 20 October at Tattersall's Club, 215 Queen St Brisbane. You can hear Dr Michael Forbes tell his story - *"Maths, Ministry and Marathons"*.

Cost is \$45 per person. For enquires: cmbs@menalive.org.au. For bookings email: des@menalive.org.au.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Copies of the Whistleblower Brochure are available at the front foyer of the church.
Please take a copy.

DATE CLAIMER

Year of Mercy parish retreat
Sunday 30 October 2016

Readings - Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16 October 2016

1st Reading: Exodus 17:8-13; 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Gospel: Luke 18:1-8