



St Agatha's
CLAYFIELD

ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

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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: Georgia Allan (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: Ashleigh Stacpoole

The Nativity of the Lord (Year A) - 25th December 2016

Vigil Mass Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5; 2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass Readings: 1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7; 2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

7am & 9am Mass Readings: 1st Reading Isaiah 62:11-12; 2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7; Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 26 December: 9.00am
Saint Stephen
Wednesday 28 December: 9am
The Holy Innocents
Thursday 29 December: 9am
Friday 30 December: 9am
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

SUNDAY MASSES

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

Rosary before Mass.



*The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to all who enjoy his favour".*

Dear friends,

The great Christmas season is upon us. With Christmas on a Sunday, Advent has been the longest it can possibly be. Even so, Christmas Day always seem to come at us with a great rush. I suppose that is the same with any birth; nine months of expectation burst into a frantic labour of activity. Given that

Christmas is about births, no wonder then, that no amount of preparation can save us from the urgency of the approaching festive celebration.

The nativity scene above, called *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, is by 16th century Italian artist, Annibale Carracci. The luminous Christ-child is in the centre, while Mary and one of the shepherds share a wondrous gaze. Mary holds the white cloth of swaddling clothes, hinting at the garment which would be used to bury Jesus after the crucifixion. Joseph stands behind, ever vigilant as protector and guard. The young shepherd boy on the left directs our gaze to a donkey, reminding us that the wood of the manger would become the wood of the cross. The Christ-child eyes are directed beyond the donkey (one which Jesus would ride on into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday) and the ox (a sign of sacrifice), perhaps looking toward the future events that these two animals signify. Meanwhile, the angels playfully sing a song of praise above the fray.

It is an illuminating image that connects Bethlehem with Jerusalem; birth, life, death and resurrection. We are reminded that there is a bigger story here. We celebrate Jesus' birth because of his death and resurrection. We celebrate that Jesus is born. We rejoice even more so that Jesus is among us still. Our lives are caught-up in this bigger story. As we give thanks for this feast of Christmas, let us do more than remember Jesus' birth. Let us look for signs of Jesus' life among us. As we gather with our own families and our parish family, may the joy and blessing of the nativity fill our hearts and our world with a luminous light that never fades. I wish you every joy and blessing for the Christmas season! *Fr. Anthony*

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Yet precisely where the incarnate Son of God came into the world, tensions and violence persist, and peace remains a gift to be implored and built. Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. Where God is born, mercy flourishes.

Clayfield Conversations

A Christmas Reflection

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?

It is no longer a cherub-like Christ
That is enfolded in Mary's warm arms.

It is an infant born this day in besieged Aleppo in Syria;
Or a joyous child with Down Syndrome;
Or a lonely Christ abandoned by his parents;
Or a starving Christ 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 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.

Fr Kevin, 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

PARISH CALENDAR

Mass times for week commencing Monday 26 December:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.00am

Mass times for week commencing Monday 2 January 2017:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.00am

Parish Office reopens: Monday 9 January 2017



Have a good trip!

*Safe travels Fr Kevin.
We hope you have a wonderful
visit back home to Nigeria.*

Fr Kevin leaves on
Tuesday 27 December and upon his return to
Australia in February will start his new
appointment at Jubilee Parish.
We thank Fr Kevin for his presence and
ministry among us at St Agatha's Parish.

"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta