



**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

## First Sunday of Advent - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Readings

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5; **2nd Reading:** Romans 13:11-14; **Gospel:** Matthew 24:37-44

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday 28 November:** 6.30am

**Wednesday 30 November:** 9am

*Saint Andrew*

**Thursday 1 December:** 9am

**Friday 2 December:** 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

#### **DECEMBER**

- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Choir Practice 6pm-7pm

- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Whole School End of Year

Mass 11.00am

- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

#### **THE CATHOLIC LEADER**

**COPIES ON SALE - \$2.00**

\* Brisbane priest gets first taste of Schoolies party as police chaplain

\* When does freedom of speech cross the line?



**ADVENT**

Dear friends,

We begin the season of Advent and a new liturgical year this Sunday. In the three yearly cycle of readings, this year is Yr A, and will mostly hear from the gospel of Matthew. Matthew is the most Jewish of the gospels, and highlights Jesus as “the new Moses” - the new law-giver. While we begin a new church year, other parts of our parish are winding down. On Friday night, we gathered for a most enjoyable celebration to say “thank you” to all who have contributed to our parish throughout this year. Every parish is heavily reliant on volunteers and this parish is no different. As I said on Friday night, I am deeply grateful to all who continue to support the various ministries and activities of

the parish. Many tasks go unnoticed, but many tasks would certainly be noticed if they didn't happen. Thanks to all who work quietly for the good of our parish community.

This coming Wednesday, we will celebrate the graduation of 35 Year Sixes who will be completing their primary schooling. We wish them well as they move onto secondary school and we hope that St. Agatha's will always have a special place in their hearts. We invite these girls and their families back for a special reunion Mass, Reconnect7, on February 12<sup>th</sup> next year. And we wish our whole school community a happy and relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing them back at school in 2017.

In July this year, we moved the 6pm Saturday Mass to 5pm on a trial basis. This change has been reasonably successful, however, I did promise that we would revisit this trial at the end of the year. On the end of the pews, there is a survey form about whether the parish community would like to see this trial made permanent and continue with the 5pm Mass. There is a box at the front door in which to place your responses.

**Finally,** Archbishop Mark Coleridge has appointed Fr. Kevin to Jubilee Parish (Ashgrove, Bardon, Herston, Red Hill, Rosalie, Newmarket) from next year. We will have a farewell morning tea for Fr. Kevin after the 9am Mass on December 18<sup>th</sup>. There are envelopes on the seats if you wish to contribute towards a “thank you” gift for Fr. Kevin. There is also a card available for people to sign and write a message. I am sure that many of you will take the opportunity over the next couple of weeks to personally thank Fr. Kevin for his presence and ministry among us for the past 8 months.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

There is an urgent need to see once again that faith is a light, for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim. The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating *every aspect* of human existence.

A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source:  
in a word, it must come from God.

## **Clayfield Conversations**

Below is an edited version of Archbishop Mark Coleridge's Advent Pastoral Letter.  
A full version is available on the seats.

### **The Flesh and the Facts**

At the heart of Christianity is the claim that God became one of us, which is what we mean when we speak of the Incarnation. In the Prologue of John's Gospel, we're told that the Word, who had existed from all eternity, was made flesh and pitched his tent among us. It's extraordinary to claim that the God whom neither time nor space can contain became a human being at a particular time and in a particular place. But that's what we celebrate through Advent and the Christmas season. This puts a bomb under any sense that the material world in general and the flesh in particular are bad. In Genesis we're told that God saw what he had made and found it very good (1:31). Christmas says that God saw what he had made and, seeing its goodness disfigured, decided to become part of his own creation to restore it to the glory he intended from the beginning.

The God who takes flesh deals not in abstractions but in facts. Likewise the Church that worships the mystery of the Word-made-flesh needs to deal with facts. That's where mercy starts. At times what we believe and teach can seem too abstract. That's the sense I had listening to certain voices at last year's Synod on marriage and the family in Rome. What I heard at times was logical, perhaps even beautiful in a way, but it didn't put down roots in the soil of human experience, and it would have been incomprehensible to most people outside the Synod Hall. In 1975, Pope Paul VI said that the split between the Gospel and culture is the drama of our time. In the years since then, the truth of that has become only more apparent. The Gospel and culture have parted ways. The Gospel hasn't moved but the culture has gone elsewhere in a way that the Church can find difficult to understand and engage. Hence the problems of communication we now face.

The challenge now is not to abandon the faith in favour of the facts, but to create a new engagement of the faith with the culture of which we're part – as the logic of the Incarnation demands. That's not as easy as it sounds because the facts have changed very quickly and dramatically, and that process won't slow or cease. Part of this new engagement will be a reconsideration of Church structures and strategies, which can be based upon the facts of other times. They may have been brilliantly successful once upon a time when things were different. But they are not what's required now in a situation where the facts have changed.

At times the facts can seem unfriendly to Catholic belief and teaching. But according to psychologist Carl Rogers, "The facts are friendly" – by which he meant some like "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). The question for us is, How might unfriendly-seeming facts actually be friendly? Or to put the question differently, Where is God in the midst of the mess? The real God is there somewhere, somehow; but it's a challenge to discern God's presence when the facts seem not just messy but unfriendly.

Pope Francis has spoken often of the need for the whole Church – not just the pastors – to undergo "a pastoral conversion". The word "pastoral" can mean many things, but it doesn't mean that we compromise the truths of the faith. It does mean however that we get in touch with the facts of human experience. This will mean a new kind of listening to the truth of people's experience. From a new listening will come a new language that people can understand because it's in touch with their lives. That's what it means to be a truly pastoral Church. It's also what it means to speak of a new evangelisation by a more missionary Church.

Advent is a time of waiting, but there's nothing passive about that, because we wait with ears and eyes wide open. Advent is a special time for listening. It's also a special time for seeing – scrutinising the signs of the times, asking ourselves in the light of the Incarnation how the facts, which can seem unfriendly, might actually be friendly with the friendliness of the God who becomes one of us so that mercy may have the last word.

### **CARE AND CONCERN**

Please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

### **ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION - this weekend 26/27 November**

The Peter's Pence Collection is an annual collection of the Catholic Church around the world.

The collection allows the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer timely, effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters.

***This very special collection will be taken up as a retiring collection after all the Masses this weekend.***



With great joy we welcome  
**Lachlan MacDougal, Oliver Martyr,  
Kingsley Rhydderch, Oliver Small &  
Edie Van Niekerk**  
who will be baptised this weekend.

### **ST AGATHA'S GIVING TREE - 2016**

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.*

## In our prayers we remember



### Those who have died recently:

John Danaher, Marie Carpenter, Thomas Rodden, Judy McCluskey, Kathleen Horne

### And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Patricia Latimer, Ken Rong, Reginald Shun Wah (Jnr), Rosalind Shun Wah, Joan O'Shea, Joseph Riba, Max, Alan & Jennifer Leutenegger

### Those who are sick:

Carmel Elms, Angie Sturges, Helen Orosz, Marie Ho, Trevor Simpson, Tony Druary, Lisa Bowes, Sophia Horrocks, 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, Hellen Passente, Philomena L'Hiullier.

## DISABLED CAR PARK

Through a kind and generous donation, work has commenced on the repainting of the disabled car park. Work should be completed by next week and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.



## PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office will be closed on Friday 16 December from 12.30pm.  
The Office will also be closed from and including Friday 23 December and will reopen on Monday 9 January 2017.



## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - (3 PRIZES) TICKETS: \$2.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5.00

Drawn: Sunday 18 December

Thank you to CCI Personal Insurance for their kind donation of the Christmas hamper (1st prize) valued at over \$150.00. The hamper contains a range of Christmas goodies.

## Christmas Vigil - Saturday 24 December 6pm

It's that time of year again where we are seeking any interest from the parish children to play the role of Mary and Joseph at our Vigil Mass. If you are aged 10-13 years old and would like to be in the running, please email ([clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)) so your name can be placed in the draw. The names will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky pair will be notified in the week before Christmas. We would also like to invite all children (no age restrictions) to come dressed as shepherds or angels to take part in the opening procession, no need to notify us, just turn up on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



## 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.

As we approach Advent, we will start to hear accounts of how angels, shepherds and wise men brought good news and travelled to worship the Christ Child. In each account, we will be reminded of the significance of Mission: the spreading of the Gospel, through word and deed, in the name of Jesus Christ.



If you have experienced Mission in an overseas context, if you have a heart for sharing the Good News, or even if you simply want to help us make a difference in the world, then perhaps you might consider becoming a Mission Ambassador for Catholic Mission. We have just finished several months of telling parishes across Queensland about the missionary work of the Church and would love to hear from anyone else. At this stage, we are simply looking for names and contact details – we will then be in touch early in 2017 to discuss the logistics and clarify your availability and level of interest.

To find out more, please call our Brisbane office during business hours on 3336 9239 or email our Parish Appeals Co-ordinator, Anna Jimenez, at [ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au)

We look forward to hearing from you and exploring how you can play a role as every bit important as those angels, shepherds or wise men.

Copy of the Archbishop's 2016 Advent Pastoral Message "*The Flesh and the Facts*" is available in the Catholic Leader. Copies are also available on church pews.

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

	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>7.00am</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>5.30pm</b>
<b>READERS:</b>				
26/27 Nov	Graham Gibson Julie-Anne Gibson	Annette Riba Helen Roberts	Trish Ryan Peter Gilroy Leanne O'Shea	Life Teen Mass
3/4 Dec	Jack Williamson Eddie Foley	Jeanine Bygott Mark Burton	Heidi Cooper Clare Smethurst Jane Arkinstall	Life Teen Mass
<b>COMMUNION MINISTERS:</b>				
26/27 Nov	Eddie Foley <i>Volunteer</i>	Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwan Helen Roberts	<i>Volunteer</i> Erin Bledsoe	Life Teen Mass
<b>ORGANISTS:</b>				
26/27 Nov	<i>Volunteer</i>	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass
3/4 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	Mark Leung	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>				
26/27 Nov	Olivia Dillon Mikayla Dillon Emma Dillon	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	Billy Crutcher Lachlan Hinneberg Bridget Birchley Kate Taylor	Caitlin Marshall
3/4 Dec	Ella Shepherd Eva Locantro	Lucy White Isabella White	Charlotte Shepherd Felicity Shepherd Bart Marino Milla Brady	Tia Manuel Sofia Lazzarini
<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY:</b>				
27 Nov			Mel Ryan & Erin Bledsoe	
4 Dec			Julie Kordic & Ewa Marino-Cebulski	
<b>SANCTUARY CARERS:</b>				
3 Dec	Victor Podesta & Jane Lynn			

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au)  
 or Phone: 3326 9222

**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS**

Thursday 1 December  
6.00pm - 7.00pm  
in the Church.

New members welcome

**ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL PREP FOR 2018**

If you have a child born between 1/7/12 – 30/6/13, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2018. The enrolment process for Prep 2018 commences at the beginning of 2017. If you would like your child included in the enrolments for prep 2018, please *email* your details along with your child's name, D.O.B. and address to the:

Enrolment Secretary: [wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au) or phone the school on 3326 9222.

**LIFE TEEN 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. If you would like to help with music or singing just talk to the musicians.

Enjoy food and friendship after Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.

**NOTE:** The third Sunday menu will be drinks and nibbles and first Sunday will remain as the usual supper.  
Volunteers eagerly accepted.

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

**Readings - Second Sunday of Advent - 4 December 2016**

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10; 2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9; Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12