



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: 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) - 18th December 2016

Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14; 2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7; Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 19 December: 6.30am
Wednesday 21 December: 9am
Thursday 22 December: 9am
Friday 23 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

- Monday 19th
SVDP Meeting 5pm
Parish Office
- Tuesday 20th
2nd Rite of
Reconciliation 7pm
- Thursday 22nd
Choir Practice
6pm-7pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3 March 2017



*The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said
"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take
Mary home as your wife."*

Dear friends,

This week we hear Matthew's story of Joseph and Mary – a young couple who find themselves in an impossible situation. "Before they came to live together, Mary was found to be with child". Not so much an unusual event these days, but in the days of Mary and Joseph, this was a great family and religious crisis. It is also where we catch a glimpse of the greatness of Joseph and how his character became an obvious influence on Jesus.

When Mary was found to be pregnant before she lived with Joseph, this is what was meant to happen according to Jewish law: Joseph was supposed to take Mary to the door of her father's house, and once there, her fellow citizens were to stone her to death. Imagine if Joseph was a man of the law, and did what he was supposed to do. What would you and I be doing tonight/today? There would be no Christmas story to tell, certainly not one as we know it. Instead, even before he has a dream of the angel, Joseph is loving and protective towards Mary, even at the expense of his own personal reputation. But then Joseph listens to a dream and he takes Mary into his home. Interestingly, in Luke's gospel Mary receives the news from an angel; in Matthew's gospel it is Joseph who receives the news of Jesus' birth. Even before Jesus was born, Joseph had given him an example of the power of love over the obligations of the law and the power of dreams over the limits of reality.

We don't know much about Joseph, but when we look at Jesus, and how he lived his life, we can see traces of Joseph's character. Joseph ignored the dictates of the Law in order to protect Mary. Time and again, Jesus ignores the details of the Law in order to reach out in love to others. He first learnt this from Joseph. Jesus knew that if Joseph had followed the Law, he would not have been born. He knew too that Joseph learnt to listen to and interpret his dreams – they were a guide for Joseph's life and his decisions. Joseph learnt to trust these dreams. Jesus learnt to trust his dreams too – the dream of the good news, the dream of the Beatitudes, the dream of the Kingdom, even the impossible dream of the resurrection. Joseph's common sense, his compassion and his faith allowed Emmanuel – God-with-us – to be born in our very midst. May this Joseph be a father for us as well, and like Jesus, may we inherit his goodness.

Fr. Anthony

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

A month ago, I was talking with a country farmer. He told me how he pruned his olive trees. An ordinary farmer with olive trees, but when he talked about how he pruned them, it was clearly with great love; he had that relationship with nature. He pruned those trees as if he was their father, with love. May we never lose this relationship with nature, with creation. It assures dignity to us all.

Clayfield Conversations

Today's Gospel announces that 'God is with us'. In this final week of Advent the following story reminds us that God comes to us in unpredictable ways often with a presence that challenges and changes our perspective.

The Dolly and a White Rose by V. A. Bailey

I hurried into the shop to grab some last minute Christmas gifts. I looked at all the people and grumbled to myself. I would be in here forever. I hurried to the toy department and wondered if the grandkids would even play with my gifts.

My eye caught a little boy holding a doll. He kept touching her hair and he held her so gently. I watched him turn and ask, "Aunty Jane, are you sure I don't have enough money?" Gently, the woman replied, "Emily doesn't need a doll David." The woman went to another aisle. The boy continued to hold the doll. David looked so sad that I couldn't resist asking who the doll was for. "My sister wanted it so badly for Christmas." I told him that maybe Santa was going to bring it. He said "No, Santa can't go where my sister is...I have to give the doll to Mummy to take to her." I asked him where his sister was. He looked at me with the tear-filled eyes, "She has gone to be with Jesus. Daddy says that Mummy is going to have to go to be with both of them soon too." My heart nearly stopped beating. David went on, "I told Daddy to make sure Mummy goes nowhere until I got back from the store. I want Mum to take this doll to Emily."

While he wasn't looking I reached into my purse and pulled out some cash. "David how about we count that money again?" He grew excited, "I asked Jesus to give me enough money. I just know I have enough." I slipped my money in with his and we began to count it. He looked up from the count and exclaimed, "Jesus has given me enough money for Emily's doll."

In a few minutes his aunty came back and I wheeled my cart away. I could not keep from thinking about the little boy as I finished my shopping in a totally different spirit than when I had started.

On the way home I remembered a story in the newspaper several days earlier about a drunk driver hitting a car and killing a little girl and that the mother was left on life support. Two days before Christmas I read in the paper where the family had turned the machine off. The day before Christmas there was a funeral notice saying that a Requiem Mass would be celebrated on St Stephen's Day for Julia Norris and her daughter Emily. Michael was their husband and father, and their son and brother was David.

As I gathered with my family in front of an overblown meal which none of us could finish, holding expensive gifts we didn't need and drinking more alcohol than was necessary, I thought "we've lost the plot with Christmas". God-with-us arrives as a simple child in need of love; and in the honour of that day we spend money, eat too much and get drunk.

I left the table went to my desk and wrote a card for each member of my family. I told them what I'd never been able to say: "I want you to know I love you."

When they read those cards, my family thought I was losing it, but through David and that doll, God visited me in the last week of Advent and Christmas will never be the same again.

CARE AND CONCERN

Please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

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.

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The St Agatha's SVDP Conference is conducting its Christmas Appeal. 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, please take a card from the Giving Tree.

VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL PASTORAL CARERS

Centacare Pastoral Ministries supports Catholic Pastoral Care teams in both public and private hospitals in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Pastoral carers are highly valued by hospitals for their contribution to the holistic care of patients, staff and families through spiritual and religious support. Centacare provides scholarships for training in this essential work of the Church and invites interested people to apply for courses in 2017. The desire and capacity to commit to a very interesting learning journey in the theology and skills of pastoral care is essential. Faith, kindness, compassion and a genuine interest in being present for others in their sickness and suffering also form primary requirements of the volunteer role. Hospitals ready to welcome new pastoral carers on their happy, positive teams include: Prince Charles, RBWH, Princess Alexandra and Wesley. If you would like to know more please contact: Judy Norris, Director, Centacare Pastoral Ministries E: judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au Mobile: 0428 669 572.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Pamela Kruse, Tony Druary

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Beatrice Njoku, Doris Webb, Sally Meehan, Brad Tarrant, Florence Hinson, Mary Dethlefs, Noela Hoskins, Phyllis Agnew, John Agnew, Peter Turnbull, Noel Turnbull, Eve Turnbull, Douglas Munt, Alice Mary Shun Wah

Those who are sick:

Carmel Elms, Angie Sturges, Helen Orosz, Marie Ho, Trevor Simpson, 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.



ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS

We are still in need of Communion Ministers for the 6pm Vigil, Midnight, 7am & 9am Masses. Readers for 9am Mass and Altar Servers for Midnight, 7am and 9am Masses.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS - SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER 6pm

We would 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 24th.

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

Raffle will be drawn Monday 19 December

Thank you to CCI Personal Insurance for their kind donation of the Christmas hamper (1st prize) valued at over \$150.00. 2nd and 3rd prizes kindly donated by a parishioner.



PARISH OFFICE

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

ST AGATHA’S CHILDREN’S CHOIR



The St Agatha's Children's Choir will be singing Christmas Carols in front of Coles, Racecourse Road, Ascot on Monday 19 December from 4-5.30pm to raise money for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Please go down and support them if you can, as this is a great community activity for our young parishioners to be involved in.



GIVE THE GIFT OF FAITH

Your generosity towards St Agatha’s Parish can go on forever when you include our parish endowment fund in your Will. 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 parish ministries forever. For more information on naming St Agatha’s Parish in your Will, please call the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 or the parish office.

LIVING EXPENSES FOR A CHILD IN AN ORPHANAGE

What price can we put on not only keeping a child alive but also ensuring that he or she has a chance to thrive? Chances are that we would be willing to spend a lot more \$48. However, that’s all it takes with a contribution through Catholic Mission’s Life Giving Gifts catalogue. Your gift will cover the cost of caring for one child in an orphanage for one month, including accommodation, food, medicines, proper sanitation and education. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts to find out how your gift of \$48 can transform a life.



MERCY COMMUNITY SERVICES - AGED CARE SERVICES / 131 Queens Road, Nudgee

We are currently seeking volunteers for our organization to help with various activities for our residents. We also have a specific need, at present, to help with *coffee making* in our modern café area in the Mary Damian Centre on Fridays from 9am to 12pm. Are you able to help us? If so, please call Shanelle Bennett on 0429037439 or shanelle.bennett@mercyys.org.au Thank you for any help you can offer!

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2016

St Gerard’s Christmas Festival is on now and will continue every night till 23 December from 6pm till 10pm. Huge lights display, food outlets, gift shop and free entertainment every night at 7.30pm. Check website for more details. www.olaparishchermside.org.au

PARISH ROSTERS

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

17/18 Dec

Katrina Murphy
Ryan Smethurst

Kirsty Stevens
Andrew Douglas

Don Macpherson
Volunteer
Denis Keating

Life Teen Mass

31 Dec/1 Jan

Graham Gibson
Julie-Anne Gibson

Aleira Egan
Sr Cecily Foster

Peter Gilroy
Leanne O'Shea
Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

17/18 Dec

Volunteer

Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwan
Volunteer

Volunteer
Volunteer

Life Teen Mass
Life Teen Mass

31 Dec/1 Jan

Eddie Foley

Volunteer

Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

17/18 Dec

Volunteer

Mark Leung
Volunteer

Robyn Cuming
Catriona McPherson

Life Teen Mass

31 Dec/1 Jan

Volunteer

Volunteer

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

ALTAR SERVERS:

17 Dec - 22 Jan 2017 *Volunteer/s*

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

18 Dec - 22 Jan 2017

No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays

SANCTUARY CARERS:

7 Jan

Victor Podesta

REMINDER

5.30pm Sunday Youth Mass

Drinks & Nibbles after Mass 18 December. This will be the last gathering for 2016.

Suppers start again on 5 February, 2017.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !

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.

With great joy we welcome

Xanthe Gallagher
Christopher Meuleners
Elizabeth Meuleners
Arabella Myers
Abigail Taylor

who will be baptized
this weekend.

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday 22 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 or phone the school on 3326 9222.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Tuesday 20 December 7.00pm



Sunday 25 December, Christmas Day

7.00am Mass

9.00am Mass with carols from 8.45am

Saturday 24 December

Vigil Mass 6.00pm - with carols from 5.30pm

Midnight Mass - with carols from 11.30pm

Mass times for week commencing Monday 26 December

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 9.00am

Monday 2 January - 9.00am

Readings - The Nativity of the Lord - 25 December 2016

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6; Gospel: John 1:1-18