



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

Second Sunday of Advent - 4th December 2016

Readings

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 5 December: 6.30am
Wednesday 7 December: 9am
Saint Ambrose
Thursday 8 December: 9am
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 9 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 5th
SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office
- Tuesday 6th
Youth Ministry Team Meeting 6.45pm Parish Office
- Thursday 8th
Choir Practice 6pm-7pm
- Friday 16th
Parish Office closed from 12.30pm.
- Tuesday 20th
2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm



Dear friends,

The school year has come to an end for another year. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the 35 Year Sixes who graduated on Wednesday night. We hope that they will always remember with affection their time at St. Agatha's and we hope that their future is blessed with much goodness and success. We have invited this group, and the boys who accompanied them until Year Four, back for a special celebration on February 12th next year at our 5:30pm Mass for what we call "Reconnect7". We hope that many will gather for Mass and pizza afterwards.

For all those who are going on holidays — all our students and school staff — we wish you a relaxing, restful and safe break. Thank you to Mrs. Carol Sayers and all the school staff for a great year of excellence in learning and enriching education in the Catholic tradition. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Last week-end, we conducted a parish survey about our 5pm Saturday evening Mass time. Overwhelmingly, the parish has voted to maintain the 5pm Mass time. Only 18 responses were in favour of returning to 6pm. With apologies to those 18, the **5pm Mass will become the permanent time-slot for Saturday evening**. I believe this time will allow the Saturday evening Mass to grow in numbers and community spirit. If you haven't tried the 5pm Mass yet, give it a go over summer.

Thanks to the generous financial support of this community, we will soon be in a position to announce that we have chosen someone to fill the 10 week "Work and Welcome" placement which supports a refugee in gaining valuable work experience. This person will work across St. Rita's College, St. Agatha's Primary School and our parish. It is an important initiative and helps us respond in a Christian way to the most vulnerable in our midst. I am sure that you will make this person welcome when he commences in the work placement in late January next year. Again, thank you to all who have contributed financially. It is a "first" within the Archdiocese and for your generosity, I say a very big "thank you"! *Fr. Anthony*

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

During Advent, we are called to enlarge the horizons of our hearts, to be surprised by the life that is presented each day with its newness. In order to do this we need to learn to not depend on our own securities, our own established plans, because the Lord comes in the hour which we don't imagine

Clayfield Conversations

Dirk Dunfee is a Jesuit priest. This Advent reflection was published some years ago in the National Catholic Reporter but still is very relevant today.

A Time to Wake Up

In the first stage of my Jesuit training I helped out in the kindergarten at a Catholic grade school in Denver's inner city. Naptime is a central feature of kindergarten life. Naptime at Loyola Grade School was memorable for being both a respite and an ordeal. The respite was the 15-minute oasis of calm and quiet in the middle of an otherwise chaotic day. The ordeal came in the form of little Joshua, our own 5-year-old Rip Van Winkle. He'd fall into such a deep sleep that waking him was a major effort. The school nurse said there was nothing medically wrong with him. And the job wasn't over once Joshua's eyes were finally open. Left to his own devices, he'd go right back to sleep, drifting away while the other children were getting their shoes on and putting away their sleeping mats. Once fully and resolutely awake, Joshua was a delightful child. The hard part was getting him awake, and keeping him awake for those first crucial minutes.

For years I thought of Advent primarily as a time of waiting, and a time of expectation. Not anymore, at least not primarily. Perhaps I've grown tired, cranky and impatient. Perhaps I've just come to realize the importance of awareness and wakefulness. Advent is about getting awake.

There's no indication in scripture that Jesus put much stock in waiting. I'm not even sure he was a patient person. He was understanding and he surely appreciated the complexities of the human heart, but he was altogether too filled with the urgency of it all to be interested in waiting for things to happen on their own or in waiting to see what people would do. And so he counsels not patience, but wakefulness and watchfulness. That he does so in his final days on earth, after letting his followers know that he expects to suffer a brutal and ignominious death, only heightens the urgency of his plea.

Whether we call it getting awake, or looking for God in all things or simple awareness, there's no substitute for an attitude of graceful vigilance. We shouldn't kid ourselves, though. Getting awake and staying awake aren't easy. Institutions, whether commercial, political or religious, seem to thrive on our being somnolent, impressionable and pliable. For all the talk of "truth" out there, most of us exist in a world of illusion. The problem is that we can't deal with things as they are until we see them as they are, and we know next to nothing if we're lost in some televised dreamland. If we're accepting uncritically what others tell us about the state of the world or the state of our nation or the state of our church, we're still sleeping. A sleeping child makes a sweet picture, but sooner or later sleeping children have to wake up.

Sometimes, though not very often, we wake up mostly on our own. Sometimes events serve to shake us awake. The ongoing mess in the Catholic church has done so for many of us. There was a time when I believed that the church was nearly perfect and always had been. Like so many Catholics, I knew next to nothing about church history, and even thought that the Second Vatican Council was mostly about celebrating Mass in English. Now I'm awake. The trick is not to drift back to sleep.

Advent doesn't have much to recommend it if it's nothing more than passively waiting for Christmas. Christmas will be here soon enough. It's already here at the shops. We don't need another lesson in waiting. Patience is fine if you're baking bread or helping a child learn to walk. It won't do if you're trying to save the world. What you need then is to get awake, and to stay awake. To stay awake, you have to be engaged, you have to pay attention, and you have to be smart. Like Joshua. Like Jesus.

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.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Fr Peter Quin SJ, Theresa Aguiyi, Peggy Hassel, John Danaher, Marie Carpenter, Thomas Rodden

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

John Mellor, Len Williamson, Joan & Maurice Underwood, Bridget & Eric Brumpton, Gerry McBride, Jack McBride, Hughie McBride, Bernie McBride, Patricia Latimer, Ken Rong, Reginald Shun Wah (Jnr), Rosalind Shun Wah, Joan O'Shea

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.

WEEK DAY MASSES - Wednesday 7 December to and including Friday 9 December

Scaffolding will be erected at the front of the church on Monday 5 December for repairs to the round wheel stained glass window. For safety reasons, we ask that you please enter by the side doors. The scaffolding will be dismantled on Friday 9 December. 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. 2nd and 3rd prizes kindly donated by a parishioner.

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) 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 24th.



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.

ST AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

If you have any questions or ideas please contact Anne O'Connor on 3256 6013 or 0419 796 988
NEXT YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM MEETING - Tuesday 6 December 6.45pm Parish Office

GOOD READS FROM ST AGATHA'S LIBRARY

The library holds some essential writings of well known and relevant spiritual writers like Brother Roger of Taize. Brother Roger founded the Taize community in France in 1940. It is a Christian, monastic, international and ecumenical community where over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages each year for prayer, meditation and song. We sing Taize music at St Agatha's, music which aids meditation and prayer e.g. *Jesus Remember Me* and *Ubi Caritas*.

Come and borrow Brother Roger's book or other books in our display today.

2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 20 December 7.00pm

FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL

EMMANUEL

Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2016 - \$4.00 each

PARISH ROSTERS

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

3/4 Dec	Jack Williamson Eddie Foley	Jeanine Bygott Mark Burton	Heidi Cooper Clare Smethurst Jane Arkinstall	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Dec	Phil Zammit Eric van der List	Rafael Chase Ruby Chase	Michael Crutcher Eileen Duncan Tim Hancock	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

3/4 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	Helen Roberts	Erin Bledsoe	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Dec	Jan Zammit	Paulette Archer	<i>Volunteer</i>	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

3/4 Dec	Robyn Cuming	Mark Leung	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	Mark Leung	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

3/4 Dec	Ella Shepherd Eva Locantro	Lucy White Isabella White	Charlotte Shepherd Felicity Shepherd Bart Marino Milla Brady	Tia Manuel Sofia Lazzarini
10/11 Dec	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

4 Dec			Julie Kordic & Ewa Marino-Cebulski	
11 Dec - 22 Jan 2017			No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays	

SANCTUARY CARERS:

17 Dec	Beverley O'Brien
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Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God.



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



CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS
Thursday 8 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.

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 1st and 3rd 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 - Third Sunday of Advent - 11 December 2016

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10; 2nd Reading: James 5:7-10; Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11