



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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) - 11th December 2016

Readings

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 12 December: 6.30am

Wednesday 14 December: 9am

Saint John of the Cross

Thursday 15 December: 9am

Friday 16 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 15th

Choir Practice 6pm-7pm

• Friday 16th

Parish Office closed from 12.30pm.

• Sunday 18th

Morning tea for Fr Kevin following the 9am Mass

• Monday 19th

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

• Tuesday 20th

2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3 March 2017



John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?"

Dear friends,

This year, with Christmas Day being a Sunday, Advent is the longest it can possibly be. How do we make the most of this time? I suppose we can spend more time at the shops - they are air conditioned after all. The difficulty for us during the Advent season is maintaining our focus on the whole point of the season. These weeks of December are usually full of so many things for most of us. There are parties and catch-ups, buying presents and preparations, or simply caught-up in the pace of life. How do we get off the tread-mill and contemplate the promise and hope of Advent?

It is not easy feeling in control of our lives at the best of times — we always seem to be chasing the clock or held prisoner by our diary — but the weeks before Christmas have their own special form of chaos. That is why it is all the more important to slow down and take some time to let the spirit of Advent soak deep into our being. Christmas will be here before we know it. What might you and I do to spend some time in reflection, or peaceful silence (as if that is easily found), or refreshing contemplation? No body else will make this time for us; we need to claim it for ourselves. This week ahead, let us make a commitment to spend 5 minutes in quiet prayer and stillness, and ask God to let the hope and possibility of Advent touch the depths of our hearts.

Another way to prepare is to participate in our **2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday, 20th December at 7pm**. This will help us clear away the baggage of this year and prepare for the joy that is Christmas. However we choose to make this Advent a spiritual time, I invite you to take time to reflect on this beautiful Advent prayer in the week ahead: *"God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms, broken lives are made whole, and fearful hearts grow strong in faith. Open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise. To all who long for your Son's return, grant perseverance and patience, that we may announce in word and deed, the good news of the kingdom."* Amen.

Fr. Anthony

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

We have begun the Season of Advent. I urge everyone to live this time of preparation for the birth of Jesus, Face of the Merciful Father, with the spirit of charity, more attention to those who are in need, and with moments of personal and community prayer.

Clayfield Conversations

This Advent reflection was written by Kathleen-Hirsch and first published on *The Crux* website last year.

Candles in an Advent of Darkness

The arrival of Advent (last) year was overshadowed by the world's violence. Distant events pressed in. A young Jewish boy from a town near mine, who was studying and volunteering in Israel, was killed by a Palestinian gunman in the West Bank after he had brought food to Israeli soldiers. I wrote a note to a friend in that community, assuming he may have known the family. "They are our closest friends," he responded. "It is heartbreaking." How little has changed in 2,000 years. Piety and good works don't save us from violence. Quite the opposite it seems, these days.

As I climb into my attic and poke around for the purple and pink candles to make my Advent wreath, I can't help but recall a more innocent time in my own home not so very long ago. Advent was the time for concocting ornaments and playing carols while we worked. It was the season of the "Jesus Box;" each day we'd put into it a piece of paper on which we'd written a small deed of kindness we'd done for another. We made peanut butter pine cones for the birds, drank cocoa late in the long afternoons, read books, and strung popcorn.

All of these gestures were designed to bring a slower, more mindful pace to our days, so that when Christmas came, we would greet it with a renewed understanding of the incarnational message, "Christ is born" – the kingdom of God come among us.

"Resetting" the ordinary and seeing the holy in this season isn't as easy as it once was. Saturated by news clips and tweets of divisiveness, how are we to find the quiet in which we might discover our own navigational stars of hope? The shelter of mere tranquility has collapsed for many of us. If we are totally honest, we are wandering in a dark as deep as that of Mary, Joseph, and the Magi, harried by the same environment of conflict and uncertainty. But maybe this is the point. Perhaps Advent is actually about accepting reality as it is, and surrendering our small certainties in order to hear a different message than the one we read in the news.

In 1944, the German Jesuit priest, the Rev. Alfred Delp, imprisoned by the Nazis and writing from prison in Berlin, wondered whether he would live to see the fourth Advent candle lit on his own wreath. All the same, he took the trouble to light the first one. Advent, he wrote, even in the darkest of times, is still our time to "review our lives and take a sober look at things because reality is still the place where true joy grows and where we build things that can support a load."

Acceptance freed up Delp's energy. The crucial shift comes when our desire to control circumstances gives way to creating "the small good" in place, exactly where we find ourselves. The one we call Savior, for whom in this season we "wait" again, came to realign us in precisely this way. In a small, almost apologetically small, way — as a baby — He began the journey of leading us into a wholly new consciousness.

I am haunted by Delp's phrase, "where we build things that can support a load." I think that he is writing about the kingdom itself. And the question he is asking is this: How do we undertake small concrete efforts, when life is so full of reasons to despair? His own answer, in that dark Advent, was to light his candle and say a few prayers. Christmas peace, by this measure, isn't the faux peace of the catalogues that are pouring in like an avalanche this early December with their images of golden retrievers on plaid throws and burnished leather sofas. Peace is accepting the life we are given, and beginning to build the things that matter, the works of value, in our world — to light our candles without demanding the comfort of certainty. The Rev. Albert Delp was executed by the Nazis on Feb. 2, 1945, after having refused a deal to be set free if he renounced his Jesuit orders. His prayer lights my path this Advent.

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:

Tony Druary, Fr Peter Quin SJ, Theresa Aguiyi, Peggy Hassel

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Phyllis Agnew, John Agnew, Peter Turnbull, Noel Turnbull, Eve Turnbull, Douglas Munt, Alice Mary Shun Wah, John Mellor, Len Williamson, Joan & Maurice Underwood, Bridget & Eric Brumpton, Gerry McBride, Jack McBride, Hughie McBride, Bernie McBride

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

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.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS - 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.



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



Please note: the raffle will now be drawn at the Christmas Vigil Mass

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

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.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN STATE SCHOOLS

Would you like to share your love for Christ with his littlest ones? In many State schools, a lack of instructors is depriving children of the opportunity to know Christ. Is he calling you to help? Training to enable you to do that is being provided - Monday 12 December, 9am-12.30pm / Nolan Hall, Leslie St, Nundah.

Please contact Genevieve (3256 7493; 0434 284 251) to register your interest. You can do this if you have even half an hour a week during the day to spare, or you only feel confident enough to be an assistant.



It is not uncommon for children to want a bike for Christmas. They want to play and have fun on them. For some children, however, in countries served by missionaries, a bike is essential for children to access a life-changing education. Through Catholic Mission's Life Giving Gifts catalogue, you can ensure a child receives the education they need for a positive future. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts to find out how your gift of \$53 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@mercycs.org.au Thank you for any help you can offer!

PARISH ROSTERS

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

10/11 Dec

Volunteer
Eric van der List

Rafael Chase
Ruby Chase

Michael Crutcher
Eileen Duncan
Tim Hancock

Life Teen Mass

17/18 Dec

Katrina Murphy
Ryan Smethurst

Kirsty Stevens
Andrew Douglas

Don Macpherson
Volunteer
Denis Keating

Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

10/11 Dec

Volunteer

Paulette Archer

Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

17/18 Dec

Volunteer

Lorraine Atkinson-MacEwan

Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

10/11 Dec

Robyn Cuming

Mark Leung

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

17/18 Dec

Volunteer

Mark Leung

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

10 Dec - 22 Jan 2017 *Volunteer/s*

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

11 Dec - 22 Jan 2017

No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays

SANCTUARY CARERS:

17 Dec Beverley O'Brien

FOR SALE AT THE PIETY STALL

EMMANUEL - Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2016 - \$4.00 each

Columban Calendars \$9.00 each

Daily Mass Books \$20.00 each

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



Siena Campiutti
Mason Ellis
Hendrix Flouch
Jackson Stewart

who will be baptized
this weekend.

Choir Practice

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday 15 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 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - 18 December 2016

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