



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)
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

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God - 1st January 2017

Readings

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27; 2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7; Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 2 January: 9.00am
Saints Basil and Gregory
Wednesday 4 January: 9am
Thursday 5 January: 9am
Friday 6 January: 9am

WEEKEND MASSES

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

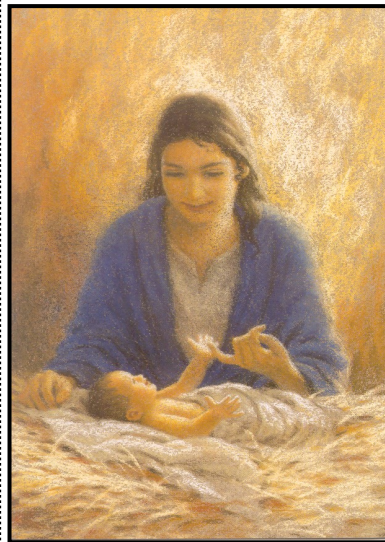
Rosary before Mass.



Parish Calendar

JANUARY

- Monday 9th
SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office
- Tuesday 17th
Finance Meeting 6pm Parish Office



As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Dear friends,

We begin a new year with an ancient feast. From the time of the early church, Mary has been known by the Greek title, *Theotokos*. This is a term which means "God-bearer". There was even a 5th century council (the Council of Ephesus) which re-asserted that Mary could rightly be called, "Mother of God". When you think about it, it is an extraordinary title — "Mother of God". The Church is not saying, of course, that Mary somehow pre-dates or precedes God. As with any title that is given to Mary, it is really a claim about Jesus Christ. Giving Mary that title of "Mother of God" is to say that Jesus was Divine from the moment of his conception. He did not "grow into" being God. Jesus grew as a human being under the guidance of Mary and Joseph, but he was always God. In this sense, Mary is considered "Mother of God".

As with any title that is given to Mary, its full meaning also includes us. Mary is "Mother of God" but also "Mother of the Church" and our mother. *Theotokos* — God-bearer — is also a title that is applicable to us through our baptism. Are we, too, not "bearers of God" to one another? Are we, too, not called to "carry Christ" into the world? Are we, too, not asked to "give birth" to Christ through our relationships and care and concern for one another, especially the most vulnerable and those in need?

May 2017 be a time of blessing, joy, love and laughter for us all. May we be kept safe from all harm, lifted out of any despair, and may the deepest prayers of our hearts rise up to God and find an attentive ear and a willing Grace speedily coming to our aid. May Mary, the *Theotokos*, teach us how to bear Christ gently and tenderly throughout the year ahead.

Fr. Anthony

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

At the foot of the Cross, Mary becomes for all people the mother of forgiveness, as she follows in the example of her Son who forgives those who are killing him. For us, Mary is an icon of how the Church must offer forgiveness to those who seek it. The Mother of forgiveness teaches the Church that the forgiveness granted on Golgotha knows no limits. The Church's forgiveness must be every bit as broad as that offered by Jesus on the Cross and by Mary at his feet. There is no other way.

Clayfield Conversations

A New Year's Reflection

God of evenings and morning, God of always new creation, God of possibilities, God of history, God of the future,
Speak now in this present moment.

We long to hear a Word of healing, we long to hear a Word of hope, we long to hear a Word of faith.

New Year's Eve is no different from any other night, New Year's Day is no different from any other day.
Still, it carries a heightened sense of possibility, a brighter sense of life.

Hope in tomorrow is the seed of faith. Yesterday, memory though it is, exists no more.
Yet sometimes yesterday can seem more powerful than tomorrow.

It can be *chiaroscuro* — both light and dark. The despair of things that we can never change;
longing for moments to which we can never return; the joy of gifts that remain a loving presence for us.

But the coming of New Year is a kind of emotional spring which turns our minds to thoughts of hope.

The new year begins with a feast day, Mary the Mother of God.

Mary, "Miriam" in Hebrew, is known as "God-bearer". *Theotokos*. God-carrier. God is borne, carried.
The first day of the year, is a day for proclaiming that humans beings bear God. And God bears us.

Yet God is above all this. God is more than all this. Yet God is carried. God is born.
This first day we proclaim that every day, every moment, carries God. May we believe this.

We encounter this in veiled mystery and disorientating uncertainty and deepest faith.

May God.....carried to us, carried by us, carried around us, carrying us.....
help us in our unbelief.

Fr Anthony is away this week, leading the retreat for the priest of Toowoomba diocese. We welcome Fr John Sullivan who will be presiding at the 5pm, 7am and 9am Masses, and Fr Paul Chandler who will be presiding at the 5.30pm Mass. Fr John will be presiding the weekday Masses. We thank them for their presence.

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently :

Pamela Kruse

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Craig Andrews, Blue Doyle, Dell Murphy, Grace Russo, Stan McKenzie, Beatrice Njoku, Doris Webb, Sally Meehan, Brad Tarrant, Florence Hinson, Mary Dethlefs, Noela Hoskins

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, Eileen Clarke, Rob Bruce, Mel Purwo, Hellen Passente, Philomena L'Hiullier.



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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

31 Dec/1 Jan

Graham Gibson
Julie-Anne Gibson

Aleira Egan
Sr Cecily Foster

Peter Gilroy
Leanne O'Shea
Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

7/8 Jan

Lauren McMullan
Eddie Foley

Rafael Chase
Ruby Chase

Wilma O'Connell
Trish Ryan
Clare Smethurst

Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

31 Dec/1 Jan

Eddie Foley

Volunteer

Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

7/8 Jan

Volunteer

Helen Roberts

Erin Bledsoe

Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

31 Dec/1 Jan

Volunteer

Volunteer

Catriona McPherson

Life Teen Mass

7/8 Jan

Volunteer

Volunteer

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass