



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 (ph: 0448 840 040) **Weekend Supply:** Fr. Orm Rush

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 (0456 441 717)

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th February 2017

Readings

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; **Gospel:** Matthew 5:38-48

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 20 February: 6.30am

Wednesday 22 February: 9am

The Chair of Saint Peter

Thursday 23 February: 9am

Saint Polycarp

Friday 24 February: 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

FEBRUARY

• **Monday 20th**

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

• **Tuesday 21st**

Finance Meeting 6pm Parish Office

MARCH

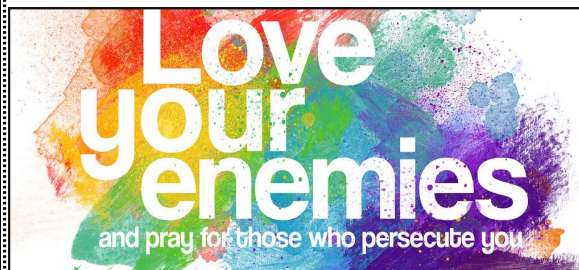
• **Wednesday 1st**

Ash Wednesday Masses
6.30am and 9am

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 3 March 2017, 10.00am

Clayfield Uniting Church
170 Bonney Avenue, Clayfield



Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be children of your Father in heaven."

Dear friends,

Jesus asks us to turn the other cheek this week, but perhaps we would prefer to turn a deaf ear. To be impassive towards "your enemies" is one thing, but "to love them" is an entirely different matter all together. This is a standard of Christian life that we rarely achieve. Most of us settle for: "Ignore your enemies". This level of passivity is not acceptable to Jesus; not because he likes to challenge us with the impossible but because Jesus understands that the way to a free and full human life is to rid ourselves of bitterness, anger and resentment. Love conquers all, they say, and love even conquers our own hearts of darkness. Our "enemies", whomever we might consider them to be, are bound together in a common human fate: mutual enmity or a freeing generosity of heart. This doesn't necessarily mean that we will befriend our enemies, but it does mean that we will not be trapped by hatred. And once hatred sets-in, it is hard to displace. Hatred is as active and as passionate as love; hatred destroys while love creates. Ignoring our enemy simply paralyses us. So we have a choice: to be destructive; to be paralysed; or to be creative. None of us will wake-up tomorrow befriending our "enemy" simply because Jesus tells us that it is a good idea. But, having listened to the Word, we might take another step towards surrendering to the truth of the deeper dynamics and greater wisdom about human relationships that Jesus embodies. Jesus himself lives and dies by his own axiom, proving that loving our enemies rolls away the stone of a deaden and frozen heart.

Next Sunday is the final Sunday before the commencement of Lent with Ash Wednesday on 1st March. After each of the Masses next weekend, we will prepare for Lent by burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday celebration. You might have kept a palm from last year, and if so, please free feel to bring it along next Sunday so that it can be burned along with the other palms. This little ritual after each Mass will help us to focus on the approaching season of Lent, and our hope that Jesus helps us to rise from the ash of our own sin.

Fr. Anthony

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Do I pray for my enemies or do I wish something bad for them? It's enough to think about it for five minutes, no more, and to ask: "Who are my enemies, who has hurt me, who is it that I don't love or who am I distanced from? Who are they? Do I pray for them?" Let each person give an answer. It is easier to pray for someone who is far, far away, than to pray for those who have hurt me. Yet this is precisely what Jesus asks of us.

Clayfield Conversations

This week, Fr. Ron Rolheiser writes on loving your enemies.

Loving Your Enemies

To be a disciple of Jesus means that, at some point, we will be hated. We will make enemies. It happened to Jesus and he assured us that it will happen to us. But he also left us the ultimate example of how we need to respond to our enemies. When scripture tells us that Jesus saved the people from their sins, it doesn't just mean that in offering his death to his father as a sacrifice in one eternal act he took away our sins. It also points to his way of living and how, as he demonstrated, forgiving and loving one's enemies take away sin, by absorbing it. Jesus' great act of love, as Kierkegaard once said, is meant to be imitated not just admired. But how do we do this? It seems that we don't know how to love our enemies, that we don't have the strength to forgive. We preach it as an ideal and naively believe that we are doing it. But, for the most part, we aren't. We really don't love and forgive those who oppose us. Too often we are distrustful, disrespectful, bitter, demonizing, and (metaphorically speaking) murderous towards each other. If there is much love and forgiveness of enemies in our lives, it's far from evident, both in our world and in our churches. As Ronald Knox once said, as Christians, we have never really taken seriously Jesus' challenge to love our enemies and to turn the other cheek.

I say this sympathetically. We need help. The old saying is true: To err is human, to forgive is divine. So how do we start? We might start by both acknowledging our failure and admitting our helplessness, individually and as churches. We aren't very loving and forgiving in the face of opposition! Next, we need to highlight this inadequacy and the importance of this failure in our preaching and teaching. Loving our enemies is the real moral and religious litmus test! We don't have a right to call anyone a "cafeteria Christian" or a compromised follower of Christ unless, first of all, we, ourselves, are persons who are gracious, respectful, loving, and forgiving in the face of anyone who opposes us. Let's start, all of us, from this humble place of admittance: We aren't very much like Jesus in the face of opposition. Then, perhaps most important of all, we need to seek each other's help. Alone we haven't the strength to love those who hate us. We need grace and community, God's power and others' support, to retain the most difficult of all sobrieties, that is, to walk within a steady strength that enables us to remain warm, gracious, forgiving, loving, and joyful in the face of misunderstanding, jealousy, opposition, bitterness, threat, and murder. Speaking personally, I consider this to be the greatest challenge of my life, morally and humanly. How to love an enemy: How do I not let a jealous glance freeze my heart? How do I not let a bitter word ruin my day? How do I not demonize others when they oppose me? How do I remain sympathetic when I'm misunderstood? How do I remain warm in the face of bitterness? How do I not give in to paranoia when I feel threatened? How do I forgive someone who doesn't want my forgiveness? How do I stop myself from slamming the door of my heart in the face of coldness and rejection? How do I forgive others when my own heart is bitter in self-pity? How do I really love and forgive as Jesus did? I often wonder how Jesus did it. How did he retain peace of mind, warmth in his heart, graciousness in his speech, joy in his life, resiliency in his efforts, the capacity to be grateful, and a sense of humour in the face of misunderstanding, jealousy, hatred, and death threats? He did it by recognizing that this was, singularly, the most important challenge of his life and mission, and, under the weight of that imperative, by falling on his knees to ask for the help of the One who can do in us what we can't do for ourselves.

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUPS (1 March - 12 April)

"Up From the Waters" is the title of this year's Lenten program. The Lenten reflection group will commence on Wednesday 1 March, 7pm Parish Office, and will continue each Wednesday until 12 April.

Please call or email Parish Office if you are interested in attending. Each meeting runs for approx. 80 minutes.

CARE AND CONCERN Please contact the Parish Office on 3262 2859.

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>



INVITATION - ST AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY (AGGIES YOUTH)

We would love to have new members with new ideas to continue to provide a connection for the young people of the Parish. If you are over 18 please consider attending our next meeting on

Tuesday 28 February at 6.45pm at the Parish Office.

As it happens to be Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday) you will be able to enjoy pancakes too!!!



In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Matt Hall, Brian Sullivan, Neil Betts

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Margaret Bowden, Pat Rebgetz, Reneé Ramaekers, Veronica & Pat Gallagher, Fr Vincent Rowan, Fr Brendan Dooley, Agatha Archer

Those who are sick:

Savita Chhaniyara, Shilla Solgama, Michael Hogan, Harry Akhil, Isabel Leddick, Carmel Elms, Helen Orosz, 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.

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

In compliance with Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy, all volunteers are asked to attend a Safeguarding training session. Two sessions will be held on Thursday 2 March.

Each session will run for approximately 2 ½ - 3 hours.

Please call the parish office or email your preferred time. Light refreshments will be served.

9.30am - 12.30pm - LOTE room (School)

6.00pm - 9.00pm - APAC (School)

ATTENTION

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IS GOD'S WILL IN YOUR WILL?

Including the church in your Will teaches others about giving back to God for the blessings He has given you.

With your wishes expressed in a Will, the ministries of St Agatha's Parish can be blessed.

Your gift can also impact our parish in perpetuity by supporting our parish endowment fund.

Contact the Catholic Foundation at 3324 3200 for more information or call the parish office.



PREP 2018

If you have a child born between 1/7/12– 30/6/13, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2018.

All enrolment applications are to be completed on-line through our website: www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au

Sibling Applications for Prep 2018 close on 17 February, 2017.

Non Sibling Applications close for Prep 2018 on **24 March 2017**,

interviews usually take place in April/May, and placements offered in June.

Copies of a written message from Archbishop Mark Coleridge after the second week of the Royal Commission hearings, can be found on the church pews.

DATE CLAIMER

Caritas Kitchen

Sunday 19 March following the 5.30pm Mass



CONGRATULATIONS

Samantha Conias in Year 4 MacKillop scooped the pool last week in the City Districts Swimming Carnival. Sami was placed 1st in 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, and 50m Breaststroke. What a wonderful achievement Sami. Practice, practice, practice is what will bring Sami to her next successful event. St Agatha's is proud of you and your dispositions for achieving such high quality outcomes in the pool.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Next Thursday 23 February and Friday 24 February, Mr Mark McCall will be St Agatha's Community Leader, as the school's Leadership Team will be attending our annual Brisbane Catholic Education Conference. Mrs Tricia Howard, Mrs Samantha Knight, Mr Nick Fogarty and I will be planning School Goals and strategies for the year ahead with other colleagues from Catholic schools. Peace to you and your families - *Carol Sayers, Principal*



This weekend we welcome Fr Orm Rush, for the 5pm and 5.30pm Masses.

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

18/19 Feb	Phil Zammit Eric van der List	Sr Cecily Foster Aleira Egan	Heidi Cooper Michael Crutcher Jane Arkinstall	Life Teen Mass
25/26 Feb	Graham Gibson Julie-Anne Gibson	Annette Riba Helen Roberts	Eileen Duncan Peter Gilroy Tim Hancock	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

18/19 Feb	Jan Zammit	Paulette Archer	Volunteer	Life Teen Mass
25/26 Feb	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

18/19 Feb	Volunteer	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson	Life Teen Mass
25/26 Feb	Volunteer	Mark Leung	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

18/19 Feb	Felicity Shepherd Charlotte Shepherd Laura Barrett	Volunteer/s	Xavier Coorey	Sofia Lazzarini Eve Ryan
25/26 Feb	Eve Ryan Clare Ryan	Volunteer/s	Bart Marino Billy Crutcher	Caitline Marshall Sharon Mathew

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

19 Feb	Julie Kordic and Ewa Marino-Cebulski
26 Feb	Nicola Warda and Susan De Medici

SANCTUARY CARERS:

4 Mar	Victor Podesta
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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.

BURNIE BRAE

The Burnie Brae not-for-profit community organisation at Chermside is in need of pre-loved clothing items suitable for ages 50+.

You can leave your pre-loved clothing items at the Parish Office during office hours or at the Church on the weekend, by the last Sunday of each month.

Pre-loved clothing items will then be delivered to those in need at the Burnie Brae "Project Pantry" event which is held on the 1st Saturday morning of each month.



Please join the
All Hallow's Past Pupils Association
at their

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

Sunday 12 March 2017 / 9.00am for 9.15 start

All Hallows' School - Loretto Hall

547 Ann Street, Brisbane

Guest Speaker: Catherine Donovan

Tickets: \$55 adult / \$25 AHS student

Tables of 8 with table captain name.

Visit ahs.qld.edu.au

Bookings close 3 March 2017

For further enquiries please contact:

Lenore Thompson - lenore.thompson@ahs.qld.edu.au

KEDRON CATHOLIC PARISH

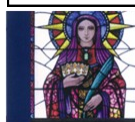
invites applications for the casual position of
Sacramental Coordinator (10 hours per week)

For full job description, email kedron@bne.catholic.net.au.

Applications close on 3 March 2017.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

COPIES ON SALE - \$2.00



ST AGATHA PRAYER CARDS
now available for sale at the Piety Stall
\$1.00 each.



*Am I Being
Unfair to You?*
- theme for
World Day of
Prayer 2017

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS GUIDE 2017

Copies of the
Catholic
Schools
Guide 2017
are available
on the table at
the back of
the church.



Readings - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 26 February 2017

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34