



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 (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

Fourth Sunday of Lent - 26th March 2017

Readings

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13; 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14; Gospel: John 9:1-41

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 27 March: 6.30am
Wednesday 29 March: 9am
Thursday 30 March: 9am
Friday 31 March: 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

MARCH

• Thursday 30th
Choir Practice 6-7pm Church
• Friday 31st
Stations of the Cross 8.30am

APRIL

• Monday 3rd
SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish
Office
• Tuesday 4th
2nd Rite of Reconciliation
7pm



Jesus spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (a name that means 'sent').

Dear friends,

This week's gospel is a tale of two journeys: one a gradual movement towards the light, and the other a spiral into increasing darkness. The rhythm of the storytelling is masterful. The ebb and flow of the drama serves to establish the direction of the major players, either towards or away from Jesus. The scene is set two chapters earlier, when Jesus describes himself as "the water of life" and "the light of the world". By the end of this story, those with eyes to see will acknowledge the truth of both claims.

This event begins with a theological question. In first century Judaism, disability and disease were regarded as signs of the terrible judgement of God. In the disciples' thinking, someone's sin is to blame for this man's blindness. They are more interested in the technicalities of this proposition than the state of the man's health or his future prospects. Moving quickly beyond their short-sightedness, Jesus simply replies that this situation is no one's "fault". Rather this man, understood as "cursed", is to become a sign of God's goodness.

Jesus makes a mud paste, a traditional practice for treating eye diseases, and tells the man to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. The author's note on the meaning of the name of the reservoir provides a double meaning. Not only has the blind man been *sent* by Jesus to wash, but also Jesus has been *sent* into the world to be "living water". The man responds without hesitation to Jesus' word; he goes, he washes and he comes back healed. Unconditional response to the Word has previously led to other miracles in John's gospel, highlighting both the expectations and possibilities for those who choose to follow Jesus. The Pharisees, on the other hand, descend into blindness. Whenever the scriptures speak of "seeing", what is at stake is not "eye-sight" but "insight". Lent is our annual eye test when we are invited to notice, through the eyes of faith, the invisible at the heart of the visible. *Fr. Anthony*

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Lent is the time for saying no. No to the spiritual asphyxia born of the pollution caused by indifference, by thinking that other people's lives are not my concern, and by every attempt to trivialize life, especially the lives of those whose flesh is burdened by so much superficiality. Lent means saying no to the toxic pollution of empty and meaningless words, of harsh and hasty criticism, of simplistic analyses that fail to grasp the complexity of problems, especially the problems of those who suffer the most.

Clayfield Conversations

Each week during Lent, *Project Compassion* shares a story from various parts of the world. This week's story is from Vietnam.

A CARING COMMUNITY



Nguyet spent 14 years of her life in silence and isolation. Her severe disability restricted her movements, her access to her neighbourhood, and her chance of an education. Nguyet's life changed when her neighbour introduced her to the Caritas-Australia sponsored program Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities (CBPA). Now a new world has opened for her. She is discovering her creativity, and reimagining her future. As a young neighbour looks on admiringly, a Vietnamese teenager transforms a pile of coloured paper into vivid flowers. When the little girl leaves, 15-year old Nguyet turns to the books brought by her in-home teacher, to practise her maths. Later she prepares a simple meal for her parents to eat when they return from work.

For her first 14 years, Nguyet was confined to living behind closed doors, with her parents close by to take care of her many health needs. Then a neighbour's kindness brought the outside world to Nguyet, and her life and the lives of her parents were changed forever. Thi Nhat Quynh is a teacher. "I'm Nguyet's neighbour, so I knew her when she was a little girl. I felt compassion for her." Through Quynh's introduction, Nguyet's mother, Nguyen Thi Tim, became linked with a Parents' Association. The Association is run through a program called Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities (CBPA) and has been supported by Caritas Australia since 2010. The program is managed by Catholic Relief Services, a local partner of Caritas Australia in Vietnam. Nguyen Thi Thuy Duong, Nguyet's case manager, explains: "The CBPA project aims to help parents by providing training so that they can support children with disabilities to integrate into the community, and be more confident in community integration." Through CBPA, students with disabilities attend neighbourhood schools alongside their peers whenever possible, and in-home education is offered for children like Nguyet who are confined by their disabilities. This made it possible for Quynh to lend a hand. "The school doesn't have enough facilities for children like her. I volunteered to come and teach her at her house," Quynh says. The program supports Quynh with resources so she is able to offer Nguyet lessons at home, teaching her maths, reading, writing and crafts. Parents' Associations in Vietnam have contributed considerably to communities, raising the awareness of parents of children with disabilities. Before, parents of children with disabilities were very reluctant to bring their children to join in public events. But they are now more confident, and can actively provide better care and education for their children. "Parents' Associations have proved their ability to the local government in helping disabled children. They also show that, whenever they are supported and cared for properly, children with disabilities can [achieve] change," says Duong. Learning to express herself creatively has opened a new world to Nguyet. She designs and sews clothes for her dolls, and makes delicate paper flowers. Nguyet dreams of selling her flowers. Her quickness at maths has enabled her to help her parents with shopping, and introduced her to the world of business. The whole family has benefited. Her parents can go out to work knowing she will manage on her own. "We are very happy for her," her mother Tim says. Now, at last, she nurtures the hope that her child "can be independent, and build the future she wants."



School News

CATHOLIC IDENTITY PROJECT

Last week the school's Leadership Team attended a workshop on one of our school goals for 2017. The school intends to review our Catholic Identity, that is, what makes us a Catholic school. Fr Anthony is involved in this very important project for our school and I look forward to sharing the process with our community over the coming year. All parents, school staff and students will be asked for their very valuable input on taking the school forward into the future. More information will be shared with you as the process proceeds.

Peace to you and your families
Carol Sayers, Principal

CARE AND CONCERN Volunteers Needed

We would like to put together a team of volunteers who can on the rare occasion make themselves available to be of assistance to any parishioners in need, either by providing a meal, commuting them to Mass, doctors appointments or shopping. If you would like to assist in this ministry please contact the Parish Office 3262 2859.

DATE CLAIMER

First Holy Communion

Weekend of 17/18 June

More information will be advertised in the parish and school newsletters.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Darryl Birtles, Bill Flamsteed, Noah Roe, Brian Cahill, Fr John Reilly SJ, Nellie Dahtler, Mary Hegarty, Margaret Ritson, Mary Coyne

And those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Reg Shun Wah (Snr), Herb Gosley, Richard Williams, Mary McBride

Those who are sick:

Brenda Brodie, 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.

ROSTERS FOR EASTER

Are you available to be on roster at any of the Easter Masses?
Please fill in the sheets on the clipboard at the back of the church.
Please note the Easter Vigil is longer than the usual Vigil Mass.



CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - ST AGATHA'S CLAYFIELD

Have you been away from the Church and you are seeking to reconnect and get an update on your Catholic faith? Perhaps you know someone who has left the Church? or just beginning to worship with us again? Please invite them to join us for 6 sessions, "Catholics Returning Home", Mondays from **24 April 7.30pm to 9pm** at St Agatha's Parish Office 52 Oriel Road. Please use the **blue** brochures to invite people you know.
For more information, please contact Lisa on 0418 734 147

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 26 MARCH 2017

In Vietnam, young Nguyet was isolated as a result of her severe disabilities, until a Caritas-Australia supported program offered her education, creative outlets and community interaction.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and give children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for education and inclusion in their community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes,
by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE USERS

Please Collect Your New Packet

Your assistance is appreciated as it saves volunteers giving of their time to personally deliver them. Thank you.
Please note: you may have been given a new number.



With great joy we welcome **Eva Barnhill, Rafferty Clifford and Amelia Harvey** who will be baptised this weekend.



HOLY WEEK MASSES 2017
Monday April 10 - 6.30am Mass
Wednesday April 12 - 9.00am Mass
Holy Thursday April 13
7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday April 14
10.00am Stations of the Cross
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday April 15
7.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday April 16
7.00am and 9.00am Mass
Please Note: NO 5.30pm Mass
Easter Monday April 17
9.00am Mass

Easter Raffle

EASTER RAFFLE

\$2.00 a ticket or 3 tickets for \$5.00.

Drawn Easter Sunday.

Thank you to CCI Personal Insurance for their kind donation of the Easter hamper (1st prize) and to one of our parishioner for kindly donating the 2nd and 3rd prizes.

Easter Raffle

Welcome

This weekend we welcome Fr Orm Rush for the 7.00am and 9.00am Masses.

We also welcome back Damien Everitt, Matthew Hasking and Tom Zaranski at the 9am Mass.

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 MEETING: Tuesday 11 April 6.45pm Parish Office

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

25/26 Mar Jack Williamson Helen Roberts Michael Crutcher Life Teen Mass
Ann Goves Andrew Douglas Heidi Cooper Eileen Duncan

1/2 Apr Cate Barrett Rafael Chase Tim Hancock Life Teen Mass
Ryan Smethurst Ruby Chase Jane Arkinstall Peter Gilroy

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

25/26 Mar Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Life Teen Mass
1/2 Apr Eddie Foley Helen Roberts Erin Bledsoe Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

25/26 Mar Volunteer Mark Leung Catriona McPherson Life Teen Mass
1/2 Apr Volunteer Mark Leung Jenny McKeon Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

25/26 Mar Volunteer/s Joey Douglas Bart Marino Caitlin Marshall
Xavier Coorey Sofia Iannarella

1/2 Apr Volunteer/s Volunteer/s Volunteer/s Volunteer/s

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

26 Mar Jane Arkinstall & Naoko Leotta
2 Apr School Holidays - No Children's Liturgy

SANCTUARY CARERS:

1 Apr Victor Podesta

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.

PARISH CENTENARY

We are putting out a call for people to join the organising sub-committee for the approaching parish centenary celebrations next year. The first Mass was celebrated in the parish on September 22, 1918. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of that occasion, and we are planning to mark this significant milestone with a number of celebrations. If you would like to be part of the plotting and planning, please include your name on the sheet near the front doors of the church. It would be wonderful to draw on the energies and creativity of as many people as possible, and encourage you to give consideration to becoming part of the preparation team.

CHRISM MASS

Archbishop Mark Coleridge invites you to the Annual Chrism Mass to be held in the Cathedral of St Stephen on Thursday 6 April 2017 commencing at 7.00pm. This is a celebration for the entire Archdiocese and all are welcome.

OLIVE BRANCHES

Olive branches or golden cane palms (small to large) are required for Palm Sunday. If you are able to supply any, please deliver to the back of the Church, outside the back door on Friday 7 April.

**ORDER OF SAINT LAZARUS
Fundraising Movie Morning**

Movie - *It Happened One Night* (winner of 5 Oscars)
Sunday April 9, 2017 at 10am
The Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm
\$40.00 per person includes glass of bubbles and homemade morning tea.
Contact - Pamela Casagrande 0419 728 153
or Regina McGuire 0407 732 740

**NEW STOCK
AVAILABLE
IN PIETY
STALL**

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."
1 SAMUEL 16:7

**CHOIR PRACTICE
FOR EASTER**

Thursday 30 March
6.00pm - 7.00pm in the Church.
New members welcome

Readings - Fifth Sunday of Lent - 2 April 2017

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14; 2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11; Gospel: John 11:1-45