



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
Facebook: facebook.com/St. Agatha's Catholic Parish Clayfield
Aggies Youth: facebook.com/aggiesyouth

Parish Priest: Fr. Anthony Mellor (ph: 0448 840 040)

Associate Pastor: Fr. Saji George, CMI.

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

First Sunday of Advent (Year B) - 3rd December 2017

Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8; **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; **Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 4 December: 6.30am

Wednesday 6 December: 9am

Thursday 7 December: 9am

Saint Ambrose

Friday 8 December: 9am

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

WEEKEND 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 4th**

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

• **Wednesday 6th**

Finance Meeting 6pm Parish Office

• **Thursday 7th**

Choir practice 6pm-7pm

2nd RITE OF RECONCILIATION
Tuesday 19 December
7.00pm



Jesus said to his disciples, "And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent signals to us that Christmas is approaching — as if we need any reminder. There are two key themes of the season of Advent. The first starts at the end, in a sense. Advent begins by looking forward to Christ's "second coming" — or perhaps it is more accurate to say the fulfilment of his "first coming". Our hope is that Christ will return and complete the renewal of all things in grace, through the Holy Spirit. Advent, then, is filled with hopeful anticipation. The season reflects a wonderful play on words that we find at the close of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, where the translation reads: *Our Lord, come!* (1 Cor 16:22). Yet the text is ambiguous and either can mean 'the Lord has come' or be read as an invitation to the Lord to come. This double sense is captured in Advent.

The second key theme, which doesn't come until later in the Advent season, is the mystery of the Incarnation. Christ, the light, has come into our world and dwelt among us as one like us, fully human and yet fully divine: *And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory* (Jn 1:14). So Advent looks ahead in hope and looks behind in thanksgiving. The future and the past meet in the present. Jesus is not just some historical figure who has come and gone; nor is the future about some vague, uncertain optimism. Jesus Christ is living presence, shepherding here and now towards a future that belongs to God alone.

That is why Advent is the great season of hope. Everything in creation is pregnant with possibility. Life is not being drained away, gradually eroded of all its power. All creation is slowly but surely coming to birth in God. This does not mean that there is no darkness, decay or destruction. Advent makes the startling claim year after year; there is no darkness, decay or destruction that is greater than God, greater than the true Light of the world, Jesus Christ. We trust, as Isaiah does, in the potter's hands to make all things new: "Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."

Fr. Anthony

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

The time of Advent that we begin again today returns us to the horizon of hope, a hope that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God. A hope that does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! God is faithful! Let us rediscover the beauty of being together along the way: the Church, with her vocation and mission, and the whole of humanity, the people, the civilizations, the cultures, all together on the paths of time.

Clayfield Conversations

*Fr. Dirk Dunfee is an American Jesuit academic. Below is his reflection on Advent.
It was originally published on the National Catholic Reporter website.*

Advent: 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 screen-time dreamland. 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 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 in the shopping centres. 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.

2018 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

For sale at the Piety Stall - \$9.00 each

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Raffle drawn Sunday 17 December.

ST AGATHA'S GIVING TREE - 2017

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.

Gifts to be in by **Sunday 17 December**, as members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them for Christmas.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

Readers are asked to collect their copy of

Break Open the Word 2018.

Books (with your name on them) are available on table in church foyer.

PIETY STALL

Variety of items for sale including sympathy, thank you and birthday cards; rosary beads and various gifts. Come in and have a browse.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently :

Denise Dean, Evelyn Kreuz, Leonard Bourke, Pat Sheeran, Constance Atkinson

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Max, Alan & Jennifer Leutenegger, Len Williamson, Joseph Riba, Rosemary Ryan

Those who are sick:

Sr Assumpta O'Flynn, Maureen Long, Anne Seymour, Bev O'Brien, Margaret-Mary Hayes, James Elliott, Michelle Toeke, Kahyam Baines, Paul Gaynor, Lorraine Atkinson-McEwen, Camille Butler-Storms, Mary Ann Marcelo, Isabel Leddick, Carmel Elms, Helen Orosz, Lisa Bowes, Sophia Horrocks, Mario Di Filippo, Norma Fiore, Joan Healy, Dell McHugh, Fr Michael Cooney, Craig Gerran, Ken Kipping, Paul White, Edward Clark, Joyce Rodgers, Carmel See, Regina Hwan, Val Boevinlic, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, Ann Tully, Patrick Gallagher, Eileen Clarke, Mel Purwo, Hellen Passente

JOIN THE TEAM... if you have any of these skills

Writing | Scrapbooking | Research | Journalism | Pinterest | Photo shopping | Graphics and design
Photography | Editing/proof reading | Proficiency in IT e.g. Microsoft & Adobe | Scanning photographs
Interviewing (parishioners' stories)

We need you to help compile our **Parish Centenary Celebration Book**.



Interested? - please contact, Cate, Eileen, Helen and Geraldine through the designated email stagathascentenarybook@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office 3262 2859 and they will pass on your details.

As part of our centenary at St Agatha's, we are also planning to celebrate 100 years of *tying the knot* at the parish. By sending in your wedding image, you will have a chance to be part of a commemorative poster to mark the centenary. So if you were married at the church or know someone who was, feel free to email your wedding shot (at the church) to stagathasweddings@gmail.com. Please use the following wording in the subject line of the email: "WEDDING - (YOUR SURNAME)". This will make it easier for us to keep a track of the photos. Please also include the names of the couple, their wedding date and a contact number in the email so we can get in touch. Some images may be used on our social media platforms. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ainsley Crutcher on 0417792212.

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION - this weekend 2/3 December

The Peter's Pence Collection is an annual collection of the Catholic Church around the world. The collection allows the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer timely, effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters.

This very special collection will be taken up as a retiring collection after all the Masses.



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 - Sunday 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.



PARISH OFFICE

Parish Office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 22 December and will reopen on Monday 8 January 2018.

CHOSEN - Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2017 - FOR SALE AT PIETY STALL \$4.00 each

Based on the Lectionary, the reflections in this handy pocket-sized book aim to help us exploit day-by-day, the richness of the Church's Advent-Christmas experience as we prepare for and celebrate the ground-breaking fact that the eternal Almighty God sent his Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to live in our world and be our Saviour and Redeemer, Emmanuel - God with us (*Matthew 1:23*).

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

2/3 Dec	Marian Nolan Ann Goves	James Robinson <i>Volunteer</i>	Heidi Cooper Ryan Smethurst Michael Crutcher	Life Teen Mass
9/10 Dec	Jack Williamson Katrina Murphy	Mark Burton Kirsty Stevens	Eileen Duncan Tim Hancock Denis Keating	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

2/3 Dec	Deborah Hall	<i>Volunteer</i>	Julianne Ryan	Life Teen Mass
9/10 Dec	Edward Foley	Helen Roberts	Erin Bledsoe	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

2/3 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass
9/10 Dec	Robyn Cuming	<i>Volunteer</i>	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

2/3 Dec	Billy Crutcher Dash Crutcher	Joe Douglas	Bridget Birchley Milly Ryan	Sophia Lazzarini Max Lazzarini
9/10 Dec-20/21 Jan	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

3 Dec - 21 Jan 2018

No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays

SANCTUARY CARERS:

16 Dec Beverley O'Brien

A VOCATION VIEW: It's Advent; almost Christmas!

A Season of dreams comes true. Be on guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.



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.



CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday 7 December 6.00pm - 7.00pm
in the Church. New members welcome

To Carol, teachers, staff and students at St Agatha's School, wishing you all a holy Christmas and happy holidays.

**ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL
PREP SIBLINGS FOR 2019**

If you have a *sibling* child born between 1/7/13 - 30/6/14, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2019.

The enrolment process for Prep 2019 commences at the beginning of 2018.

Please note all applications are submitted online via our website
www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au

If you would like your sibling child included in the enrolments for Prep 2019 please register online.

ST AGATHA'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - 2018

Reconciliation - *For children in Grade 5*

ENROLMENT WEEKEND: 17/18 February at any of the Masses

Saturday 5.00pm; Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm

Enrolment forms available from the Parish Office.

1st Rite of Reconciliation: 17 March 4pm & 18 March 4.30pm

For further information call Jane Cameron at the parish office: 3262 2859

ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL has limited vacancies in Year 6 for 2018.

Please direct all enquiries to the Enrolment Secretary: wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone: 3326 9222

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS - from Mrs Carol Sayers

I wish all our St Agatha's families a blessed and holy Christmas, and may the New Year be filled with happiness and joy for the whole family. I would like to thank our talented staff for their dedication and hard work in making our year such a successful adventure for all of us.

My special thanks to Fr Anthony, our Parish Priest for his continued support and gracious presence with us this year.

I look forward to welcoming all our families back to St Agatha's for an exciting and life giving year ahead in 2018.

Readings - Second Sunday of Advent (Year B) - 10 December 2017

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8