



# 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

## Second Sunday of Advent (Yr. B) - 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Readings

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

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday 11 December:** 6.30am

**Wednesday 13 December:** 9am

*Saint Lucy*

**Thursday 14 December:** 9am

*Saint John of the Cross*

**Friday 15 December:** 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*

#### DECEMBER

• **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Choir practice 6pm-7pm

• **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

SVPD Meeting 5pm Parish

Office

• **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

2nd Rite of Reconciliation 7pm

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

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

Drawn Sunday  
17 December.



*The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
 It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to  
 send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.  
 A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord,  
 make his paths straight*

Dear Friends,

Hope is the heart of Advent. Hope saturates our liturgy of the Word this Sunday. From the very first sentence, as Isaiah dictates the words of God, we hear God say, "Comfort, O Comfort my people, Console them, console them." God directs Isaiah to speak tenderly to God's people and tell that God is coming to them to lead them and carry them home. God will feed them, gather the lambs, the small ones in his arms, carry them near his heart, and care for them. This is God, the tender, compassionate One, come to claim a people as his own.

And then, Mark tells the story of how this longing finds fulfilment in human form. It happens abruptly, almost without warning, almost.... There are no stables for Mark, no stars, no angels, no cosy, glowing families or adorning animals....it just begins. It begins with this simple proclamation: *The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* And with no time to absorb the simple truth of that statement, we are thrown out into the wilderness, standing beside a bizarre figure, dressed in camel hair with a simple belt, and eating the bushtucker of the wilderness – locusts and honey. Such a strange way to begin the good news of salvation. "But there is one coming," John says, "Who will satisfy ancient hungers, who will settle the broken heart." John says with abrupt urgency what Isaiah said with patience long ago....prepare the way!

Advent is always the voice that calls us from a habitual optimism, from our seeking of little comfort, and into a grand, impossible hope. Advent is constantly turning our world on its head...in the best possible way. We hope not just for a little happiness or tenderness in this world...we wait in hope for a whole new heaven and a new earth. And this hopeful dream is planted secretly and silently in the heart of every person. Advent helps us hear it.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Jesus exhorts us to pay attention and to watch, to be ready to welcome him at the moment of his return. The person who pays attention is the one who, in the noise of the world, does not let him or herself be overwhelmed by distraction or superficiality, but lives in a full and conscious way, with a concern directed above all to others.

With this attitude we become aware of the tears and needs of others. The attentive person tries to counter the indifference and cruelty in the world and rejoices in the treasures of beauty that also exist in it.

## Clayfield Conversations

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has written a response to last week's same-sex marriage legislation. Below is his reflection on the issue.

### ***Through Advent we celebrate the Marriage of Heaven and Earth***

The postal survey on same-sex marriage is behind us, and the legislation has now followed. This is largely beyond our control, but there are other things that are within our control; and we would do well to look at these, particularly as we journey through Advent towards Christmas when we celebrate the marriage of heaven and earth. After a debate which was often vitriolic or worse, there's a need to heal wounds and build bridges. That won't be achieved quickly or easily; and it will depend in part upon what happens in the aftermath of the postal survey and the legislation. That touches upon religious freedom. Some will see the vote and the legislation as a personal liberation which goes no further: so be it. But others will see it as a major victory in a long ideological war in which the Catholic Church is an enemy whose influence and freedom are to be curtailed at every opportunity.

That's why there's a need not for paranoia or panic but for clear-eyed vigilance. The newly constructed right of same-sex couples to marry must not be set against long-recognised rights to religious freedom which are fundamental to the health of society. It's worth recalling that, in the area of religious freedom, we're talking about genuine rights, not exemptions which may be grudgingly conceded by government but withdrawn at any time in the future if government so decides. An even larger and more urgent need in the wake of the vote and the legislation is to strengthen and renew our catechesis of marriage in every way and at every point. This is the call of Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia*, and it's time for us in Australia to respond in practical and positive ways. This is especially true at a time when evidence of the trivialisation of marriage is all around us, no more clearly than in mass entertainment, particularly some television shows. As the Pope writes in *Amoris Laetitia*: "There is no sense in simply decrying present-day evils, as if this could change things. Nor it is helpful to try to impose rules by sheer authority. What we need is a more responsible and generous effort to present the reasons and motivations for choosing marriage and the family, and in this way to help men and women better to respond to the grace that God offers them. We also need to be humble and realistic, acknowledging that at times the way we present our Christian beliefs and treat other people has helped contribute to today's problematic situation. We need a healthy dose of self-criticism" (35-36). We need to consider a new language in which to express what the Church believes and teaches about marriage, given that the language we have used speaks to too few. Pope Francis again: "We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage (*AL* 40).

We need a new nuptial catechesis which begins long before engagement and marriage. This would be the beginning of a journey on which the Church accompanies the couple at every point. Marriage preparation can't be consigned to a few sessions just before marriage. It needs to begin long before. Given how counter-cultural our understanding of marriage has become, preparation for it needs to be a kind of catechumenate. But the journey doesn't end at marriage. The Church needs to accompany couples in the early years of marriage and right through their life together until death. This also applies when marriage fails. The Church has to travel the road with those who are divorced and with those who have remarried beyond divorce. We need to ask what resources we will need for such a ministry – educational resources, formative communities, celebrations for different moments of the journey and support for those in trouble.

Therefore, I invite everyone in the Archdiocese of Brisbane to think about how we as a Church might do this. Married people especially will have ideas of what might be done. I say this knowing that we already moving towards the Plenary Council in 2020 when it's likely that questions of a lifelong nuptial journey and the Church's accompaniment of it will be on the agenda. So let this be our positive and enduring response to the result of the postal survey and the same-sex marriage legislation as well as part of our preparation for the Plenary Council and all that lies beyond.



With great joy we welcome  
**Rose Perotin** who will be baptised this weekend.

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

### **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.

### **ST AGATHA'S SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

will be conducted over the weekends 9/10<sup>th</sup> and 16/17<sup>th</sup> December. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills. Assistance is provided for families and single people seeking food, clothing, furniture, and financial help. All donations will be gratefully appreciated. Appeal envelopes will be provided on the church seats. If paying by cheque, make payable to "St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference". Any donations of food should be delivered by **Sunday 17 December**, due to Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year.

## ***In our prayers we remember***



### **Those who have died recently:**

Denise Dean, Evelyn Kreuz, Leonard Bourke

### **Those whose anniversaries occur about now:**

Sally Meehan, Douglas Munt, Max, Alan & Jennifer Leutenegger, Len Williamson

### **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

## **PARISH CENTENARY RECOLLECTIONS BOOK – DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?**

Commemorating our Parish Centenary is all about the people of our Parish, past and present. We need your stories, memories, photographs, snippets, recipes. We will be collecting your contributions at each of the Masses over the next weeks. All contributions are welcome – even if it is only a few lines!

The Book of Parish Recollections will not be the same without YOUR contribution.

Please pass this onto those who have left the Parish – we would love to hear from them too.

The Book Team: [stagathascentenarybook@gmail.com](mailto:stagathascentenarybook@gmail.com)

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](mailto: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.



## **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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOOD READS FROM ST AGATHA'S LIBRARY**

As Advent begins and Christmas draws near we have a number of suitable Christmas books as well as some holiday reading out on the library display table. We hope you enjoy our Christmas offering.



## **PARISH OFFICE**

Parish Office will be closed from 12.30pm on Friday 22 December and will reopen 8.00am on Monday 8 January 2018.

## **COULD YOU HELP CARITAS AUSTRALIA?**

Caritas is currently looking for volunteers to help us connect our parish community here at Clayfield with our sisters and brothers in some of the poorest places in the world. You can choose what you can do depending on the time you have, whether you can help give out envelopes and boxes once a year on Project Compassion Sunday or assist us on a longer term basis as our parish representative - we would like to hear from you.

If you have a passion to build a better, fairer world please contact Lynda on 07 3324 3135 or [Lynda.Mussell@caritas.org.au](mailto:Lynda.Mussell@caritas.org.au) for more information.

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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

**READERS:**

9/10 Dec

Jack Williamson  
Katrina Murphy

Mark Burton  
Kirsty Stevens

Eileen Duncan  
Tim Hancock  
Denis Keating

Life Teen Mass

16/17 Dec

Eric van der List  
Phil Zammit

Andrew Douglas  
Jeanine Bygott

Don Macpherson  
Wilma O'Connell  
Joseph O'Brien

Life Teen Mass

**COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

9/10 Dec

Edward Foley

Helen Roberts

Erin Bledsoe

Life Teen Mass

16/17 Dec

Jan Zammit

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Life Teen Mass

**ORGANISTS:**

9/10 Dec

Robyn Cuming

*Volunteer*

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

16/17 Dec

Robyn Cuming

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Life Teen Mass

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

9/10 Dec-20/21 Jan *Volunteer/s*

*Volunteer/s*

*Volunteer/s*

*Volunteer/s*

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

3 Dec - 21 Jan 2018

*No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays*

**SANCTUARY CARERS:**

16 Dec

Beverley O'Brien

A VOCATION VIEW: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness".  
Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?



**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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

For bookings and further information, please phone the parish office on 3262 2859.



**CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS**

Thursday 14 December 6.00pm - 7.00pm  
in the Church. New members welcome

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to help with the St Agatha's Feast Day Celebrations on Sunday 4 February 2018. If you can help in any way, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the Church.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation is needed for a family of eight, visiting Brisbane from Canada from 20 December 2017 to 13 January 2018. They are happy to negotiate about details. For further information please phone Paul Martin 3268 1571.

**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.

1<sup>st</sup> Rite of Reconciliation: 17 March 4pm & 18 March 4.30pm

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

**PIETY STALL**

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

**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](mailto:wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au) or phone: 3326 9222

**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.

**BRISBANE NORTH EAST DEANERY YOUNG ADULTS**

Come and join other young adults from the deanery for an end of year social dinner on Sunday 17 December 6:30pm at The Full Moon Hotel, Sandgate. You can RSVP at Facebook @BNEDYA email: [bnedya@mail.com](mailto:bnedya@mail.com) or contact Jess on 0411 421 316.

**Readings - Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) - 17 December 2017**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**