

# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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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

## Feast of the Holy Family (Yr. B) - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

### Readings

**1st Reading:** Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; **2nd Reading:** Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; **Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday 1 January:** 9am

*Solemnity of Mary,*

*The Holy Mother of God*

**Wednesday 3 January:** 9am

**Thursday 4 January:** 9am

**Friday 5 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

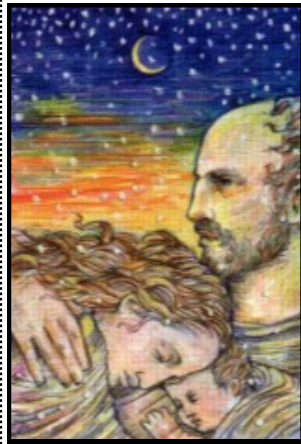
• **Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Office reopens 8am

• **Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish

Office



*Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.*

Dear Friends,

Today is the feast of the Holy Family. Our minds might turn to serene glow of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – but in reality the gospel inserts a note of darkness: “This child is destined for the rise and fall of many...he is a sign that will be opposed...and a piercing sword hangs over the family’s future.” The Christian version of the Christmas is not all lights, and tinsel and merriment and presents.

On this feast of the Holy Family, our minds might turn to our own families, and our recent days of festivity. We might be still carrying the joy of getting together, or perhaps the sting of family tensions, or maybe the ache of someone’s absence. Regardless of what our situation might be, as long as we continue to strive together in love, struggle together with reality, our family will grow as a “holy family”. A holy family is not the same as perfect family.

But there is another view of the Holy Family that is worthy of our consideration today, and that is that we all belong to the Holy Family of humanity. Our brothers and sisters are not simply those of our kindred; our horizon of concern doesn’t stop at the edge of those whom we know and care about. As human beings we belong to one human family. Our brothers and our sisters are those others who are human beings like ourselves.

That is because God in Jesus became a human being, became human flesh, just like every other human flesh. The Incarnation means many things, but one of the most of important lessons that we need to learn is that the Incarnation means that God has bound himself to the human family in the bond that can never be broken. This isn’t just a nice thought – it has implications for the way in which we live and the way in which we view other human beings.

On this feast day, in this festive time, may we be particularly conscious of our bond as a human family. We called to see one another, all others, as our sisters and our brothers. Let us turn our thoughts and prayers to the needs of the greater human family, and may true and active compassion be the fruit of our prayer and reflection.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

The mystery of Christmas, which is light and joy, challenges and unsettles us, because it is at once a *mystery of hope and of sadness*.

It has a *taste of sadness*, inasmuch as love is not accepted, and life discarded. Such was the case with Joseph and Mary, who met with closed doors, and placed Jesus in a manger, “because there was no place for them in the inn”. Jesus was born rejected by some and regarded by many others with indifference. Today too, that same indifference can exist, whenever Christmas becomes a holiday with ourselves at the centre rather than Jesus; when the lights of shop windows push the light of God into the shadows; when we are enthused about gifts but indifferent to our neighbours in need. This worldliness has kidnapped Christmas; we need to liberate it!

## Clayfield Conversations

### A Holy Family?

*Holiness is not something earned, it is a gift from God.*

We live with the fear that we are not good enough. We live with the silent voice that says we have failed.

We are defeated by the self-doubt that convinces us that others are better, happier and more gifted.

Everyone else's grass is greener. Their family is better than ours. They are better parents. They are better children.

Is this the trap of Facebook and Instagram: the lure of validation from imaginary friends?

On social media, beauty needs to be only screen deep.

We can get away with a little slight of hand, a little photo-shopping,  
a little philosophy from the latest guru of a happy life.

In our virtual lives, we can get everything to fit, and mix and match, and make it sharp and focussed.

Unfortunately, real life isn't quite so neat or picture perfect or "awesome!"

We have learned to turn away from reality, and switch it off, as if it is not real.

We can't tell "the real" from "the fake" anymore because we are so attuned to the blurring of reality.

Our personal reality never seems to be good or "true" enough.

That's the startling truth of the Incarnation.

God comes and embraces reality — just as it is,

with no extras, no filters, no enhancements. The ordinary is good enough for the Divine.

For God sees with different eyes. God sees us for who we are, not who are not.

Confident enough in human beings, God entrusted his Son to a ordinary human family.

And we call that family "Holy". Why do we hesitate at calling our family "Holy"? For it is, each in its own way.

Given all our quiet grievances with one another, our failures, our estrangements, God chooses to see human beings struggling together in love, and smiles at a holy family.

The family is the perfect place to learn forgiveness, acceptance, patience, joy and laughter. The family is God's way of teaching human beings how to love one another, however imperfectly. The family is God's way of making the world "Holy". And he uses people like us.

*Holiness is not something earned, it is a gift from God.*

### In our prayers we remember

#### Those who have died recently:

Shaun Cochrane, Sr Assumpta O'Flynn, Stan Marquis-Kyle

#### Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Stan McKenzie, John Agnew, Phyllis Agnew

#### Those who are sick:

Maureen Long, Anne Seymour, Bev O'Brien, Margaret-Mary Hayes, James Elliott, 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 ROSTERS - Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable on your rostered day.

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

#### READERS:

30/31 Dec

Katrina Murphy  
Ann Goves

Kate O'Neill  
Jeanine Bygott

Ryan Smethurst  
Jane Arkinstall  
Heidi Cooper

Life Teen Mass

6/7 Jan

Marian Nolan  
*Volunteer*

Annette Riba  
James Robinson

Michael Crutcher  
Eileen Duncan

Life Teen Mass

#### COMMUNION MINISTERS:

30/31 Dec

Deborah Hall  
Edward Foley

Helen Roberts  
*Volunteer*

Christine Iannarella  
Erin Bledsoe

Life Teen Mass

Life Teen Mass

#### ORGANISTS:

30/31 Dec

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

6/7 Jan

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass