

ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

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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. Prema Kumar Rethnamony

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 in Ordinary Time (Yr. B) - 14th January 2018

Readings

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; **2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20; **Gospel:** John 1:35-42

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 15 January: 6.30am

Wednesday 17 January: 9am
Saint Anthony

Thursday 18 January: 9am

Friday 19 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 22nd**

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

• **Tuesday 23rd**

School resumes

• **Friday 26th**

Austral Day - Mass 9am

FEBRUARY

• **Sunday 4th**

St Agatha's Feast Day

Celebrations - Mass 9am

• **Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th**

Little King's Movement Appeal

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38



When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

Dear Friends,

This weekend we welcome Fr. Prema (Prem) Kumar Rethnamony to our parish community as our new associate pastor. Fr. Prem has a very interesting story to tell, and we will learn more about him in next weekend's newsletter. He is also chaplain to the local Syro-Malankara Catholic community (based in India), and they will gather here at St. Agatha's on a Sunday afternoon for their own liturgy. Fr. Prem will tell you more about this next week, but in the meantime, we warmly welcome him to St. Agatha's.

The year is fast revving-up to full steam. We welcome back our school staff this week from their summer break, and I will be joining them down the coast later in the week for their in-service days. It is such a hard way to start a new year! Hot on the heels of our school returning will be the first of our major centenary celebration of the year. On Sunday, 4th February, Bishop Ken Howell will be joining us for our St. Agatha's feast day celebrations. There will be more information in the coming weeks, but please keep that day free to join in the fun as we kick-start our centenary year.

Don't forget our fund-raising items: our centenary wines and port and various other items. The packs should be available next weekend, but if you would like to get your order in early, we can have a pack available by the end of this week. I should point out the \$180 pack of six wines, plus all the items in our hessian bags is excellent value. I think all the items look very impressive indeed, not to mention the rave reviews that our wines are getting as well, so please place an order before it's too late and you miss out.

So a new year beckons. Let us ask our patron, St. Agatha, to pray for us as we celebrate our centenary year. May it be a year of thanksgiving for what we have inherited and looking to the future with hope and confidence. *Fr. Anthony*

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

I would also remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher, where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see". Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him. Have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey?

I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness.

Clayfield Conversations



A friend pointed me in the direction of this reflection on hearts by Brian Doyle, an American essayist who died last year. Below, he compares the hearts of hummingbirds, blue whales and human beings.

Joyas voladoras (Spanish for “Flying Jewels”)

Consider the hummingbird for a long moment. A hummingbird’s heart beats ten times a second. A hummingbird’s heart is the size of a pencil eraser. A hummingbird’s heart is a lot of the hummingbird. *Joyas voladoras*, flying jewels, the first white explorers in the Americas called them, and the white men had never seen such creatures, for hummingbirds came into the world only in the Americas, nowhere else in the universe, more than three hundred species of them whirring and zooming and nectaring in hummer time zones nine times removed from ours, their hearts hammering faster than we could clearly hear if we pressed our elephantine ears to their infinitesimal chests. Each one visits a thousand flowers a day. They can dive at sixty miles an hour. They can fly backwards. They can fly more than five hundred miles without pausing to rest. But when they rest they come close to death: on frigid nights, or when they are starving, they retreat into torpor, their metabolic rate slowing to a fifteenth of their normal sleep rate, their hearts sludging nearly to a halt, barely beating, and if they are not soon warmed, if they do not soon find that which is sweet, their hearts grow cold, and they cease to be.

Hummingbirds, like all flying birds but more so, have incredible enormous immense ferocious metabolisms. To drive those metabolisms they have race-car hearts that eat oxygen at an eye-popping rate. Their hearts are built of thinner, leaner fibers than ours. Their arteries are stiffer and more taut. They have more mitochondria in their heart muscles—anything to gulp more oxygen. Their hearts are stripped to the skin for the war against gravity and inertia, the mad search for food, the insane idea of flight. The price of their ambition is a life closer to death; they suffer more heart attacks and aneurysms and ruptures than any other living creature. It’s expensive to fly. You burn out. You fry the machine. You melt the engine. Every creature on earth has approximately two billion heartbeats to spend in a lifetime. You can spend them slowly, like a tortoise and live to be two hundred years old, or you can spend them fast, like a hummingbird, and live to be two years old.

The biggest heart in the world is inside the blue whale. It weighs more than seven tons. It’s as big as a room. It *is* a room, with four chambers. A child could walk around it, head high, bending only to step through the valves. The valves are as big as the swinging doors in a saloon. This house of a heart drives a creature a hundred feet long. When this creature is born it is twenty feet long and weighs four tons. It is waaaaay bigger than your car. It drinks a hundred gallons of milk from its mama every day and gains two hundred pounds a day, and when it is seven or eight years old it endures an unimaginable puberty and then it essentially disappears from human ken, for next to nothing is known of the the mating habits, travel patterns, diet, social life, language, social structure, diseases, spirituality, wars, stories, despairs and arts of the blue whale. There are perhaps ten thousand blue whales in the world, living in every ocean on earth, and of the largest animal who ever lived we know nearly nothing. But we know this: the animals with the largest hearts in the world generally travel in pairs, and their penetrating moaning cries, their piercing yearning tongue, can be heard underwater for miles and miles.

Mammals and birds have hearts with four chambers. Reptiles and turtles have hearts with three chambers. Fish have hearts with two chambers. Insects and mollusks have hearts with one chamber. Worms have hearts with one chamber, although they may have as many as eleven single-chambered hearts. Unicellular bacteria have no hearts at all; but even they have fluid eternally in motion, washing from one side of the cell to the other, swirling and whirling. No living being is without interior liquid motion. We all churn inside.

So much held in a heart in a lifetime. So much held in a heart in a day, an hour, a moment. We are utterly open with no one in the end — not mother and father, not wife or husband, not lover, not child, not friend. We open windows to each but we live alone in the house of the heart. Perhaps we must. Perhaps we could not bear to be so naked, for fear of a constantly harrowed heart. When young we think there will come one person who will savour and sustain us always; when we are older we know this is the dream of a child, that all hearts finally are bruised and scarred, scored and torn, repaired by time and will, patched by force of character, yet fragile and rickety forevermore, no matter how ferocious the defense and how many bricks you bring to the wall. You can brick up your heart as stout and tight and hard and cold and impregnable as you possibly can and down it comes in an instant, felled by a woman’s second glance, a child’s apple breath, the shatter of glass in the road, the words *I have something to tell you*, a cat with a broken spine dragging itself into the forest to die, the brush of your mother’s papery ancient hand in the thicket of your hair, the memory of your father’s voice early in the morning echoing from the kitchen where he is making pancakes for his children.

THANK YOU

St Vincent de Paul Conference Clayfield, would like to thank all the Parishioners and the St Agatha’s Primary School community for their outstanding support with our Christmas Hampers for 2017.

Collectively we distributed hampers to 36 homes. The school community contributed such a generous bounty of hand chosen presents and individual Coles Food vouchers. The first 13 hampers were delivered to groups of families who were especially in need of our support.

The second group of hampers are supplied to other members in our conference area who are in need of a hand up at this time of the year. Many of these individuals were visiting children who do not live with them, so we were able to include items for them to pass on to these family members. Most importantly the food and practical household goodies, and special treats to devour were received with gratitude.

Your wonderful generosity has enabled our group of volunteers to hand out these donations to the appropriate people. We wish you all a very safe 2018 - *St Vincent de Paul, Clayfield.*

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently :

Paul Rush, Grove Johnson, Fehine McMorro, Emily DelDot, Emily Pham, Maureen Thorpe, Phillip Eviston, Shaun Cochrane

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Fr Francis O'Connell, John O'Brien, Tom McCormack, Philip Collins, Sue McSweeney, Peter Stephenson, Eric O'Hagan, Craig Andrews, Blue Doyle, Stan McKenzie

Those who are sick:

Maureen Long, Anne Seymour, Bev O'Brien, Margaret-Mary Hayes, James Elliott, 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, 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: stagathacentenarybook@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. 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.

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

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our Christmas Raffle.

A total of \$795 was raised.

Our lucky winners were:

Jenny McKeon, Stegalls' family,
Phil Sheedy and Pip!!

Thank you also to our kind parishioner for the donation of the 1st and 2nd prizes



ST AGATHA'S CENTENARY WINE - NOW AVAILABLE!!

If you would like to order a bottle/case of St Agatha's Centenary Wine, please complete order form found on table at the back of the church and email to Parish Office.

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.

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.

(No Sunday menu during the holiday break. Date for next supper to be confirmed).

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>

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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

13/14 Jan	Phil Zammit Eric van der List	Kirsty Stevens Mark Burton	Wilma O'Connell Dominic Ryan	Life Teen Mass
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20/21 Jan	Ann Goves Katrina Murphy	Anne O'Connor <i>Volunteer</i>	Trish Ryan Ryan Smethurst Jane Arkininstall	Life Teen Mass
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COMMUNION MINISTERS:

13/14 Jan	Jan Zammit	<i>Volunteer</i>	Julianne Ryan	Life Teen Mass
20/21 Jan	Ann Goves	Helen Roberts	Christine Iannarella	Life Teen Mass

ORGANISTS:

13/14 Jan	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass
20/21 Jan	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

9/10 Dec-20/21 Jan	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>
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CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

3 Dec - 21 Jan 2018 *No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays*

SANCTUARY CARERS:

20 Jan Beverley O'Brien



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME LOOKING FOR THE MATERIAL COMFORTS OF THE WORLD? OR, IS YOUR HEART LONGING FOR SOMETHING DEEPER THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND BY SPENDING TIME WITH GOD? TAKE TIME, EACH DAY, IN SILENCE AND ASK THE LORD WHAT IT IS THAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO.

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.

PIETY STALL

Variety of items for sale including sympathy, thank you and birthday cards; and various gifts.

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.

**VOLUNTEER WELCOMER AND GUIDE -
CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN**

Do you enjoy meeting people? Do you love your Cathedral? Do you revel in good art and juicy history? Do we have an opportunity for you! You are invited to talk with us about becoming a volunteer welcomer and guide at the Cathedral of St Stephen. Join us for an information session to be held in the Hanly Room of the Francis Rush Centre on 1 February 2018 from 10.30am-12.30pm. For more information, contact Carmel Devery at the Cathedral office on 3324 3030 or e-mail deveryc@bne.catholic.net.au by 25 January 2018.

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.

LENTEN REFLECTION GROUPS (14 February - 28 March)

"*Blessed + Broken*" is the title of this year's Lenten program. The Lenten reflection group will commence on Wednesday 14 February, 7pm Parish Office, and will continue each Wednesday until 28 March. Please call or email Parish Office if you are interested in attending. Each meeting runs for approx. 80 minutes.

Readings - Third Sunday In Ordinary Time - 21 January 2018

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Gospel: Mark 1:14-20