

# 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. Prem 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

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr. B) - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### Readings

1st Reading: Deuteronomy Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 5 February: 6.30am  
& School Mass 9am  
Saint Agatha

Wednesday 7 February: 9am

Thursday 8 February: 9am

Friday 9 February: 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

#### FEBRUARY

##### Monday 5<sup>th</sup>

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

##### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

Caritas - Project Compassion Introduction weekend

##### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

P26 Mass - 9am

##### Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

Community & Mission Council Meeting 7pm Parish Office

*A VOCATION VIEW: The afflicted Job in the Old Testament thinks that his life is like dust in the wind; his restlessness depicting the sorrow and sadness afflicting society today. Are we prepared for the task ahead? To heal the broken-hearted, to bind up all their wounds? How do you choose to respond?*



*O God, who bestowed on Saint Agatha a crown among the Saints for triumphant martyrdom, grant, we pray, through the power of this Sacrament, that, bravely overcoming every evil, we may attain the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.*

Dear Friends,

St. Agatha's life story is not a pleasant one. No story of the martyrdom of a twenty year old could ever be pleasant. St. Agatha has been venerated from the early Christian centuries, and so there is something about her story that clearly caught the imagination of early Christianity. She was martyred in Sicily around 253AD during the persecution of the Roman Emperor, Decius, but there are no definitive accounts of her death. We are told by various later accounts that she staunchly defended herself against attacks of various kinds, underwent torture and was finally martyred. In particular, St. Agatha is the patron saint of sufferers of breast cancer.

Our church was named after St. Agatha because Archbishop Duhig, who consecrated the church in 1924, was an alumnus of the Irish College in Rome, and the 6th century church adjacent to the College (which belonged to the Irish College at the time) was also named after St. Agatha. The Roman chapel itself has an interesting history — google *Sant'Agata dei Goti* (St. Agatha of the Goths) when you have time.

Today is a day of celebration for us. It marks our first parish gathering for our centenary year. We are grateful for the presence of Bishop Ken Howell, Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane and his presence gives the day even greater solemnity. My thanks to our office staff, Rosemary and Jane, the school community and school P&F, especially our principal, Mrs Carol Sayers, our Community and Mission Council and Centenary Committee, both of which are skilfully led by Erin Bledsoe. We are also grateful for Erin's father, Daryl, and his generosity in updating our banners at the front of the church. The joy of our Feast Day Mass is greatly enhanced by our parish and school choirs and our musicians, Robyn and Daniel. Feast day sausages have been donated by Susie McDonald from Super Butcher and we are very thankful for their support. Thank you, also, to all our volunteers who have helped in the preparation for today. I hope that everyone enjoys the celebration today. May today set the tone for a wonderful and memorable centenary year.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

It is painful to see how so many women are devalued, denigrated and exposed to endless violence. Violence cannot be seen as "normal". Violence against women cannot be treated as "normal", and maintain a culture which blinds us to the leading role that women play in our communities. It is not right for us, brothers and sisters, to look the other way and let the dignity of so many women, especially young women, be trampled upon.

## Clayfield Conversations

February 5<sup>th</sup> each year is the Feast day of St. Agatha. Agatha was born at Catania or Palermo, Sicily, and she was martyred in approximately 251. She is one of seven women, who, along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, are commemorated by name in the Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) of the Mass. She is the patron saint of breast cancer patients, martyrs, wet nurses, bell-founders, bakers, fire, earthquakes, and eruptions of Mount Etna. One of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of Christian antiquity, Agatha was put to death during the persecution of Decius (250–253) in Catania, Sicily, for her determined profession of faith. Her written legend comprises straightforward accounts of interrogation, torture, resistance, and triumph which constitute some of the earliest hagiographic literature. Although the martyrdom of Saint Agatha is authenticated, and her veneration as a saint had spread beyond her native place even in antiquity, there is no reliable information concerning the details of her death. But what is this Catholic theology of the Communion of the Saints? Below, Catherine O’Connell-Cahill explains our theology of the Communion of the Saints in an article that first appeared in the publication, *US Catholic*.

### The Communion of the Saints

Borrowing from the Letter to the Hebrews and from theologian and Sister of St. Joseph Elizabeth Johnson, we can imagine the communion of saints as a giant stadium of people, all of whom have run, or are running, a great race. As each of us takes our turn at the starting line, we are lifted up by the love and encouragement of all those who know well the challenges ahead of us and who have stayed to accompany us and cheer us on. “It is a matter of being inspired by the whole lot of them, this cloud of witnesses to the living God,” writes Johnson, quoting Hebrews: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (12:1-2).

References to the communion of saints in Catholic belief can be found as far back as the fourth century. The term appears in the Apostles’ Creed, thought to have been written in the fifth century. In Eastern churches it meant primarily a communion of “holy things”—our sharing in one baptism and especially in the Eucharist, which both represents and brings about our unity as one body of Christ.

In the West, the communion of saints more commonly means a communion of “holy ones,” both the living and the dead. Remember that in the New Testament, “saints” means not canonized saints (a much later development), but rather all the people of God. Paul began one of his letters, “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi” (Phil. 1:1). The communion of saints encompasses not only all believers in Christ, but, according to many scholars, all those of truth and love, in whom the Spirit is at work. This includes those on earth, those still journeying to God in the purification process Catholics call purgatory, and those who now abide in God. The old terminology for these three states was “the church militant” on earth, “the church suffering” in purgatory, and “the church triumphant” in heaven. Together we all make up the church, the body of Christ.

The best thing about the communion of saints is that it connects us all — because we are one body. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray with all those who have gone before us. We living can pray for the dead, “the souls in purgatory,” who need prayers on their journey to God. The multitude in heaven pray for the rest of us, inspire us by their example, and remain present to us in ways of which we know not. “I will spend my heaven doing good on earth,” said St. Thérèse of Lisieux before her death.

So we are bound, in some marvellous, inexplicable way, to those who’ve gone before us. Being part of a long tradition frees us from being merely people of our own age—we can converse with our ancestors, with Mozart and Teresa of Àvila, Dante and Madame Curie, Euclid and Jane Austen. In the Catholic tradition, we call this the communion of saints.



### SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to St Agatha's for a new year of learning and community events. I hope all families were able to take advantage of the wonderful Christmas holiday weather and enjoy some family relaxation and time together. All of our students have settled into their new classroom routines very successfully, and our teaching staff are delighted with the engagement and quality of learning happening. I take this opportunity to welcome all of our new students and families to our school this year. Our new Prep learners are adapting very quickly to their surroundings and are very settled indeed. We hope new families enjoy their experience of being in our community and all that it has to offer.

This year we will make the 100 year Centenary of the establishment of the St Agatha's Parish through celebrating Mass together and sharing time at community occasions along the way.

I look forward to seeing our families at **9am Mass this Sunday 4 February** to begin the celebrations. Many of our children will be involved in various parts of the Mass so please come along and join in this remarkable achievement of life in the Church of Brisbane. Every blessing, *Carol Sayers, Principal*

*In our prayers we remember*



*Those who have died recently :*

Ron Walker, Jack Taylor, Cathie McGarry

*Those whose anniversaries occur about now:*

Daphne Mellor, Helen Richards, Dennis Callinan, Chris & Betty Smith, Patrick Rebgetz

*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: [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.

**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

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

To commemorate the feast of St Agatha we have a display of books about well known and lesser known saints on the Library table. Of course there are others on the shelves at classification 235.



**ST AGATHA'S CENTENARY WINE / MERCHANDISE - NOW AVAILABLE!!**

If you would like to order a bottle/case of St Agatha's Centenary Wine or Centenary Merchandise or perhaps order one of our "great" valued packs, please complete order forms found on table at the back of the church and email to Parish Office.



**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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month.

**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>

**THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK** *Six-minute reflections on the Passion according to Mark.*

For sale at the Piety Stall for \$4.00 each.

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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

**READERS:**

3/4 Feb	Ann Goves Katrina Murphy	Sr Cecily Foster Kate O'Neill	Tim Hancock Denis Keating Wilma O'Connell	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Feb	Marian Nolan Cate Barrett	Annette Riba Anne O'Connor	St Agatha's P26 Mass	Lifeteen Mass

**COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

3/4 Feb	<i>Volunteer</i>	Paulette Archer	Christine Iannarella	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Feb	Edward Foley	Helen Roberts	<i>Volunteer</i>	Life Teen Mass

**ORGANISTS:**

3/4 Feb	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Daniel Allen	Life Teen Mass
10/11 Feb	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming/ Paul Fiumara	Life Teen Mass

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

3/4 Feb	Billy Crutcher Dash Crutcher	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	Daniel Benjamin Sofia Iannarella	Max Lazzarini Sophia Lazzarini
10/11 Feb	Eve Ryan Claire Ryan	Lachlan Hinneberg	Bridget Birchley <i>Volunteer</i>	Caitlin Marshall Ella Shepherd

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

4 Feb				<i>No Children's Liturgy - St Agatha's Feast Day</i>
11 Feb				<i>No Children's Liturgy - P26 Mass</i>

**SANCTUARY CARERS:**

17 Feb	Beverley O'Brien
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**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.

**PREP 2019**

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

All enrolment applications are to be completed on-line via our website: [www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au)

Sibling Applications for Prep 2019 close on 16 February, 2018.

Non Sibling Applications close for Prep 2019 on 23 March 2018, interviews usually take place in April/May, and placements offered in June.



The Ceremonial Cross which is carried up the aisle at the commencement of Mass was given in memory of Craig Andrews, at Father Rowan's request, by the Andrews Family. Craig was a particular friend of Fr Rowan and they held many interesting meetings and animated conversations throughout Craig's 3 year battle with cancer, during his years 10, 11 and 12 at St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace. He was an Altar Server from 1970-1978, and to put it in Fr Rowan's words... a very diligent one, always turning up on time, even for the weekly 6am Masses in winter. Yes, there was a 6am Mass every day of the week in those days.



**ST AGATHA'S PARISH P26 MASS - 11 FEBRUARY 2018, 9AM**

All children in Grade Prep to Year 6 are invited to participate in our next P26 Mass which will be at 9am on 11 February. At the Mass, children are asked to do the readings, bring the gifts to the Altar, collecting, altar serve and welcome people as they arrive. If your child/children would like to participate please phone the Parish office on 3262 2859 or email: [clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au) by no later than Monday 5 February.

**AN EVENING WITH PSYCHE MAE**

Join Caritas Australia on Shrove Tuesday (13 February 2018) from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Father Denis Power Building, next to the Jubilee Catholic Parish Administrative Centre, 333 Given Terrace, Paddington where we will hear from Psyche Mae, a 27 year old social worker from the Philippines featured in this year's Project Compassion appeal, who will share her powerful story of personal and community transformation through the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Please RSVP by contacting Lynda Mussell at Caritas Australia by 9 Feb on 0487 202 131 or via [lynda.mussell@caritas.org.au](mailto:lynda.mussell@caritas.org.au).

**Readings - Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time - 11 February 2018**

**1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Gospel: Mark 1:40-45**