

ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

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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

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Yr. B) - 24th June 2018

Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6; 2nd Reading: Acts 13:22-26; Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 25 June: 6.30am

Wednesday 27 June: 9am

Thursday 28 June: 9am

Friday 29 June: 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

JUNE

• Monday 25th

SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

Saturday 30th/Sunday 1st July

Annual Peter's Pence Collection



NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The angel said, "Zechariah, do not be afraid, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is to bear you a son and you must name him John."

Dear friends,

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has appointed Fr. Prem as the on-call chaplain to Prince Charles Hospital, commencing this week. Fr. Prem will continue in his role as Associate Pastor here at St. Agatha's but he will also take on this ministry of chaplain at Prince Charles Hospital. We wish him well with this added responsibility.

We take a break from the usual cycle of Ordinary Time this Sunday to celebrate the birth of John the Baptist. John the Baptist is really a bridge between the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament good news of the revealing of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh in our very midst. The gospel focuses our attention on his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and their unexpected gift of new life. In God's scheme of things, no one and no thing is ever so barren that life cannot be brought forth in some way, shape or form. So, for us, now in the dead winter, hovering around the longest night of the year, we celebrate that there is no darkness that is not be overcome by the first glimmer of light or so frozen that it cannot be melted by the first hint of warmth. John the Baptist is that the first glimmer of light and the first hint of warm in the gospel story of Jesus Christ. In the midst of winter, John the Baptist is the promise of summer. We rejoice with Zechariah and Elizabeth that a birth, every birth, signifies that God is very near; indeed, already in our midst.

And now to matters more mundane: did you go to the supermarket this week? If so, I hope that you took along with you one of our very stylish St. Agatha's Centenary hessian bags to place your groceries in. Now with single-use plastic bags no longer available at our supermarkets, our hessian bags are the perfect shopping accessory! We only have limited numbers left, and every purchase of one of our bags helps support our parish fundraising, and we can also feel good about helping the environment as well. And in order to carry all your groceries home, you will most likely need more than one. So get in quickly before our hessian bags become a collectors item. *Fr. Anthony*

The Wisdom of Pope Francis

John the Baptist worked above all to prepare the way, taking nothing for himself. John was an important man: the people sought him and followed him because his words were strong like a sharp sword. The Baptist reached the hearts of the people. And if perhaps he felt tempted to believe he was important, he never gave in to it, as demonstrated by his response to the experts who asked him if he were the Messiah: "I am a voice, only a voice of one crying in the wilderness. I am only a voice, but I come to prepare the way to the Lord". His first job was to prepare the hearts of the people for an encounter with the Lord.

Clayfield Conversations

Anglican scripture scholar, Bishop Tom Wright, presents below a lively interpretation of this Sunday's gospel reading of the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist.

The Great Fulfilment of God's Promises

In opening his gospel, Luke first grips us with a very human drama. This couple, Zechariah and Elizabeth, well past childbearing age, are going to have a son at last, in a culture where childless women were mocked. This drama is heightened by the comic encounter between Zechariah and the angel (don't be frightened of finding the Bible funny when it really is!). Luke indicates that through this all-too-human story of puzzlement, half-faith, and dogged devotion to duty, God's saving purposes are going to be dramatically advanced. The son to be born will fulfil the biblical promises that had spoken of God sending someone to prepare Israel for the coming divine visitation. The scriptures had foretold that the prophet Elijah would return one day to get the people ready for God's arrival. Gabriel tells Zechariah that this will be John's task. The story would remind any Bible reader of much older stories; Abraham and Sarah having a child in their old age (Genesis 21), Rachel bearing Jacob two sons after years of childlessness (Genesis 30; 35), and particularly the births of Samson (Judges 13) and Samuel (1 Samuel 1). This story, Luke hints, is not a strange new thing, but takes its place within a long-standing sequence of God's purposes. The child to be born, who will be called John, will play a key role in God's fulfilment of his promises. The story thus prepares us, like tourists getting into the mood for the central exhibit, for the still more remarkable events that will follow swiftly. Zechariah and Elizabeth weren't expecting any of this. They were simply devout people going about their regular business. They were 'righteous in God's sight observant Jews; keeping the law as a sign of grateful devotion to God. They lived outside Jerusalem, in the Judaeen hill-country. Like all priests except the chief priests, who lived in Jerusalem itself, Zechariah would come in to the city when it was the turn of his division to perform the regular Temple-liturgy; he would stay in lodgings within the Temple precincts, and then return home to continue his normal work as a teacher and leader in the local community. On this occasion Zechariah was appointed by lot to go into the inner court, out of sight of the lay people, to offer incense. Sometimes regular duty provides the context for extraordinary visions.

Luke is careful not to dress up the story by making Zechariah a great hero of faith. Like some of the Old Testament leaders, his first reaction to the news is to clutch at straws: he needs a sign, something that will help him to believe. He is given one, but it comes as a punishment; we can almost see the angel putting his hands on his hips and telling Zechariah off for presuming to doubt his word. Zechariah is struck speechless, and the dark comedy continues with the old priest coming out to the people and making signs and gestures to indicate what had happened (how would you describe seeing an angel, just using your hands and arms?). The account concludes, of course, with Elizabeth's joy at her unexpected pregnancy. This story, preparing us for the even more remarkable of the Birth of Jesus conception and birth of Jesus himself, reminds us of something important. God regularly works through ordinary people, doing what they normally do, who with a mixture of half-faith and devotion are holding themselves ready for whatever God has in mind. The story is about much more than Zechariah's joy at having a son at last, or Elizabeth's exultation in being freed from the scorn of the mothers in the village. It is about the great fulfilment of God's promises and purposes. But the needs, hopes and fears of ordinary people are not forgotten in this larger story, precisely because of who Israel's God is - the God of lavish, self-giving love, as Luke will tell us in so many ways throughout his gospel. When this God acts on the large scale, he takes care of smaller human concerns as well. The drama which now takes centre stage is truly the story of God, the world, and every ordinary human being who has ever lived in it. That's how Luke intends it to be.



SVDP WINTER APPEAL

The St Agatha's SVDP Conference are conducting its Winter Appeal during June/July. Please find envelopes on the church seats. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills, assisting families and single people, with food vouchers, clothing and furniture. Any donations will be gratefully appreciated. Please use the envelopes provided.

If paying by cheque, please make it payable to
"St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference".

Thank you on behalf of the people that the SVDP assist.

**YEAR OF
YOUTH
2018**

"There is no cross,
big or small, in our life
which the Lord does
not share with us."

Pope Francis -
Way of the Cross at World
Youth Day Brazil 2013

NORTH EAST DEANERY YOUTH DAY

Join with youth and young adults (12 -30 years old) from across North East Brisbane to celebrate the Year of Youth. The Day will be facilitated by Br Damien Price, Greg Sunter and the Passionist Youth Team, and will include discussions, activities, the sharing of food, and the celebration of Mass. Saturday 28 July from 8:30 to 4pm at St Joseph's Bracken Ridge. Cost \$5. Please register by 20 July 2018 at www.trybooking.com/VJYQ. Enquiries: nedyouthday@gmail.com

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Helen Fletcher, Shirley Odehnal, Barbara Valentine, Maria Hilda Uy Antig

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Len Moynihan, Eileen Williamson, Paul McGuire, Hugh McBride, Eileen Brumpton

Those who are sick:

Gary Balkin, Peter Madden, Danielle Johnson, Warwick Jones, Shirley Odenhal, Gordon Hodge, Maureen Long, Anne Seymour, Margaret-Mary Hayes, James Elliott, Paul Gaynor, 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

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF *TYING THE KNOT*

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.

Planned Giving Envelopes

If you haven't collected your Planned Giving Envelopes, please contact the Parish Office to arrange pick up.

Thank you to all our volunteers that have completed relevant forms and that are attending the Safeguarding Training.

If you are yet to complete your form/s, can you please complete as soon as possible and if you have any questions, please contact Jane or Rosemary at the Parish Office.

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Next weekend Saturday 30 June/Sunday 1 July

At all Masses next weekend the annual Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up in support of the global ministry of Pope Francis. Please give generously to this worthy cause as a sign of our communion with the universal Church and an understanding of the many almsgiving needs requests made of the Pope.

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



With great joy we welcome
**Georgina Creagh, Liam Mitchell and
Ryan Parolin**
who will be baptised this weekend.

CATHOLIC ETHOS AND ETHICS

Rev Kevin McGovern, Director, Caroline Chisholm Centre for Health Ethics and Lecturer in the Department of Moral Theology and Canon Law at the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, will present a seminar on Catholic Ethos and Ethics at the O'Shea Centre, Lovedale Street, Wilston, on Tuesday 10 July, 9am – 4pm. Topics include: Perinatal palliative care, accepting sickness, treatment refusal, pain control, dementia, euthanasia and basic skills development for responding in these situations.

The seminar is primarily targeted for those working in pastoral care and clinical care in hospitals and in aged care institutions but is open to any person with an ethical interest in these areas. **Cost \$25 (pay on the day).**

For more information and registration please contact Judy Norris, Director, Pastoral Ministries, Centacare (judy.norris@bne.centacare.net.au or phone 3324 3193. Registrations close Wednesday 4 July). Morning tea and lunch provided-please advise dietary requirements at registration.

DELAMORE
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

OPEN DAY 2018

Sunday 8 July – 10.30am to 12.00noon
115 Turner Road, Kedron | Phone: 3357 7028
Discover Kedron's best kept secret.

You'll love this boutique retirement community, offering residents a peaceful and beautiful environment.

"...Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet." – ACTS 13:25



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

5.00pm

7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

READERS:

23/24 June Katrina Murphy Rafael Chase Ryan Smethurst Life Teen Mass
Eric van der List Ruby Chase Jane Arkinstall

30 June/1 July Phil Zammit Aleira Egan Tim Hancock Life Teen Mass
Cate Barrett Sr Cecily Foster Don MacPherson Eileen Duncan

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

23/24 June Ann Goves Helen Roberts Volunteer Life Teen Mass
30 June/1 July Volunteer Volunteer Christine Iannarella Life Teen Mass

“HOME” COMMUNION MINISTERS:

24 June Anna Coventry
1 July Georgia Allan

ORGANISTS:

23/24 June Volunteer Mark Leung Robyn Cuming Life Teen Mass
30 June/1 July Volunteer Volunteer Robyn Cuming Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

23/24 June Billy Crutcher Lachlan Hinneberg Sofia Iannarella Sophia Lazzarini
Dash Crutcher Max Elliott Max Lazzarini

30 June/1 July Volunteer/s Volunteer/s Volunteer/s Volunteer/s

CHILDREN’S LITURGY:

24 June Mel Ryan, Jane Cameron
1 July No Children’s Liturgy - School holidays

SANCTUARY CARERS:

7 July Victor Podesta



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.

Stewardship is a lifestyle, it’s not a program or a process. It’s how we are called to live our lives twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week! It challenges us to live “God-centered” lives, not “self-centered” lives. Reflect on your daily activities, do you do them for the glory of God or for the glory of your own name?

IGNITE CONFERENCE 2018 - “E M P T Y ”

National Catholic Youth Conference

Thursday 26 - Sunday 30 September 2018

For full details and to register see brochures at the back of the Church.

PROCLAIM CHOIR

From 12 - 14 July, the Archdiocese of Brisbane is hosting Proclaim 2018. 600 participants will gather from across Australia and New Zealand. Anthony Young is forming a choir for the Conference Mass and you are invited to lend your voice and your heart to this choir! This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who enjoys singing in a liturgical setting.

Date: Thursday July 12 | Time: 2:15pm Rehearsal for 5:15pm Mass

Venue: St Laurence’s College, 82 Stephen’s Rd, South Brisbane

Please register via this link: <https://liturgybrisbanemusic.weebly.com/>

Please contact Anthony Young for further information:

AYoung@slc.qld.edu.au

St Agatha’s Parish Sacramental Program 2018 - (For all children in Year 3 and above)

* * * SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION * * *

Parent Information Evening: 1 August, 6.30pm or 2 August 6.30pm APAC, St Agatha’s School

(N.B. Parents need only attend one of these sessions)

Rite of Enrolment: 4 & 5 August at any of the Masses

Mass times: Saturday 5.00pm, Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am & 5.30pm

For further information call Jane Cameron at the Parish Office: 3262 2859 or email. clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au



Readings - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 1 July 2018

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; 2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Gospel: Mark 5:21-43