

# 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. Prem Kumar Rethnamony (ph: 0411 263 390)  
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer Admin. Assistant: Mrs Jane Cameron  
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm  
Friday: 8.30am-12.00pm

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 Amps



## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr. B) - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Readings

1st Reading: Daniel 12:1-3; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 19 November: 6.30am  
Wednesday 21 November: 9am  
*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
Thursday 22 November: 9am  
*Saint Cecilia*  
Friday 23 November: 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

#### NOVEMBER

• Monday 19<sup>th</sup>  
SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office

Readers please note:  
**"BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2019"**  
available for collection



*Jesus said to his disciples, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."*

Dear friends,

There is a sense of things coming to an end in this Sunday's readings. Hopefully, the following announcement does not feel like the end of the world, but rather a moment of transition. As from the 1st January, Archbishop Mark Coleridge has appointed me the new Dean of St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Dean of Central Deanery. I will also continue with my role of Academic Dean at Holy Spirit Seminary and theological advisor to Brisbane Catholic Education. Initially, this new appointment came as a shock to me and, no doubt, it is a surprise to you. My final Masses in the parish will be the Masses of the Christmas season. Hopefully a new parish priest will be appointed soon, but there may be some transition time in January. I will inform you of developments as soon as I am able.

This is certainly a significant change for me after such a wonderful centenary year. I have always been willing to say "yes" to whatever has been asked of me, and so, I have said "yes" to this new responsibility. It would have been much easier to say "no" because serving here at Clayfield has been a true gift to me and a highpoint of my ministry. It has been my longest appointment as parish priest and I am disappointed that I will not be seeing through some of the important projects that we have in development. However, saying "yes" to opportunities has meant that I have had a varied experience of priesthood and for this I am grateful, even if, as a consequence, it means that it gets harder to leave each place. I will take with me some wonderful memories, as well as the many ways in which you and your faith has been a gift to me.

There will be time enough to say "farewells" over the coming weeks. Hopefully, we will be able to organise some gathering to say good-bye in December. In the meantime, today's readings remind us that "endings" are a part of the fabric of life. The One who holds every beginning and ending together is God. This community will continue to flourish and grow because of the commitment and faith of the people who *are* St. Agatha's parish. It is God who looks after us through every change and transition, and it is our fellow companions who help us find our way to "new heaven and the new earth" that God has in store for us.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

When, in God's presence, we examine our life's journey, no areas can be off limits. In all aspects of life we can continue to grow and offer something greater to God, even in those areas we find most difficult. We need, though, to ask the Holy Spirit to liberate us and to expel the fear that makes us ban him from certain parts of our lives. God asks everything of us, yet he also gives everything to us. He does not want to enter our lives to cripple or diminish them, but to bring them to fulfilment.

## Clayfield Conversations

November is the month in which we remember our Holy Souls – those among our family and friends who have died. Below, renowned Australian theologian, Fr. Anthony Kelly, reflects on our understanding of purgatory.

### Purgatory — A Realistic Hope

Theology offers no guided tour of the afterlife. The only way anything about “the other side” can be expressed is by way of analogies drawn from human experience, and by cultivating a certain holographic sense of how all the mysteries of faith interconnect. When the sufferings of the Holy Souls are imagined as penalties imposed by God on the sinner, hope must protest. The divine realm of grace and mercy is being subverted by petty, penal calculations arising out of thoroughly unredeemed systems of justice. The Father of mercies does not “go by the book” in the administration of an economy of scarce grace. Yet hope must be realistic. It does not paper over the human situation, nor ignore the desirability of further purification for the unfinished beings we are and know, in order that all arrive at the full integrity of their being in Christ. Still, purification does involve some kind of suffering. But it is a suffering born out of love. As this love grows to its fullest realisation in unreserved surrender, it works to purge the soul of all attachments to anything less than the infinite mystery of God.

The first and last thing, in this context is God’s saving grace. Consequently, Purgatory must be interpreted in terms of the divine compassion for the human condition. God’s love reaches the limited human beings that we are. Far from pretending that evil is good, that imperfection is fulfilment, or that our fragmented being is already our best selves, redemptive love works for our complete transformation. But transformation looks to conversion. Human freedom throughout life is distracted and stratified. It prays to be integrated into the pure love of God, with whole heart and soul, mind and strength. We are commanded to love our neighbour as ourselves, not as selves destined to be left unfinished and ambiguous, but as selves fully conformed to Christ.

Purgatory refers, then, to our unfinished existence exposed to the living flame of the Holy Spirit. Our existence becomes fully attentive to the living and active Word of God at the deepest level of our being. At that point, there can be no evasion: all are “naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account”. The suffering involved is not so much imposed or inflicted by God. It is rather suffering from God, or more simply, suffering God. For the divine mystery is encountered in the utter otherness of its reality. It is also the love for whom we were made, and in whom alone we find our real identity or “glory”. The Holy Spirit is the fire that burns away wood, hay and straw of all egoism to expose the foundations of what we truly are and most desire to be. The demons that have driven us are finally exorcised. The idols we have cultivated are exposed for what they are, projections of a self fearful of the infinite otherness of God, even if that Other is believed to be love. But love purifies as “the fire that burns away our dross and reforms us to be vessels eternal joy”.

Purgatory supposes a purification appropriate to the self that God intends us to be. The Spirit of holiness is acting in the moment of death or in “process” of dying. Under the action of the Spirit, the self moves out of the “concupiscence” of our complicity in the dynamics of violence and exclusion that are so inextricably bound up with the history of the world. The last vestiges of presumption now yield to the unconditional surrender of hope. The inevitable self-centredness that has structured each life is now confronted with that infinite Otherness that was, at every moment, the eternal depth and source of our being. The restless fragmentation and compromise of our being-in-the-world now comes to a decisive moment of integration. It is a moment of yielding without reserve to the Reign of God. We do not back defensively into this other Kingdom. The self is now called to turn forward and to embrace, in full freedom, the mystery of love in all its dimensions.

As the Other draws near, “what we shall be” begins to appear. We begin to breathe the pure air of another place, which we recognise as our true home. In this purgatorial self-realisation, the fragmentation and meandering of life in time comes to its end. The true self comes into its own, in the utter simplicity of its God-ward-ness.



**NOVEMBER MASS ENVELOPES** are available from table in church foyer, Piety Stall or Parish Office. PLEASE PRINT the names of those who you wish to be remembered and place the envelope on the collection plate or hand into the Parish Office. The names of your deceased will be written in a Remembrance Book that will be on the altar for all Masses during the month of November.

***NOVEMBER: A special time to pray for our loved ones who have died.***

**WOMEN’S DISCERNMENT RETREAT** Vocations Brisbane is running a weekend retreat for young women who are keen to explore more about a vocation to religious life. All young women 18 - 40 years old are welcome to come along and discover more about where God is calling you! Saturday 24 – 25 November 2018 | Time: 9am Saturday - 5pm Sunday  
Venue: Canossian Spirituality Centre, 169 Seventeen Mile Rocks Road, Oxley.  
For more information or to RSVP contact Sr. Melissa 0484 007 508

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, “What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?” How will you respond?

## *In our prayers we remember*



### *Those who have died recently :*

Sr Gemma Moore, Sr Rosa MacGinley, Anne Crowley, Phil Auer, Robert Burton, Lyliane Poupardin, Angela Reilly, Eileen Clarke, Gavin Paul

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

Joseph Riba, Rosemary Ryan, Jennifer Leutenegger, Alan Leutenegger, Max Leutenegger, Bridget Brumptom, Eric Brumptom, Jack McBride, Doreen Haine, Bill Lim

### *Those who are sick:*

Bryan Weaver, Val Barrett, Lorraine Douglas, Alexander Clark, Rosemary Douglas, Danielle Johnson, Warwick Jones, Gordon Hodge, Maureen Long, Anne Seymour, James Elliott, 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, 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, Mel Purwo, Hellen Passente

**Reminder to let us know when names are no longer required to be shown on the sick list.**

**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](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.

### **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)

### **CENTENARY MERCHANDISE SPRING SALE - Make this Christmas a little merrier**

Wine, Sparkling or Port \$20 a bottle | Hessian bags \$10 | Tea towels \$10 | Shopping lists \$2  
Pens \$1.50 | Keyrings \$2.50 | Fridge magnets \$1.50 | or a combo of pen, keyring, fridge magnet \$5  
Order forms are available at the back of the Church. Please complete and email or drop off to the Parish Office.



### **SAVIOUR Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2018 FOR SALE AT PIETY STALL \$4.00 each**

This year's reflection book, *Saviour*, provides an opportunity for us to be still each day, listen to God and hear him declare to us as the angel declared to the shepherds:

*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:11).

### **2019 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS**

For sale at the Piety Stall \$9.00 each



With great joy we welcome **Harley Berkeley**, **Anna Lanning** and **Maggie Lanning** who will be baptised this weekend.

**LIFE TEEN MASS - EVERY 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> Sunday of each month (supper) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month (drinks and nibbles). Helpers eagerly accepted. Phone Anne O'Connor: 3256 6013 or 0419796988. Visit Aggies Youth: <https://www.facebook.com/aggiesyouth>

### **PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 Listen to what the Spirit is saying...**

The last time the Catholic Church in Australia held a Plenary Council was in 1937. It has been more than 80 years since we gathered all of the Church together and much has changed. In 2020, we will have a Plenary Council about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia.

What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change?

The journey toward the Plenary Council will help us to prepare to listen to God

by listening to one another. We invite all people to engage, to be a part of the listening and dialogue encounter in the next two years. <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>



**Plenary Council 2020**  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

**READERS:**

17/18 Nov

Phil Zammit  
Cate Barrett

Kirsty Stevens  
Mark Burton

Eileen Duncan  
Tim Hancock  
Don Macpherson

Life Teen Mass

24/25 Nov

Jenny Close  
Edward Foley

Annaliese Beckmann  
Jeanine Bygott

Amrita Moss  
Wilma O'Connell  
Dominic Ryan

Life Teen Mass

**COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

17/18 Nov

Jan Zammit

Helen Roberts

Christine Iannarella

Life Teen Mass

24/25 Nov

Volunteer

Volunteer

Julianne Ryan

Life Teen mass

**"HOME" COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

18 Nov

Geraldine Swindells

25 Nov

Georgia Allan

**ORGANISTS:**

17/18 Nov

Volunteer

Josephine Warda

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

24/25 Nov

Volunteer

Josephine Warda

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

17/18 Nov

Eve Ryan  
Claire Ryan

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Ella Shepherd  
Alex Oliveri

24/25 Nov

Xavier Coorey  
Dominic Coorey

Joseph Douglas

Bart Marino Cebulski  
Amelia Marino Cebulski

Tia Manuel  
Sharon Mathew

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

18 Nov

Michelle Wille & Naoko Leotta

25 Nov

Mel Ryan & Erin Bledsoe

**SANCTUARY CARERS:**

1 Dec

Victor Podesta

*"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." MARK 13:26*

**BAPTISMS**

We celebrate baptisms 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.

**ST AGATHA'S SCHOOL**

St Agatha's School Clayfield has limited vacancies in Year 5 for 2019.

Please direct all enquiries to the Enrolment Secretary: [wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au) or phone: 3326 9222

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.  
Raffle drawn Sunday 23 December.

**POSITION VACANT – PARISH SECRETARY**

Applications are open for a position at the Wilston Parish. A person with excellent administration and secretarial skills is required for a permanent Part Time position of Parish Secretary for 25 hours a week (days of the week to be negotiated). For additional information, please visit the Archdiocese of Brisbane website <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/> and to careers. *The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for employees and volunteers to maintain a safe and healthy environment. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children, young people and/or vulnerable adults.*



**THE BISHOP MICHAEL PUTNEY MEMORIAL LECTURE** Sunday 18 November, 6pm  
St John's Anglican Cathedral 373 Ann Street, Brisbane. Celebrating 70 years of the World Council of Churches. The preacher will be the Rev Dr David Gill. The lecture will take the form of Evensong with conversation over refreshments. All are welcome. This lecture is under the joint auspices of the Catholic Archdiocesan Council for Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Relations. (Bishop Putney was an Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane from 1995-2001 and then Bishop of Townsville to 2014).



*Congratulations to Peter Mitchell and Lauren McMullan who were married on Tuesday 13 November*



**Readings - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - 25 November 2018**  
1st Reading: Daniel 7:13-14; 2nd Reading: Revelation 1:5-8; Gospel: John 18:33-37