



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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Aggies Youth:

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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

## First Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 2nd December 2018

### Readings

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday 3 December:** 6.30am

*Saint Francis Xavier*

**Wednesday 5 December:** 9am

**Thursday 6 December:** 9am

**Friday 7 December:** 9am

*Saint Ambrose*

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm

(1st Rite of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4.30pm)

Sunday 7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

Rosary before Mass.

### Parish Calendar

#### DECEMBER

• **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

SVPD Meeting 5pm Parish Office

• **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

End of school Mass 9.15am

• **Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

No Benediction

• **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

2nd Rite Reconciliation 7pm



*Jesus spoke to his disciples about his return in glory: "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud'. With power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*

Dear friends,

Advent means new beginnings. We start a new liturgical year (Yr. C) even as our secular year comes to an end. Below is a reflection by Fr. Ron Rolheiser about the importance of waiting:

*Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, Letters from the Desert. In that book, he has a message for those of us who live busy lives in the world. "What is God trying to say to us in our busy lives?" He suggests this: "Be patient! Learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God!" Learn to wait! That's not something we do easily and many of our problems flow from that. We often don't wait properly for things. Annie Dillard shares this story about proper waiting: She had been watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon and was fascinated by the process until she grew impatient with how long it was taking and, to speed things up, took a candle and heated the cocoon, albeit very gently. The experiment worked, but it was a mistake in the long run. The butterfly emerged more quickly; however, because adding heat violated something within the natural process, the butterfly was born with wings too weak to fly. Haste and prematurity had stunted and deformed a natural process. Some things can't be rushed. Advent means waiting. And waiting is about patience in carrying the tensions and frustrations we suffer as we live the unfinished symphony that constitutes our lives. There are some wonderful refrains in religious literature around the importance of waiting. Before the messiah can be conceived, gestated, and given birth to, there must always be a proper time of waiting, a necessary advent, a certain quota of suffering, which alone can create the proper virginal space within which the messiah can be born: "God is never in a hurry!" "Every tear brings the messiah closer!" "It is with much groaning of the flesh that the life of the spirit is brought forth!" All of these phrases say the same thing: What's sublime depends upon there first having been some sublimation; a feast can only happen after there has first been some fasting; love can only be a gift if the gift is fully respected; and (as Carretto so poignantly puts it) we must learn to wait – for God, for love, and for Christmas.*

Fr. Anthony

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

Advent encourages us to reflect on the contrast between our daily routine and the unexpected coming of the Lord.

The Gospel is not trying to frighten us, but to open our horizons to further dimensions, giving meaning even to everyday occurrences. During Advent, we are called to enlarge the horizons of our hearts, to be surprised by the life that is presented each day with its newness. In order to do this we need to learn to not depend on our own securities, our own established plans, because the Lord comes in the hour which we don't imagine.

## Clayfield Conversations

*Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year.  
Below is Archbishop Mark Coleridge's Pastoral Letter for this First Sunday of Advent.*

### **LISTENING LEARNING PRAYING: An Advent Pastoral Letter**

At a time when the average age of Catholics in Australia is 59, it has been good to celebrate the Year of Youth which is now coming to an end. Perhaps it would've been better to have a decade of youth, but the year was a promising start. One thing that happened in the Year of Youth was the world-wide Synod of Bishops in Rome, which showed that Pope Francis has his finger on the pulse. It was different from other Synods because this time young people took part and spoke with their own voice. The rest of the Church, especially the bishops, was invited to listen. Not just in Rome but everywhere, the Year of Youth has been a time for the whole Church to listen to the voices of young people who often feel unheard in the Church. The young inhabit different cultural, social and religious worlds than do those of us who are older. But their deepest hopes and longings, even if expressed in different accents, are familiar to us all, because they are so deeply human. Those hopes and longings find voice in a special way through the days of Advent when the whole Church cries out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" In the end, all of us, young and old, yearn for Jesus, often in ways we scarcely recognise. Who of us doesn't want peace and joy? We all do, because the human heart is made for them. But they can be found only in the encounter with the Risen Lord, apart from whom we find only cosmetic peace and cosmetic joy. But there's nothing cosmetic in him, which is why the restless heart finds rest in him. The Year of Youth has been a time for whole Catholic community – lay people, religious, deacons, priests, bishops – to reach out to meet young people where they are, walk with them on the way and listen to them as we take the road together. At times we've done this well, at other times less well, perhaps slipping back into ways we hoped we'd left behind. But everything that's been done has been only the start of a long journey together. As we enter the time of Advent and Christmas this year, I encourage you to engage afresh with family and friends, learning to listen to them in new ways, especially to those who are younger. We won't always get it right, but the more we open the ears of our heart, the more we discover the power of listening to one another, as we allow God to transform us through other people. That's the grace God offers through the season of Advent and Christmas.

Listening to each other means telling our stories to each other. We are often very private about our faith, but young people need to hear our story of faith, our journey of discipleship. You may think you have nothing much to share, but that's not what others think, especially the young. Telling the story of our faith can make us vulnerable, but there's nothing to fear in that, because often to tell of our vulnerability is to tell the story of our true strength and the power of God's mercy in our life. To love others means to hear their story, and to let them hear ours. Love means being vulnerable and allowing others to be vulnerable before us. Look for ways and moments, then, when you can speak of what God has done and is doing in your life. Bear witness in that way as you walk with young people on the journey of faith. You'll be surprised by the effect it has, and you'll grow stronger by your truth-telling. As I've said elsewhere: "If the young are given the right experience, then the Catholic Church is still the greatest show on earth and Jesus as irresistibly attractive now as he ever was". You need to be part of that experience. By the influence of the Holy Spirit, the Year of Youth in Australia has coincided with preparations for the Plenary Council in 2020. The Plenary Council is about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia – the whole Church, which is what the unusual word "plenary" means. Pope Francis often speaks of the need for us to become a "synodal" Church. That's another unusual word, but it means a Church where God speaks not just to some of the bishops some of the time but to all the baptised all the time. In that sense, the Plenary Council has already begun, because it's more a process than an event. The process has three phases – preparation, celebration and implementation; and the first phase of preparation is well and truly under way. A Plenary Council isn't just a talkfest or a political jamboree. It's the whole Church gathered by the Holy Spirit in order to make decisions about the future according to the mind of God. This means we're on a journey of discernment, seeking to listen to the voice of the Spirit to see what the Spirit is saying to us about the future. As we prepare for the Plenary Council, we're offered an opportunity to enter more deeply into dialogue with one another. In the Gospels, Jesus knows what is in a person and how to listen to what the heart of the other is saying. Jesus doesn't begin with a big pronouncement; he takes time to engage with people and usually starts with a question. We too need to be a people who know how to engage with others as Jesus did, to listen before we speak, lest we talk at people rather than with them. As one theologian has said: "This pilgrim Church will be most faithful to its truest identity when all the baptised acknowledge the wisdom of listening before speaking, of learning before teaching, of praying before pronouncing". So as the Year of Youth comes to an end, we remain faithful to the path traced by the Holy Spirit through these twelve months, listening before we speak, learning before we teach and praying before we pronounce. Following that path, we will come to recognise and adore the Child who is God-with-us, the newborn Saviour who is "joy for all the people".

**FAREWELL MORNING TEA** Sadly we are having to say our goodbyes to Fr Anthony who has been appointed the Dean of St Stephen's Cathedral. We will be holding a farewell morning tea after the 9am Mass next Sunday 9 December. All welcome.



**ST AGATHA'S SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL** will be conducted over the weekends 1/2, 8/9 and 15/16 December. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills. Assistance is provided for families and single people seeking food, clothing, furniture, and financial help. All donations will be gratefully appreciated. **Appeal envelopes** are available on the church seats. If making a donation by cheque, make payable to "St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference". Thank you.

## *In our prayers we remember*



### *Those who have died recently:*

Basil Nolan Jnr, Lucia Turrissi, Tessa Jones

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

John Mellor, Judy Power, Len Williamson, Maurice Underwood, Dr Vincent Halsall

### *Those who are sick:*

Harrison (Harry) Wiseman, 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.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Monday 24 December 6pm Vigil Mass with carols from 5.30pm

Midnight Mass with carols from 11.30pm

**Tuesday 25 December 8am** with carols from 7.45am

### **ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Are you available to be on roster at any of the Christmas Masses?

Please fill in the sheets on the clipboard near the Sacristy.  
We need Communion Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers.

### **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. 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)



**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).

### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Raffle drawn Sunday 23 December.

To Carol, teachers, staff and students at  
St Agatha's School, wishing you all a holy  
Christmas and happy holidays.

**PARISH OFFICE** will close at 12.00pm on Wednesday 12 December.

**PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSURE** The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Friday 21 December and will re-open 8.30am Monday 7 January 2019.

### **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...

**2019 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS** For sale at the Piety Stall \$9.00 each



## PARISH ROSTERS

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



**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

### READERS:

1/2 Dec	Graham Gibson Julie-Anne Gibson	Nick Eden Dianne Eden	Lauren Mitchell Trish Ryan Clare Smethurst	Life Teen Mass
8/9 Dec	Ann Goves Marian Nolan	Aleira Egan Andrew Douglas	Ryan Smethurst Jane Arkinstall Heidi Cooper	Life Teen Mass

### COMMUNION MINISTERS:

1/2 Dec	Ann Goves	Paulette Archer	Amrita Moss	Life Teen Mass
8/9 Dec	Edward Foley	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Life Teen Mass

### "HOME" COMMUNION MINISTERS:

2 Dec	Lisa Carter
9 Dec	Anna Coventry

### ORGANISTS:

1/2 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass
8/9 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass

### ALTAR SERVERS:

1/2 Dec	Ella Shepherd	Lachlan Hinneberg	Sophia Perkins Amelia Marino Cebulski	Caitlin Marshall Alex Oliveri
8/9 Dec	Billy Crutcher Dash Crutcher		Bridget Birchley Chelsy Waller	Max Lazzarini Sophia Lazzarini

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

2 Dec	Jane Cameron & Julia Cochrane
9 Dec - 10 Feb 2019	<i>No Children's Liturgy</i>

### SANCTUARY CARERS:

15 Dec	Beverley O'Brien
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**CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE** Pack of 8 for \$5.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE CATHEDRAL

This Christmas St Stephen's Cathedral will host a spectacular sound, light and projection show to celebrate the season of peace, joy and goodwill. From the creators of Sydney's Vivid Lightwalk, the Lights of Christmas will illuminate the side of the Cathedral with an enchanting 12 minute show, which will run continuously from 7:30pm until midnight every evening from 12 to 24 December. We are thrilled to invite all parishioners to join us on the lawn at St Stephen's for this magnificent event.



### CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS

Thursday 13 & 20 December 6.00pm - 7.00pm in the Church. New members welcome

### CHRISTMAS VIGIL - MONDAY 24 DECEMBER 6PM

It's that time of year again where we are seeking any interest from the parish children to play the role of *Mary and Joseph* at our Vigil Mass. If you are aged 9-13 years old and would like to be in the running, please ask mum or dad to email ([clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)) so your name can be placed in the draw. You can also write your name on the sheet provided at the back of the Church. The names will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky pair will be notified in the week before Christmas. We would also like to invite all children (no age restrictions) to come dressed as **shepherds or angels** to take part in the opening procession, no need to notify us, just turn up on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



**ST AGATHA'S GIVING TREE - 2018** At Christmas time we may be overindulged with food and presents whilst many go without basic necessities. The Giving Tree is loaded with gift ideas which will help bring a smile to others on Christmas Day. You are encouraged to take a tag and return the gift and leave it at the base of the tree. Gifts to be in by **Sunday 16 December**, as members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them for Christmas. If you will be away for Christmas, and would like to donate any non-perishable gifts please leave them at the Parish Office.



**Readings - Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 9 December 2018**

**1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**