



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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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 (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

## Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### Readings

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

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 10 December: 6.30am  
 Wednesday 12 December: 9am  
 Thursday 13 December: 9am  
*Saint Lucy*  
 Friday 14 December: 9am  
*Saint John of the Cross*

#### 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 17<sup>th</sup>  
SVPD Meeting 5pm Parish Office
- Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
2nd Rite Reconciliation 7pm



*The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.  
 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall  
 be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight,  
 and the rough ways made smooth;  
 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'*

Dear friends,

Firstly, news from our medical department: Fr. Prem has ruptured his Achilles tendon and will be out of action for quite some time. The specialist is assessing which is the best course of action to take and we should know more next week. I will keep you informed but, in the meantime, please keep Fr. Prem in your prayers.

Secondly, news from Archbishop Coleridge: **The Archbishop has appointed Fr. Kevin Smith as the Parish Administrator of St. Agatha's for 2019.** Fr. Kevin will also be the Vice-Rector at Holy Spirit Seminary from next year and he will combine that role with pastoral responsibilities for St. Agatha's for the next twelve months. A longer-term decision will be made by the Archbishop next year. Fr. Kevin comes to St. Agatha's with a wealth of pastoral experience and most recently has been the Parish Priest of Caloundra for the past seven years. He is also a member of the Council of Priests, Diocesan Consultors and chair of the Clergy Foundation. I am sure that you will enjoy Fr. Kevin's presence and that you will make him welcome when he arrives in the new year.

While I will be around until the end of the year, we have an opportunity to gather after the 9am Mass this Sunday to say "farewell" and "thank you". It is more of an opportunity for me to say "thank you" to you. These three years as your pastor have been a true joy and gift to me. From my perspective, this splendid community spirit has grown and deepened during this Centenary Year celebrations (I just wish that you had purchased more wine!). I am sure that I have received much more from you than I have given in return. You have helped me grow as a priest, pastor and person. Thank you. Over the next couple of weeks, I would like to say a few more specific "thank yous", but this week I simply take the opportunity to say how grateful I have been for your presence, commitment in faith, generosity of spirit, and accompaniment in this journey of life. I hope that I have contributed something to your journey of faith over the course of the last three years. May God continue to bless you and your families for your goodness to me and your service to the gospel.

*Fr. Anthony*

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

We Christians are called to safeguard and spread the joy of waiting: we await God who loves us infinitely and at the same time we are awaited by Him. In this way, life becomes a great betrothal. We begin a time of consolation and hope, the time of Advent: a new liturgical year begins, which brings with it the novelty of our God, who is the 'God of all consolation.' I wish you to experience Advent thus, as a time of consoling novelty and joyous waiting.

*St. Luke will be the gospel of this new liturgical year (Yr. C). Over the next two weeks, Ria Greene of Melbourne will take us on a tour of Luke's gospel. Here is Part One.*

### Luke: The Missionary Disciple



#### *Background*

Luke's gospel was probably written in Antioch and Syria in AD 80–90, a decade or two after the destruction of the temple by Roman forces. This was a time and place very different from our own, and a proper engagement with the gospel will always require cultural sensitivity. Unlike Matthew, who was writing for a Jewish community, Luke addresses a Gentile audience. Luke's gospel is the first of two volumes by the same anonymous author, the second of which is the Book of Acts. The gospels were written at a time when the church was expanding, and when the second coming was no longer regarded as imminent. The church was finally settling down to a life of prayer and work; it saw itself as living in a new age, under the power of the Holy Spirit.

All the gospels must be read first and foremost as theological narratives. They are portraits that have been shaped by the memories and understandings of the communities that produced them—'faith documents' rather than biographies or historical narratives as we might understand them now. The gospel narratives were originally intended to be read in their entirety, something that the liturgical cycle doesn't readily allow, so take the time this Advent to read the Gospel of Luke as a whole (a task that should take 2–3 hours) in order to gain a better appreciation of its overarching message.

The gospels should also be read in the context of the early church's concerns about false teaching. While Gnosticism promoted a docetic view of Christ—where Jesus only seemed to be human and didn't really suffer or die—Luke defends the significance of the passion by insisting on Jesus' reality and human particularity.

Christians were also entering a period of persecution at this time. Because the early Christians were often associated with Judaism, the Roman authorities sometimes perceived them as revolutionaries, so Luke is at pains to present Romans in a good light and to convey the message that Christians pose no threat to Rome.

We don't know a lot about the author of Luke. The author relies on eyewitnesses, so it's unlikely that he knew Jesus directly. Some writers identify him as a companion of Paul. He was certainly cultivated and literate, and familiar with the Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures; it's possible that he was not Jewish but a 'God-fearer'—a Gentile who was attracted to Judaism.

He wrote for a group of churches that were diverse in their composition. While they were mostly Gentile, they included both men and women, common people and the social elite, the poor and the wealthy. A number of events are unique to Luke's account, including: the infancy narrative at the beginning; the parables of the good Samaritan and the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son; and the appearance stories and ascension at the end. Luke provides a prologue to state his purpose and to identify his patron, and also expands considerably on the journey to Jerusalem (chs 9–19), in 'the spine of the gospel'. The role of geography, and particularly Jerusalem, is significant, with the narrative moving towards and then out of Jerusalem—a city associated with Abraham, David, Solomon and the Babylonians, and the place where Jesus is rejected, raised and exalted, and where, at the beginning of Acts, the disciples are empowered for their ministry.

#### *Purpose*

Luke outlines his purpose right at the outset, in the prologue, where he dedicates his account to 'Theophilis', which in Greek means 'friend of God'. The purpose of Luke's account is to proclaim the good news. It is not concerned with proving whether these events happened; rather, its purpose is to give an account of what happened and what it means. It is concerned with the significance of Jesus.

**ST AGATHA'S SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL** will be conducted over the weekends 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.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Vacancies to be filled in the following Ministries: **Hospitality, Welcomers at Mass, Altar Servers, Counters and Communion Ministers.** Please contact the Parish Office 3262 2859 for more information or email: [clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

## In our prayers we remember



### Those who have died recently :

Basil Nolan Jnr

### Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Phyllis Agnew, John Agnew, Mary Dethlefs, John Mellor, Judy Power, Len Williamson, Maurice Underwood

### Those who are sick:

Camie Ashton, 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)

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

As it is nearly Christmas we have set out some suitable books on the display table for holiday reading which we hope you will enjoy. We have also presented a few beautiful Christmas texts for your perusal. Happy Christmas!

### **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

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



**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).

**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...





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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

**READERS:**

8/9 Dec	Ann Goves Marian Nolan	Aleira Egan Andrew Douglas	Ryan Smethurst Jane Arkinstall Heidi Cooper	Life Teen Mass
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15/16 Dec	Jack Williamson Ann Goves	Sr Cecily Foster Anne O'Connor	Chanelle White Eileen Duncan Dan Butler	Life Teen Mass
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**COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

8/9 Dec	Edward Foley	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Life Teen Mass
15/16 Dec	Deborah Hall	<i>Volunteer</i>	Christine Iannarella	Life Teen Mass

**"HOME" COMMUNION MINISTERS:**

9 Dec	Anna Coventry
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**ORGANISTS:**

8/9 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Jenny McKeon	Life Teen Mass
15/16 Dec	<i>Volunteer</i>	<i>Volunteer</i>	Robyn Cuming	Life Teen Mass

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

8/9 Dec	Billy Crutcher Dash Crutcher		Bridget Birchley Chelsy Waller	Max Lazzarini Sophia Lazzarini
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15 Dec - 27 Jan	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>	<i>Volunteer/s</i>
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**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

9 Dec	Jane Cameron & Rosemary Greer
16 Dec - 10 Feb	<i>No Children's Liturgy</i>

**SANCTUARY CARERS:**

15 Dec	Beverley O'Brien
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**2019 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS** For sale at the Piety Stall \$9.00 each

**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 - Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 16 December 2018**

**1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18; 2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7; Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**