



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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Parish Administrator: Fr. Kevin Smith  
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer  
Family and Sacramental Ministry: 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

## The Epiphany of the Lord (Year C) - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Readings

1st Reading: 60:1-6; 2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6; Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 7 January: 6.30am  
Wednesday 9 January: 9am  
Thursday 10 January: 9am  
Friday 11 January: 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

#### JANUARY

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
Parish Office re-opens 8.30am  
SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Australia Day Public Holiday  
Mass 9.00am
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
School resumes

## Welcome

Fr Kevin Smith  
to  
St Agatha's



*They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Dear friends,

We have begun a new year. By now, our new year resolutions are now a faded memory. But on this feast of the Epiphany, we can ask ourselves, "What light are you or I following? What has brought us here? What lights lead us in our everyday choices?" We are all searchers – seeking answers to all sorts of spoken and silent questions. The wise men were wise, not because they knew all the answers, but because they knew what their questions were. "What does this light mean?" they asked themselves. Today – the Feast of the Epiphany – is the feast day of all searchers; those who aren't sure about the meaning of life but are wise enough to continue to journey with their questions. Searching can be costly but, as the Magi knew, the rewards are great. The answers rarely come easily, but we need to realise that because of our human nature, we human beings are fundamentally questioners. We will always have questions, things that we are seeking the answers to, and usually we will plod along like the wise men, in the dark, sometimes following only the dimmest of lights. But it is because we have questions, especially the silent ones, that we sense there must be an answer, even if it is a silent one. The wise men knew to continue their pilgrimage no matter what. They were wise. May we be wise enough to follow their lead. Let us discover the joy of encountering one another along the way. And in discovering the joy of encountering one another, we also discover the joy of encountering the mystery of God. Searching for wisdom and meaning entails taking risks. It means moving out of familiar territory and into the unknown. The star of the Christ-child does not blind us or overwhelm us, but gently invites us and steadily guides us. As with the Magi, the light of this star asks us to offer our gifts for the sake of the world. Those who do so freely have truly followed the star and found Christ.

### The Wisdom of Pope Francis

*Seeing the star.* This is where it starts. But why, we might ask, did the Magi alone see the star? Perhaps because few people raised their eyes to heaven. We often make do with looking at the ground: it's enough to have our health, a little money and a bit of entertainment. I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky. Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? The Magi were not content with just getting by, with keeping afloat. They understood that to truly live, we need a lofty goal and we need to keep looking up.

## Clayfield Conversations

### Stars Guide the Way of Pilgrims

*Stars guide the way of pilgrims and wise ones. Stars are pin-points of light, beacons of hope, sprinkles of promise.*

*The prophet has told us that a light has shone — that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. These are beautiful words of hope. We have been preparing to hear these words. We have been waiting for the day.*

*The Magi travelled a long way to celebrate this day. They followed a light, not knowing where it would lead. All the way, expectation was growing in their heart. What would they find when the star finally led them to their destination?*

*They brought gifts too – Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. They brought gifts to the One who is Gift. Gold for a King. Frankincense for offering prayer and praise. Myrrh for one who would die.*

*Some mystics have other ideas of what these gifts are for. Not quite so theological. St. Bernard of Clairvaux was more earthy: Gold supported the Holy Family on their escape to Egypt, incense freshened the atmosphere in the stinking stable, myrrh delivered the newborn Christ Child from any worms that infested his intestines. St. Bernard had the eye of a mid-wife.*

*What earthy gifts do we pilgrims and wise ones bring? More importantly, what gifts do we wish to receive? What light do we wish to see in our darkness? What pin-points of hope do we long to see amid the darkness of the world?*

*There is the darkness that we know only too well: war and destruction, poverty and desolation, hatred and enmity, bitterness and sorrow. And yet, amid this darkness there are stars that guide our way. Stars serve as a reminder and a promise; a presence and a guarantee. The Great Light shines on us.*

*But we too must be lights which guide the way. Darkness is conquered by the divine light which God gives. In this light, we glow with an ever-greater goodness whose source comes from beyond us. We become lamps of faith – even if only little lamps, anonymous glimmers of grace.*

*Yes, there is darkness still, but there is more than enough light.*

*There is the promise of the dawning of a new and brighter day, like the rising sun coming to greet us. And there is also you and me and countless others of faith, shining like stars spread across the face of night and shadows — pin-points of light, beacons of hope, sprinkles of promise.*

*Pilgrims and wise ones look to the stars and see the flicker of hope. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: Epiphany!*

### *In our prayers we remember*

#### *Those who have died recently:*

Paul Neville, Fr John Dobson, Warwick Jones, Daphne Quirk

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

Craig Andrews, Blue Doyle, Peter Turnbull, Noel Turnbull, Eve Turnbull

#### *Those who are sick:*

Harrison (Harry) Wiseman, Bryan Weaver, Val Barrett, Lorraine Douglas, Alexander Clark, Rosemary Douglas, Danielle Johnson, 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.**

### PARISH ROSTERS

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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

#### READERS:

5/6 Jan

Graham Gibson  
Julie-Anne Gibson

Annaliese Beckmann  
Jeanine Bygott

Clare Smethurst  
*Volunteer*  
Jane Arkinstall

Life Teen Mass

12/13 Jan

*Volunteer*  
Ann Goves

Nick Eden  
Dianne Eden

Heidi Cooper  
Ryan Smethurst  
Eileen Duncan

Life Teen Mass

#### COMMUNION MINISTERS:

5/6 Jan

Edward Foley

*Volunteer*

Christine Iannarella

Life Teen Mass

12/13 Jan

Deborah Hall

Paulette Archer

Julianne Ryan

Life Teen Mass

#### “HOME” COMMUNION MINISTERS:

6 Jan

Lisa Carter

13 Jan

Marjorie Wessels

#### ORGANISTS:

5/6 Jan

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass

12/13 Jan

*Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

#### SANCTUARY CARERS:

19 Jan

Beverley O'Brien