



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

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 16th 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 17 December: 6.30am
 Wednesday 19 December: 9am
 Thursday 20 December: 9am
 Friday 21 December: 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

DECEMBER

• Monday 17th
 SVDP Meeting 5pm Parish Office
 • Tuesday 18th
 2nd Rite Reconciliation 7pm



*Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
 Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
 O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The
 Lord, your God, is in your midst*

Dear friends,

Today is called "Gaudete Sunday" because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, *Gaudete in Domino semper* ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath because the theme of the third Sunday of Advent is "rejoicing in hope". Advent is a time for joy, not only because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, but also because God is already in our midst. Christian joy does not come from the absence of sorrow, pain or trouble, but from an awareness of the presence of Christ within us and around us. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms.

Nevertheless, there is some sadness for me in this Advent season as my time at St. Agatha's comes to an end. Thank you to those who were able to attend last Sunday's farewell morning tea. It was a simple gathering but I have been very touched by many people's kind words to me over the past few weeks. In particular, I am grateful to the members of the two important parish committees—the Pastoral and Mission Council and the Finance Council. In so many ways, these two groups play a key role in the proper functioning of this parish community. I thank all members, past and present, for their generosity and commitment to the well-being of this parish community.

I would like to thank all those who have volunteered in any capacity over the course of my time here and beyond. Parish communities thrive on the good-will of its members and this community certainly has an abundance of those who willingly give of their time and talents. Some ministries are obvious and public; others not so. Whatever capacity you have served this community, I offer you my thanks and I hope that you know that no act of service, no matter how small, goes unnoticed. I hope and pray that in this Advent and Christmas season God will bless you and your family for all your efforts and service, and for acts small and large.

Don't forget our Second Rite of Reconciliation which will be celebrated on this coming Tuesday night. We rejoice, not because of our own goodness, but because of God's mercy towards us. There is no better way to prepare the way of the Lord than to celebrate the gift of God's reconciliation and compassion. I hope that you will be able to join us on Tuesday night at 7pm.

Fr. Anthony



The Wisdom of Pope Francis

The joy of the Christian comes from faith and from the encounter with Jesus Christ, the reason for our happiness. The more we are rooted in Christ, the more we find inner serenity, even in the midst of everyday contradictions. That is why the Christian, having met Jesus, cannot be a prophet of misfortune, but a witness and a herald of joy. A joy to share with others; a contagious joy that makes life's journey less tiring.

St. Luke is the gospel of this new liturgical year (Yr. C). Over the last two weeks, Ria Greene of Melbourne has taken us on a tour of Luke's gospel. Here is Part Two.

Luke: The Missionary Disciple



Themes of the Gospel of Luke

Luke's gospel conveys a concern for all humankind, and a particular care for the poor. It also focuses on ministry to and by women. The seeking out and saving of the lost is another recurring motif, as seen in the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost (or prodigal) son. The role of the Holy Spirit and the importance of prayer are also central to the gospel's message, which is one of joy and mercy.

Identity and mission of Jesus

The Gospel of Luke is interested in who Jesus is, and what he's about. Luke's Jesus is a charismatic figure. He is led by the Spirit, prays constantly and is obedient to God's will. His humility is evident in his depiction as a poor wanderer, dependent on the hospitality of others. He is a gentle and compassionate saviour, but also strong and uncompromising towards those who collaborate to exploit others. He has come to bring good news to the poor.

Mercy, compassion and universal salvation

Luke's Jesus draws close to the poor, to sinners and to those who are marginalised or outcasts, such as lepers and tax-collectors. Luke uses the literary device of 'reversal' to emphasise this point, placing those who think they're righteous on the outer, with sinners and outcasts becoming 'the new righteous'. This is often conveyed most compellingly in parables such as the story of the prodigal son, whose power continues to challenge and speak to us today. The mystery of sacred texts is that these words can speak profoundly to our experience in ways that we think nobody else can understand.

Women

Luke's gospel includes many references to women that do not appear in the other gospels. Jesus breaches social barriers by reaching out to women, and by healing and freeing them. Women also play an important role in the ministry of Jesus. At a time when a woman's influence was often confined to the domestic sphere, Luke presents us with women such as Martha, who owned her own home, and her sister Mary, who sits at Jesus' feet, assuming the position of a disciple.

Discipleship

The Gospel of Luke is a manual for disciples. It teaches us to attend to the inner life, showing us how easily darkness can well up in those whose lives remain unexamined. Jesus gets people, but he doesn't allow excuses. Luke's gospel calls us to grow. It prepares us to be called and sent. While the disciples are sometimes shown to experience moments of great insight, they often fail to 'get it'. God doesn't give up on them. Discipleship requires us to stick with it, despite our blindness, confusion and failure. The transformation is gradual. And, as Luke makes clear, we are transformed together, as a community, not just as individuals. In Luke, there are lots of stories where people are paired together in their discipleship.

Kingdom of God

The kingdom of God is vividly depicted and anticipated in Luke's gospel as a realm of welcome and inclusion - a realm of joy, justice, peace, love and compassion. We are not there yet - we know what we are striving for, we know when we are missing it, when our lives fall short of this promise - but our very disappointment strengthens our yearning for it, and gives us a keener sense of all that God intends for us.

ST AGATHA'S SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL will be conducted over three weekends during 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

Our parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.

We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all of our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.

In our prayers we remember



Those who have died recently:

Camie Ashton

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Dell Murphy, Douglas Munt, Barbara Joyo, Stan McKenzie, Florence Hinson, Sean Cochrane, Phyllis Agnew, John Agnew, Mary Dethlefs

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. 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 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:

stagathacentenarybook@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.

Last weekend (15/16 Dec)

to buy your lucky tickets!!

Raffle drawn next Sunday 23 December after 9am Mass.

the lights of
CHRISTMAS
CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

Each night
until
Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Pack of 8 for \$5.



With great joy we welcome **Hamish Bligh, Adelaide Brown and Charlotte Searle** who will be baptised this weekend.



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:

15/16 Dec

Jack Williamson
Ann Goves

Sr Cecily Foster
Anne O'Connor

Chanelle White
Eileen Duncan
Dan Butler

Life Teen Mass

22/23 Dec

Cate Barrett
Phil Zammit

Annette Riba
Kirsty Stevens

Tim Hancock
Don Macpherson
Lauren Mitchell

Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS:

15/16 Dec

Deborah Hall

Volunteer

Christine Iannarella

Life Teen Mass

22/23 Dec

Jan Zammit

Paulette Archer

Volunteer

Life Teen Mass

"HOME" COMMUNION MINISTERS:

16 Dec

Marjorie Wessels

23 Dec

Geraldine Swindells

ORGANISTS:

15/16 Dec

Volunteer

Volunteer

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass

22/23 Dec

Volunteer

Volunteer

Jenny McKeon

Life Teen Mass

ALTAR SERVERS:

15 Dec - 27 Jan

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

16 Dec - 10 Feb

No Children's Liturgy - School Holidays

SANCTUARY CARERS:

5 Jan

Victor Podesta

ST AGATHA'S PARISH 2019 CALENDARS are available for free.

One calendar per family only as stock is limited.

BAPTISMS

We celebrate baptisms on the 3rd and 4th 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 until 24 December. We are thrilled to invite all parishioners to join us on the lawn at St Stephen's for this magnificent event.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all.

The annual **Christmas Lights Festival** at St Gerard Majella, Chermside West is now on and will continue every night till 23 December. Huge lights display, gift shop, coffee shop, barbecue, drinks, ice creams and op shop all operating from 6pm till 10pm nightly. Free entertainment every night. The program for our free concerts can be found on our website: www.olaparishchermside.org.au.

Are You Planning a Trip to Sydney in January? Why not stay at Mary MacKillop Place, in the heart of North Sydney! 30 minutes from the Airport, close to ferries, trains, Sydney Harbour foreshore, Opera House and more! For accommodation enquiries please call 02 89124800.

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 this **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 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 23 December 2018

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10; Gospel: Luke 1:39-44