



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 ORIEL RD CLAYFIELD Q 4011

Phone: 3262 2859 After Hours Emergency Pager: 3835 9885  
 E-mail: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au Website: www.clayfieldparish.org.au  
 Facebook: facebook.com/St. Agatha's Catholic Parish Clayfield  
 Aggies Youth: facebook.com/aggiesyouth

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) lsr.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

**St. Agatha's Catholic Primary School** 6 Hunter Lane Clayfield Qld 4011. Phone: 3326 9222

School Principal: Ms Anne-Marie Maw

**ACTING APRE:** Mrs Thea Cowdroy-Ling

Outside School Hours Care Coordinator: Roxanne Grogan

## First Sunday of Advent (Year A) - 1 December 2019

### Readings

**1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5; 2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14; Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44**

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**NO 6.30am Mass on Monday**

**Wednesday 4 December 9am**

**Thursday 5 December 9am**

**Friday 6 December 9am**

End of School Year

Thanksgiving Liturgy

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm

(1st Rite of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4.30pm)

Sunday 7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

### Parish Calendar

**DECEMBER**

**Monday 9**

SVDP Meeting 5pm

Parish Office



**READERS  
PLEASE  
COLLECT  
YOUR  
COPY OF**

***BREAK OPEN  
THE WORD***

Accountancy might not seem like a profession concerned with the end of all things, but actually it is the fundamental idea of accountancy. An accountant's job is to measure the value of a company, a charity, or some other association involving money. The question the accountant asks is this: "If this firm was to close, how much would it be worth at that time?" That is a question we should ask about our own lives and about every human institution that has come into being. What would it be worth when it ends?

But in this case, it is not a question about the financial worth, or course. The value we are concerned with is how much it is worth in the eyes of God.

Earlier in the chapter of Matthew from which today's Gospel reading is taken, the warning of Christ is this: "false prophets... will deceive many and, with the increase of lawlessness, love in most men [and women] will grow cold". So the accountancy of life is measured in love. You notice that Jesus does not say that there will be no love; instead, love will have grown cold, which means that it no longer reaches out to others. It is a fire that warms only a few, and is not shared with the stranger. You might also notice that it is "lawlessness" that cools our love. Love and law are not opposites, but good law is the fuel of love.

Here is how you can make life interesting. All you have to do is pay attention. When we get bored with life, it is because we don't take the trouble to understand its meaning. Every moment of our life we are making decisions about how to live: the most important of all is the decision to look for God's purpose in every moment of our lives, or the decision to ignore God. When we get bored, we start looking for some dramatic change in our lives; we want to get away from where we are. We can be so concerned with being somewhere else that we end up not being anywhere.

Meanwhile life goes on. We are warned against looking for signs of the Lord's return. Then again, it would be foolish to think that anything on this earth lasts for ever. So Jesus is telling us to concentrate on the ordinary things of life, and to be at peace with our neighbour. He will come again; but he will come in his own good time.

## Clayfield Conversations

### First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

#### Scriptural context – Burglars in the night

The teachings and sayings of Jesus reveal him to be a clever public speaker and story teller. His use of imagery and language captivated the imagination of his audience. However, we have tended to endow his every word with awesome significance and layers of meaning. Today's reading is an example where Jesus used a confronting image simply to gain his audience's attention. He does not intend to suggest that God sneaks up on us like a burglar and is seeking to catch us out. The image conveys the need to prepare for what might happen unexpectedly.

#### Historical Context – The Advent Wreath

One of the major symbols of the Advent season is the wreath. The encircling wreath is symbolic of God without beginning or end and the green foliage represents our hope in God. There are usually five candles in the wreath, a central white candle representing the light of Christ that came into the world and then four outside candles that are usually purple and rose coloured. The first candle is generally symbolic of Hope and Expectation. The third candle – the rose or pink candle – celebrates the Joy that is anticipated in the coming of Christ. The progressive lighting of the candles marks the journey towards the Nativity...*Liturgy Help*

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

**St Agatha's**  
Parish School, Clayfield

**OPEN DAY**

Friday 6th March, 2020 • 8.45am - 10.30am

6 Hunter Lane, Clayfield Q 4011 | P 3326 9222 | [www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au)  
R.S.V.P. by Friday 28th February [pclayfield@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pclayfield@bne.catholic.edu.au)

 School tours are available	 Assembly will be held at 8.45am in the Presentation Centre	 Visit classrooms from Prep to Year 6
 Meet the Principal Ms Anne-Marie Maw	 Friday 6 March 8.45am-10.30am	 School choir will perform
 Light refreshments will be served during the Open Day		

St Agatha's School Clayfield has limited vacancies in Year 6 for 2020.

Please direct all enquiries to the Enrolment Secretary:

[wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:wkwhite@bne.catholic.edu.au) or phone: 3326 9222

### St Agatha's School Clayfield PREP 2021

If you have a child born between 1/7/15 – 30/6/16, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2021.

All enrolment applications are now submitted online via our school website [www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au)

Please note only completed applications will be considered for a place in Prep 2021.

Non Sibling applications close for Prep 2021 on 13 March 2020 and interviews will take place for Non Siblings in April 2020.

Sibling applications close for Prep 2021 on Thursday 9 April and interviews will take place for Siblings in May 2020.

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

Our display at the moment features books by Father Richard Leonard S.J. from our collection. These include his latest work "*Hatch, Match and Despatch*" which gives interesting insights into the sacraments of the Catholic Church. It is, like all his books, relevant to our lives in the modern world.

Other related books have also been included in the display.

### 2020 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

Columban Calendars are now available and for sale at the Piety Stall for \$9.00 each.

*Ideal Christmas Gift*

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Available for sale at the Piety Stall  
Packet of 8 for \$5.00

## Vacation Care

December 2019  
January 2020

Phone 07 3326 9208

Email [clayfieldoshc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au](mailto:clayfieldoshc@catholicearlyedcare.qld.edu.au)



### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets

\$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Drawn

Sunday 22 December.



## In our prayers we remember



### Those who have died recently:

Elwyn Clifford

### Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Alice Mary Shun Wah, Rosalind Shun Wah, Reginald Shun Wah (Jnr)

### Those who are sick:

Margaret Murphy, Charlie Richards, Noreen Martin, Kateri Byrnes, Vireda Akhil, Dhirend Akhil, Patrick (Paddy) Ryan, Nick Newton, Eugene Gaynor, Lauren Carney, Patricia Beveridge, Janice Lewis, Michael Blanchard, Colleen Smythe, Flynn Crowley, Lyndell Sawyer, Ray Pavey, Michael Cashman, Donald Morrisson, Joseph Tam, Bryan Weaver, Alexander Clark, Rosemary Douglas, Danielle Johnson, Gordon Hodge, Maureen Long, 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, Carmel See, Regina Hwan, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, Mel Purwo, Patrick Gallagher, Hellen Passente

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

### **ST AGATHA'S SVDP CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

will be conducted over the weekends up to and including 14/15 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.

### **ST AGATHA'S GIVING TREE - 2019**

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 15 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.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2019**

**Tuesday 24 December**

6.00pm Vigil Mass  
*with carols from 5.30pm*

Midnight Mass  
*with carols from 11.30pm*

**Wednesday 25 December**  
8.00am Mass

### **ST VINNIE'S IN ACTION**

St Agatha's SVDP recently made a considerable donation to Charleville SVDP to assist with drought relief by paying bills for graziers in the town.

This way, both the farmer and the town businesses are assisted.

- \* You can assist local families in need this Christmas by providing goods for hampers - for needed items, please take some tags from the Christmas tree
  - \* Immediate impact for people in our area: please give generously to St Vinnie's Christmas appeal. Online or via envelopes supplied in the church
  - \* Bushfire Appeal: please donate online to provide food, clothing, essential items and grocery vouchers for people who have lost everything
- Join the team and join in the good works! Please contact the office (3262 2859) to register your interest or come along to our next meeting on Monday 9 December 5pm at the parish office.

### **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 Readers, Communion Ministers and Altar Servers.

### **PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSURE**

The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Friday 20 December and will re-open 8.30am Monday 6 January 2020.

### **How God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is**



**Prayerful and Eucharistic**

Stories of Faith: Anonymous

I came close to God through crisis. In many ways I feel like the prodigal son. When my wife was diagnosed with cancer [in her 20s] my understanding of my faith was changed forever. Two years into her journey, I had completely turned my back on God – why would a loving God allow my wife to die and be in so much pain? Why would he let her get cancer at precisely the time we were planning to have children? Why would my life be completely disrupted to become her carer – losing my job and moving away from friends and family? I did not understand God, or where He was in my life at all. But I did witness my wife completely surrender her life to Him. She knew she was going to die and that God would take her to Heaven when He was ready for her. Three-and-a-half years after the diagnosis, He did exactly that. And I then realised that God was helping me the whole time – He was working through me to care for her, to be God for her and to love her. I sacrificed everything to care for her, but God gave me the physical, emotional and mental strength to carry [my wife] through her difficult earthly pilgrimage

Read more of the topics for this theme: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## PARISH ROSTERS

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

**5.00pm**

**7.00am**

**9.00am**

**5.30pm**

### READERS:

30 Nov/1 Dec

Ann Goves  
Edward Foley

Sr Cecily Foster  
Annette Riba

Dan Butler  
Ryan Smethurst

Life Teen Mass

7/8 Dec

Jenny Close

Dianne Eden  
Nick Eden

Phil Ryan  
Wilma O'Connell

Life Teen Mass

### COMMUNION MINISTERS:

30 Nov/1 Dec

7/8 Dec

Ann Goves

Life Teen Mass

### "HOME" COMMUNION MINISTERS:

1 Dec

Geraldine Swindells

8 Dec

Tom & Jeannine Treston

### ORGANISTS:

30 Nov/1 Dec

7/8 Dec

Jenny McKeon

Robyn Cuming

Life Teen Mass

Life Teen Mass

### ALTAR SERVERS:

30 Nov/1 Dec

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Daniel Benjamin  
Thomas Benjamin

Alex Oliveri

7/8 Dec

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

Volunteer/s

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

1 Dec

Jane Cameron and Erin Bledsoe

8 Dec

No Children's Liturgy



**BAPTISMS** at St Agatha's are celebrated 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.

### ORDER OF ST LAZARUS OF JERUSALEM

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December the members of the Queensland Commandery of the Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem will attend the 9am Mass at St. Agatha's to celebrate their Patronal Feast. The Order of St. Lazarus was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century in the Holy Land to assist sick crusader knights specially those afflicted with leprosy. Today it is an ecumenical Christian Order with members all over the world carrying out and supporting charitable works to the marginalised, by small organisations not generally in receipt of government funding.

Fr Anthony Mellor will be celebrating this Mass.

### THE WAY

Advent and Christmas  
Daily Reflections 2019  
for sale at the Piety Stall  
\$4.00 each



**SVDP** meetings are held every second Monday at 5pm (except Public Holidays).

New members are always welcome. Any enquiries phone John 0408 985 709.

### Holland Park Mt Gravatt Parish invites applications for the part time position of Parish Office Coordinator

28 hours per week over 4 days  
The role encompasses Administration duties and Financial coordination, as well as project management of Property upgrades and maintenance. For information on the job description and remuneration please contact HR Coordinator, James Herd on 3324 3331.

Applications close 6 December 2019. To apply for this position please email your application with your resume to [herdj@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:herdj@bne.catholic.net.au) with "Office Coordinator" in the subject.

The Archdiocese of Brisbane has standards of conduct for workers to maintain a safe and healthy environment for children. Our commitment to these standards requires that we conduct working with children checks and background referencing for all persons who will engage in direct and regular involvement with children and young people (0 - 18 years) and/or vulnerable adults. The organisation is fully committed to child safety and has a 0 tolerance to abuse of children or vulnerable adults.

**TWO-MINUTE HOMILIES** Priests from around the Archdiocese are preparing "Two Minute Homilies" and uploading them on social media platforms on a weekly basis now. To view or listen (at your leisure) to a podcast please visit <http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/two-minutehomilies/>

**Readings - Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) - 8 December 2019**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10; 2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9; Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12**