



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) *19 April 2020*

We have his word...

There was no Covid-19 pandemic in the time of Jesus. But Covid-19 happened in our time, and we cannot go to Church to celebrate the Holy Eucharist together. To think that these days, we can't go to Mass and receive Holy Communion may make us feel rather depressed and sad.

But even though we may be deprived of the Eucharist we are certainly not deprived of the Word of God. It is truly a consolation and to know that Jesus had always loved us and that we belong to him (Jn 13:1).

And it is in such difficult and depressing times that Jesus wants to show how much He loves us. Though we can't have the Eucharist to experience that love of Jesus, we have His Word. So we must read the gospel and look deeper at it to understand how Jesus is loving us.

We are all in hiding. We only come out to get food. We store the food in our homes to eat later. People are dying. All the science and technology, all the military might, all the stock markets and money power, all our dreams, our plans and our ambitions are all left crumbling. What we hear nowadays are the rising number of infected cases and increasing number of countries on lockdown.

Even then we celebrated Easter because we have our faith in the Risen Christ. But some people are asking, "Where is God in all this? Why isn't He doing something about this?"

Somebody wrote in the social media to express this sentiment:

When the churches are all empty
and the temple doors barred shut...
then the voice starts: where is your God now?
When the morgues are overflowing
and hospitals of dread are full
while the sick lie slowly drowning
the voice remarks, so cool: where is your God now?
When homeless beg streets empty
and hoarders stuff fridges full
while poor children lie in bed hungry
the voice starts to rule: where is your God now?
Our God is in nurses and doctors
exhausted teachers' endless screens
cleaners countless corridors
delivery men running between
supermarket staff toiling through nights
replenishing shelves stripped bare
masked bus drivers sending you home
strangers who offer to share
whatever little that they have
whatever little they can spare.
In hearts filled with quivering hope
God is often in you, when you care.

God is in the light of the Easter candle which was held high in a darkened Church as the priest proclaims: "May the Light of Christ rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

So where is our God? He is risen and He is in our hearts shining His light in the midst of all this chaotic darkness. He is in the Eucharist which brightens our souls.

The Doors of the Church are shut, but the life of the church continues through our prayers ...

Parish Matters

Sacrament of Reconciliation

If anyone would like to receive this Sacrament of penance, please contact Fr Biju on 0470 212 502 (thomasb@bne.catholic.net.au) to arrange a suitable time. Again, it is vitally important that social distancing is maintained in an appropriate place to celebrate the Sacrament.

Receiving of Holy Communion

If anyone would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact Fr Biju to make an appointment.

Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our Easter raffle. Congratulations to our lucky winners, Bernard Power and Thomas Crowe!! Despite the circumstances, we raised \$696.00. Thank you everyone for your support!

Planned Giving COVID-19 Style

With the prospect of our Church being closed for some months we would appreciate your ongoing support which is still very much needed to cover the running costs of the Parish, Church, Presbytery and grounds. Due to the restrictions of self isolation, we totally understand that you may not be able to collect your envelopes. Thank you to those that have been dropping in their envelopes during the past few weeks.

Direct Debit

If you wish to contribute to Planned Giving via Direct Debit, please contact Rosemary at the parish office on 3262 2859 or email clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au.

Caritas

Thank you to everyone that has supported Caritas Project Compassion and also to everyone that has dropped off any envelopes. Please feel free at your own leisure, to drop off any envelopes/boxes at the Parish office through the slot near the front door.

TEMPORARY ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTIVES: All public Masses are suspended, and Sunday obligation is also suspended.



**Second Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Sunday)**
Readings and reflections are attached
with this newsletter



Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is an Observance in which we are encouraged to offer forgiveness and reconciliation to all. It is based on visions recorded from St. Faustian Kowalski. Divine Mercy Sunday occurs the Sunday after Easter.

St. Faustian was a Polish nun who lived in the early 20th century. She devoted her life to spreading the word about God's forgiveness, or divine mercy, for anyone who asks for forgiveness. Although she was a mystic, she also cooked and gardened as part of her convent life.

St. Faustian had visions much of her life. One that was the most profound was of Jesus, with one hand raised in blessing and with two fingers of his other hand resting on his heart. She said that Jesus asked her to have the image painted, and to include a prayer that said, "Jesus, I trust in you." This is the prayer that we recite on Divine Mercy Sunday.

One Form of the Prayer for receiving Communion Spiritually:

1. Pray together Archdiocese Prayer
2. Read aloud and Meditate as a family, or individually on the Sunday Scriptures
3. A time of private prayer and intercessions – for an end to the virus, for the nation, for the church, personal intentions, for the sick and deceased.
4. Pray the OUR FATHER
5. Prayer for Reception: My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

PRAYER TO JESUS DURING COVID-19

(COURTESY OF FR GERRY HEFFERAN,
BRACKEN RIDGE PARISH)

We pray to you, Jesus
for people affected in any way by coronavirus,
for people who have died and their families,
for people who have coronavirus and those who have recovered,
for people who are in isolation at home,
for people working in hospitals, clinics and medical centres,
for people in nursing homes and other community centres,
for doctors, nurses, medical staff and medical scientists,
for ambulance, emergency service and information technology personnel,
for carers, counsellors and pastoral care ministers,
for our love of neighbour, Amen

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently

Majella Foster, Margaret McHugh

Those whose anniversaries occur about now

Judy Power

And those who are sick:

Brittany Hanschen, Edward Chan, Duncan Pegg, Charlie Richards, Noreen Martin, Kateri Byrnes, 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, Regina Hwan, Deanne Du Bour, Melissa Waka, Agnes Tam, Kerri Smith, El Purwo, Patrick Gallagher, Hellen Passente

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

We give praise and thanks for blessings given and prayers answered. We pray for all our family members, parishioners and benefactors who are in need of prayer and for all those who are facing difficult times. We pray for them and for those who have asked for our prayers.

Fr Biju

Parish Administration

Parish Administrator: Fr. Biju Thomas
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer
Family and Sacramental Ministry: Mrs Jane Cameron
Community & Mission Council Chair: Mrs Mary-Caroline van Paassen

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Friday: 8.30am-12.00pm

Facebook: facebook.com/St. Agatha's Catholic Parish Clayfield

Aggies Youth: facebook.com/aggiesyouth

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

APRE: Mr Jake Knowles

Outside School Hours Care Coordinator: Roxanne Grogan