



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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## *Fifth Sunday of Easter* *10 May 2020*

### *The Month of May*

**May** is such a beautiful month. The whole month is dedicated to our Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, who assumed a special role in our lives and became a mother to us all. We specially honour the Blessed Virgin Mary during the entire month of May.



Mary is our loving mother. Her maternal heart is full of love and mercy for her beloved children.

She is blessed... she herself is nothing. God has, for our sakes, delighted to manifest His glory and His love in her. She placed no obstacle to the mercy of God and in no way resisted His love and His will.

Mary, who was empty of all egotism, free from all sin, was pure, to admit the light of Jesus. **She constantly presents all our prayers to Jesus.** Mary is known as the "Gate of Heaven". We need Mary to guide us to heaven so that we may not lose our way by falling into sin.

We need to pray the Rosary every single day during the month of May. If one cannot pray the entire rosary with dedication, pray at least one decade faithfully, and if a decade is not possible, recite at least one Hail Mary with complete devotion.

When we pray the Hail Mary, ask our Heavenly Mother to intercede for us now and at the hour of our death. Yes, we need her powerful intercession during the last moments of our earthly life. Our Mother will help us during that hour. We only need to pray to her without ceasing.



### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOSPEL REFLECTION**

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers... © Dianne Bergant CSA

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

**Keeping in touch:**

As a community of faith, we are called to be aware of those around us in the community. Please keep in touch with each other and be particularly mindful of people who may be on their own. If you need assistance or know of someone who requires assistance from the Parish, please contact the Office and we will follow up.

**Parish Newsletter:**

Paper copies are available outside the Parish office. Call in anytime to pick up a copy. If you know of someone who is not already on our mailing list to receive digital updates please invite them to contact our parish office (3262 2859 or clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au) with their email address or encourage them to follow us on Facebook, or visit our Website [www.clayfieldparish.org.au](http://www.clayfieldparish.org.au), where they can view our latest newsletter and weekly prayers and reflections.

**Planned Giving and Parish Contributions:**

Many thanks to those who are able to support the parish particularly during these difficult times. Many thanks also to those who are dropping their Planned Giving Envelopes into the mail opening near the door to the Parish Office. You are also welcome to contribute on line through internet banking. Details as follows:

Account Name: St Agatha's Parish

BSB Number: 064 786

Account Number: 0061 36002

Reference: Your Envelope Number and Surname (if part of Planned Giving) or PG-Surname (if not part of Planned Giving) Phone us if you need more information about this option. Direct Debit and Credit Card options are also available to be set up with your preferred payment frequency (e.g. weekly, fortnightly, two monthly, quarterly, half yearly or annually). You can cancel or change this arrangement and amounts at any time.

We are truly grateful to everyone, particularly in these very difficult times, who are still wanting to be able to support the parish.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing support. Please be assured of our continued prayers.

**The Holy See****LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

**TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone. (Note: the second prayer is quite long and not included in this week's newsletter)

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Pope Francis

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey  
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the foot of the cross,  
were united with Jesus' suffering,  
and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”,  
you know our needs,

and we know that you will provide,  
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,  
joy and celebration may return  
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father  
and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering,  
and burdened himself with our sorrows  
to bring us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of  
God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities,  
but deliver us always from every danger, O  
Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death.  
Amen.



## CORONAVIRUS PRAYER



O' God, healer of all our ills,  
to whom we turn in this time of  
distress, grant, we pray in the  
power of faith,  
eternal rest to the dead  
and comfort to those who mourn,  
health to the sick and peace to the  
dying, strength to medical workers,  
wisdom to our leaders and a spirit  
of kindness to us all.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.  
As always in the Lord

Archbishop Mark Coleridge

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

## PARISH DAIRY

There will be celebration  
of the Holy Eucharist  
without a congregation  
for the parish at the desig-  
nated time. Please join in  
prayer in your home at  
that time.

Monday	9:00am
Tuesday	9:00am
Wednesday	9:00am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	9:00am
Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am

## In our prayers we remember

### Those who have died recently:

Jack Jones, Kevin Wootton, Sr Majella Foster

### And those who are unwell:

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](mailto: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

## Prayers of the faithful....

1. We pray for all mothers across Australia as we celebrate Mothers' Day, that in these anxious times they may enjoy the respect of their families and be able to be a source of calm and hope for others.
2. We pray for those whose employment has ceased during this Covid-19 pandemic, remembering today those who work in the arts – musicians, singers, actors, technicians and other assistants – along with casual workers and people on temporary visas unable to access government support, that they will soon receive the assistance which they need.
3. We pray for our departed mothers along with those who, in these times, have died isolated from their families, that those who mourn their deaths will have faith and hope as Jesus has prepared for the dead a place of joy in the Father's house.
4. We remember in particular those who have died recently: Jack Jones, Kevin Wootton, Sr Majella Foster and those whose anniversaries occur at this time... may they live forever with Christ in the glory of his resurrection.

## *The Woman*

When God created woman he was working late on the 6th day...  
An angel came by and asked: "Why spend so much time on her?"  
The Lord answered: "Have you seen all the specifications I have to meet to shape her?"  
She must function in all kinds of situations,  
She must be able to embrace several kids at the same time,  
Have a hug that can heal anything from a bruised knee to a broken heart,  
She must do all this with only two hands,"  
She cures herself when sick and can work 18 hours a day"  
The Angel was impressed. "Just two hands.....impossible!  
And this is the standard model?"  
The Angel came closer and touched the woman.  
"But you have made her so soft, Lord".  
"She is soft", said the Lord,  
"But I have made her strong. You can't imagine what she can endure and overcome."  
"Can she think?" the Angel asked...  
The Lord answered: "Not only can she think, she can reason and negotiate."  
The Angel touched her cheeks....  
"Lord, it seems this creation is leaking! You have put too many burdens on her."  
"She is not leaking...it is a tear" the Lord corrected the Angel...  
"What's it for?" asked the Angel.....  
The Lord said: "Tears are her way of expressing her grief, her doubts, her love, her loneliness, her suffering and her pride."...  
This made a big impression on the Angel,  
"Lord, you are a genius. You thought of everything.  
A woman is indeed marvellous."  
The Lord said: "Indeed she is.  
She has strength that amazes a man.  
She can handle trouble and carry heavy burdens.  
She holds happiness, love and opinions.  
She smiles when she feels like screaming.  
She sings when she feels like crying, cries when happy and laughs when afraid.  
She fights for what she believes in.  
Her love is unconditional.  
Her heart is broken when a next-of-kin or a friend dies  
but she finds strength to get on with life."  
The Angel asked: "So she is a perfect being?"  
The Lord replied: "No. She has just one drawback.  
She often forgets what she is worth".

**Whether you are a Mother, an Aunt, a Sister, a Grandmother, or have wonderful women around you, never forget how important you are, to all of us!**

