



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

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Sixth Sunday of Easter *17 May 2020*

A few days ago, we received a message from Bishop Ken Howell regarding the easing of restrictions around the gathering of the Holy Eucharist. From 16 May and in consultation with local government and the Episcopal Council, we have taken the decision to implement the following protocols for churches and services in the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

These protocols will be in effect through to 12 June 2020 and are subject to change with any on-going amendments to Queensland Health guidelines.

Updates to existing protocols from 11:59pm on 15 May (note that in all cases, the rules of one person per 4 square metres, 1.5 metres between people, and hygiene protocols remain paramount, they are an individual and collective responsibility):

- The limit for the *Masses for the people* will increase to no more than 10 people in attendance, which includes the camera operator if livestreaming.
- Funerals may be conducted with a maximum capacity of up to 20 people indoors and 30 people outdoors.
- Weddings may be conducted with a maximum capacity up to 10 people.
- Baptisms have a maximum capacity of up to 10 people...

Sunday Mass attendance at St Agatha's

We are now in a position to invite 9 parishioners to attend the Holy Eucharist on a Sunday at 9am.

If you would like to attend a Sunday Mass, it is vital to contact the Parish Office via email or call 3262 2859 beforehand so we can book you in.

It would be appreciated if you could pass this information on to as many other members of the parish as possible, especially those who do not have access to the internet.

We, as a parish, still have a long and uncertain way to go in our dealing with COVID-19, and patience and understanding are the order of the day.

Please note that the rules of one person per 4 square metres, 1.5 metres between people, and hygiene protocols still remain in place. Hand sanitiser will be provided at the entrance of the Church, and you must sanitise your hands when you arrive and leave the Church.

ISOLATED BUT NOT ALONE



**We are united in
love and prayer**

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE PANDEMIC

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of Your People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection.
Amen.



Our Parish Community

Even though our church is closed for the time being we are united in spirit and love. We all remember our parish community, we pray for each other, we help each other and the Holy Eucharist is celebrated everyday for the community.

We specially remember and thank all our Volunteers and benefactors during this national volunteer week. Your great support in different church activities are so appreciated, particularly in liturgical and economic matters and for all the other different areas too...

With much gratitude we remember our sacristan Peter Bowden and those who are helping the sacristy. I thank our Community and Mission Council chair Mary-Caroline and all its members, Finance members, Readers, Communion Ministers, Youth Ministry; Music team and Choir, offertory collectors, those who administer Communion to the sick; RCIA team, Parish office staff, Counters and Bankers, Children's Liturgy team, SVDP members, Hospitality team, Care and Concern team, Parish buddies, Altar servers and to all those who fill in at a moments notice, Brian Rada and others who assists us with odd jobs around the Church and Presbytery... thank you all!!!

The arranging of *supper* after the Holy Mass at 5.30 pm on Sundays is so wonderful: it gives us great joy and spirit of love and helps to develop our church as a welcoming and sharing community.

Great thanks also to our School Principle Anne-Marie Maw, APRE Jake Knowles and all the staff members who are helping our children for their faith formation and school education.

A huge thank you also to all our parishioners who participate in our planned giving program and help us out financially.

Thank you all for everything you do and for helping St Agatha's Parish keep the community spirit alive, even in these challenging times.

How important it is to have your generous cooperation and help for our church! Let us try to be even stronger in cooperation and unity and I'm sure our community is moving forward together, looking towards a greater glorious future.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother, intercede for us...

Fr Biju PP

Pray with Mother Mary

During the month of May we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Queen of May. Also in our liturgical calendar, the month of May is when we particularly remember Our Lady.

Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints are honored and venerated in different ways in our tradition. The Saints are ordinary humans like you and me but by the grace of God and their great efforts, they reached the heights of holiness. We have to honour them.

It is absolutely clear that we are to worship and adore God alone as the Holy Scriptures teach us and never ever can we even imagine differently. But according to our traditions and faith, we ask for the intercession of Mary and other saints in our prayers.

"This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from his throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy."

(Paul VI, *The Month of Mary*, 1967)

Today let us be united in prayer, in this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic seeking the prayerful support of Mary our Mother, Health of the Sick and our Perpetual Help.

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

NOVENA TO ST JUDE (HELPER OF THE HOPELESS)

O holy St Jude, apostle and
martyr.
Great in virtue and rich in
miracles
Near Kinsman of Jesus
Christ, faithful intercessor of
all who invoke you
Special patron in time of need
To you I have recourse from
the bottom of my heart to
help me in my present and
urgent need and grant my
urgent petition (*state need*)
In return promise to make
your name known
3 Our Fathers,
3 Hail Mary's,
3 Glorias

PARISH DAIRY

There will be celebration
of the Holy Eucharist
without a congregation
for the parish at the designat-
ed 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:

Douglas Richard Whittle

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Elizabeth Whittle, Illa Beckmann

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) Isr.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

Our special prayers this week

1. We pray in union with Pope Francis, who seeks the particular help of Mary during this pandemic, we may join with him in asking God to deliver the world from this virus and the anxiety which it is generating.
2. We pray for all those who serve as volunteers within the Church and wider community; and have stood ready to assist in different ways in the face of the COVID19 pandemic: that their generous service reveals the compassion and mercy of Christ to those for whom they care.
3. We pray that all who are sick with the coronavirus around the world, that they may receive the gift of healing and be strengthened in their spirit and in faith.
4. We pray that all who face financial stress at this time, those who have lost employment, or have no money for food and shelter, and for charities which seek to give them support, that governments and communities will work together to relieve this suffering.
5. We pray for those who are now vulnerable to the pandemic: those in refugee camps, those in close living in poor districts of cities in South America, Asia and Africa, those in crowded prisons, in migrant worker housing, and those on ships and liners, that they will not be forgotten by the rest of the world.
6. We pray for those who have died of the coronavirus in hospitals and in nursing homes, among health care workers, priests, religious and care givers, those who have died at home, and those who died longing to receive the Sacraments that eternal life will be theirs.

NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020
VOLUNTEER
CHANGING COMMUNITIES. CHANGING LIVES. **WEEK**



It's hard to know what the church and society are going to look like when we emerge from the COVID-19 restrictions.

The one constant throughout our pre and post-pandemic worlds, however, will be the volunteers who remain at the heart and soul of what we do.

As we prepare to celebrate a National Week in your honour, my thanks goes out to all the volunteers, wherever you may be offering witness – in parishes or prisons, hospitals, courts or respite and drop-in centres.

In spite of the many challenges posed by this medical crisis, you still stood ready, in ways both creative and courageous, to continue outreach on our behalf and for that the Archdiocese is indebted to you.

Without you we couldn't do or be what Jesus Christ calls us to do and be.

Most Rev Mark Coleridge
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

Loving God,
relying on the prayers of Mary, our mother,
we ask you to embrace our world with tenderness,
and in this time of universal need
lift us from anxiety to hope, from isolation
to community and from confusion to faith.

Acts of kindness...

While COVID-19 has affected us greatly we know that small acts of love and kindness are more important than ever. Pope Francis reminds us of this “Rivers do not drink their own water ... and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. Life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you.” – *Pope Francis*
What can you do this week to show your love and kindness for someone in the community? Perhaps taking a moment to thank them for their work or sharing with them flowers from your garden?

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - GOSPEL REFLECTION

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

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