



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

Phone: 3262 2859 After Hours Emergency: 0470 212 502 (Fr. Biju Thomas)

E-mail: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au Website: www.clayfieldparish.org.au

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

## *Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time* *19/20 September 2020*

### **Gospel Message—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Homily by Richard Leonard**

The film Forrest Gump was once described as the 'battler's triumph'. On one level it was about how the last will be first. This story picks up where the film left off. Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. On arrival St Peter informs him that there are three questions he has to answer before he can enter.

- 1) What days of the week begin with the letter T?
- 2) How many seconds are there in a year?
- 3) What is God's first name?

Forrest answers straight away, 'Shucks, there are two days in the week beginning with the letter T - Today and Tomorrow.' St Peter replies, 'That's not what I was thinking, but you have a point. How about the next one?' 'I think the only answer can be twelve.' 'Twelve?' St Peter asks. 'Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd. . . .' 'Hold it', interrupts St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this. Let's go to the final question.' 'Sure', says Forrest, it's Andy!' 'Andy?' exclaims an exasperated St Peter. 'OK, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with Andy as God's first name?' 'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all', Forrest replied. 'I learned it from the hymn . . . ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own.' St Peter opened the pearly gates and yelled, 'Run Forrest, run!'

In today's Gospel, in which the first labourers are paid the same wage as the afternoon workers, what the early birds didn't reckon on was that they could have come much later and got the same deal.

We would cynically call the afternoon workers, 'Johnny-come-latelies' and chances are if we were confronted with the same situation we would be with the complainers.

This story was important to the early Church because generations of Jews waited and longed for the Messiah and, like the first workers, they were the first to respond to the call of Jesus and to work in the field of his Kingdom. For some of the early Jewish-Christians, including St Peter, it came as a surprise that the Lord was calling Gentiles to the life and work of Jesus' Kingdom as well.

We can imagine that it rankled some of the early birds to see these Johnny-come-latelies taking charge of the Christian mission. This wasn't how it was supposed to be!

This story, then, is a wonderful commentary on how fickle we are and, luckily for us, how extraordinarily generous God is. What we see in ourselves and others is only a glimpse of what God is like. God is so much more: more loving; more forgiving; more compassionate; and more just.

And because God is so much greater than anything we could ask or imagine, we are constantly surprised at how he turns our expectations, our fears and predictions upside down. We constantly look for God in the big and spectacular and he comes to us poor, naked, sick, in prison and hungry. God speaks through the most surprising people at the most surprising times.

That's why those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, Things You Get for Free argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

As you enter the church would you please come forward to sit closer to the altar, therefore those who arrive later can sit behind the church, keeping the social distance.

Please remember, if you are sick with flu like symptoms, please stay at home until the sickness passes during this pandemic..



## **Preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

First Holy Communion preparation is underway and we are looking forward to welcoming many of these families to the weekend masses. This year we have 90 Children preparing for their First Holy Communion. Let us remember them all in our daily prayers.

## **Annual Catholic Campaign**

This year this campaign will take place on the weekend of 19th & 20th September. Your gift will be a blessing to struggling local families; to seminarians and retired priests; and children in our community in dire need of the love and care of a Catholic community.

## **We need your help**

We need more volunteers as marshals, readers, choir members and entrance welcomers.

Safeguarding Level 1 Training – Volunteers are reminded to complete their Level 1 Training online. Online training only takes 30 minutes to complete and is valid for 3 years. Please go to <http://archbne.org/welcome.....> If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the office.

We work together looking for a glorious and spirit filled future of our parish...

## **Catholic Leader News**

New laws passed through Queensland Parliament on Tuesday, September 8 mean religious institutions and their members are no longer able to use the sanctity of the confessional as a defence or excuse in child sex abuse matters. The laws passed with support from both major parties, and despite strong opposition from the Catholic Church.

## **Let us celebrate the Holy Rosary together.**

On Every Tuesday, we will be reciting Rosary in Blessed Virgin Mary's Chapel at 9.30 am, all are most welcome to join.

The Rosary is taken from the Latin word "rosarium" which means "crown of roses" or "garland of roses", the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize the Virgin Mary.

Many great popes, saints, and Christian leaders have exhorted us to pray the rosary. They say, one that can change our life, strengthen the family, bring peace to the world in a time of crisis, and win the salvation of souls .

In various apparitions, Mary has appeared holding a rosary and has asked that we continue to pray this prayer. She always leads us to her Son, and presents our needs before Him. Prayer is about developing our relationship with God, and loving Him more, so it makes sense to get to know Him through the events of the life of Christ that we meditate on during the rosary.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says:

'Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in lectio divina or the rosary. This form of prayerful reflection is of great value, but Christian prayer should go further to the knowledge of the love of the Lord Jesus, to union with him' (CCC 2708).

Rosaries are not just decorations. Battles have been won because people prayed the rosary! There have been hearts converted, and impossible intentions answered too. Your life can only be blessed if you start praying the rosary.



## **Hour of Prayer:**

**On Every Friday at St Agatha's church 9.30 – 10.30 am**

**Exposition of Holy Eucharist, Rosary, Silent Adoration And Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

**LIFE TEEN MASS EVERY SUNDAY 5.30PM**

# In our prayers we remember

**Those who have died recently:** Shirley Gardiner, John McAuliffe, Gloria Thorley.

**Those whose anniversaries occur about now:** Jim Cuming, Albert Tesch & Henry Weld.

And those who are unwell:

Shelley Winter, Muriel Moran, Margot Gooding, Duncan Pegg, Charlie Richards, Noreen Martin, Kateri Byrnes, Patrick (Paddy) Ryan, Nick Newton, 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.**

## September 21 Feast of St Matthew

St. Matthew was a tax collector turned apostle of Christ and evangelist. The name, Matthew means gift of God. Before, he met Jesus he worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ.

According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way.

After Jesus' Ascension, Matthew preached the Gospel, as Jesus asked his disciples to do. It is believed that he established Christian communities in Ethiopia and other sections of the continent of Africa. Tradition tells us



## Special prayer of the week

We pray that all our students and staff have had an enjoyable and refreshing break and will return to school for the new term filled with the light of God and enthusiasm for their task.

## Parish Diary

### Sacrament of First Holy Communion

First Communion Dates:

20, 21, 22 & 23 October, 6pm

2, 4, 5, & 6 November, 6pm

## Want to get into Mass and haven't booked?

Right now, as Mass attendee numbers are at 50% of church capacity, you will still have a very good chance to 'drop-into' Holy Mass. So if you missed booking into your normal Mass, you are still welcome to attend.

Our church is operating under a Covid Safe Plan to look after the safety of all attendees and your contact details will need to be recorded on entry.

Whatever Mass it is, please make a booking online before Friday at 9 am.

The "Trybooking" link is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD>. If you cannot do the booking, please contact the office before Friday Morning.

## What is RCIA?

- A process of Evangelization
- A process to help people learn about Jesus and to explore the great faith and tradition of the catholic church.
- A process to help people who are not catholic to enter the church at Easter Vigil. Both baptized in other faith communities and never baptized.

Over the past few weeks we have received many enquiries regarding RCIA. Do you know anyone who is exploring the idea of faith, or are you not Catholic and interested in taking the next step? Please Contact the Parish Office 32622859.

## BAPTISMS

We hold a preparation session for baptism on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am. 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.



## Mass Intentions

When you offer Mass intentions, if you have any preferred dates, please mention the date. According to availability, your intention will be offered on the preferred date.

**Readings - Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 27 September 2020**

1st Reading: Ezek 18:25-28 2nd Reading: 2:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32





## 2020 ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

**19 – 20 September 2020**

### Supporting those in need through Centacare

With your donation to the Annual Catholic Campaign you help continue the vital work Centacare does in our local communities. With your support, they provide ministries such as:

- Homelessness and housing support
- Hospital chaplaincy
- Domestic and family violence support
- Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care
- Murri ministry

### A joyful retirement for our elderly and frail priests

Providing a dignified retirement and healthcare to our elderly and unwell priests, who have faithfully served our parishes and communities.



### Mary MacKillop Catholic School Access Fund

Continuing the legacy of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the MacKillop Fund provides Catholic education bursaries to local children whose families are in financial and often spiritual distress.

### Ensuring the future of our faith

Your support of Holy Spirit Seminary provides a home for the formation and education of future priests for our faith.

## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS



### 1 COMMUNION UNDER ONE KIND

In those parishes (schools) where Communion is distributed under both kinds, the practice of distributing the precious blood will cease except for the celebrant only.



### 2 COMMUNION IN THE HAND

Given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by the transmission of saliva, Communion will be received only in the hand.



### 3 NO HOLY WATER

Holy water should be removed from stoops at the doors of Churches.



### 4 NO TOUCH AT SIGN OF PEACE

Clergy and parishioners should not touch each other by shaking hands at the kiss of peace. A nod or a smile is appropriate with the words "Peace be with you".



### 5 MINISTERS WASH HANDS

All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to wash their hands with soap and hot water or alcohol-based sanitiser before distribution of Holy Communion.



### 6 IF SICK, STAY HOME

People who are sick with flu like symptoms are to stay at home and not come to Mass until their sickness passes.

### COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

Orders are being taken for the 2021 Columban Calendar. If you would like a copy please email or call the Parish Office by Friday 11 September to order.

*You are invited to celebrate*

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am, 5.30pm

Due to the complexities and restrictions in place, a booking system has been set up. The "Trybooking" link is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD>.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9.00am

Tuesday 9.00am

Rosary 9.30am

Wednesday 9.00am

Friday 9.00am

Adoration 9.30am

**Please sign-in when you enter.**

*THANK YOU...*

Thank you so much for your generous contributions to the church.

The offerings last weekend 22/23 August:

1st Collection \$ 1052.00

2nd Collection \$ 284.50

Loose \$ 665.65

## Parish Administration

**Parish Administrator:**

Fr. Biju Thomas (thomasb@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Secretary:**

Mrs Rosemary Greer

**Family and Sacramental Ministry:**

Mrs Jane Cameron

**Finance Council Chair:**

Jodi Sutton

**Community & Mission Council Chair:** Mrs Mary-Caroline van Paassen

**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