



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-12.00pm

First Sunday of Advent *28/29 November 2020*

Advent – a time for Spiritual preparations

The four weeks of Advent begin on this Sunday and Advent is a sacred time; we begin, once again a new liturgical year.

The Season of Advent is a period of both repentance and celebration. We spend time in spiritual preparation for Christmas. We remember not only Christ's first coming to Earth as a human baby, but also celebrate his continued presence with us today through the Holy Spirit.

The word '*advent*' comes from the Latin term '*adventus*' which means '*arrival*' or '*coming*', particularly the arrival of something or someone of great significance.

The lighting of an Advent Wreath

Our churches and perhaps our homes will display an advent wreath. It is a traditional custom that originated in 16th-century Germany. The wreath symbolizes a number of things – the circle of ever-green represents everlasting life, while the four candles symbolize our hope and expectation of Our Savior's birth and also, as Brendan Byrne SJ says in his homily notes, in his Second Coming as Son of Man at the end of time.

Advent Candles

There are three purple candles, lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent, while the one pink candle is lit on *Gaudete* or rejoicing Sunday (the third Sunday in Advent).

On the first Sunday of Advent the first purple (or violet) candle is lit. This is called the '*Prophecy Candle*' and recalls the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus Christ. It represents hope or expectation of the coming Messiah.

On the Second Sunday of Advent the second purple candle, called the '*Bethlehem Candle*' is lit. This candle represents love and symbolises Christ's manger. **On the Third Sunday of Advent** the pink (or rose) candle is lit. This Sunday is called *Gaudete Sunday*. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning '*rejoice*'. The change from purple to pink signifies the transition in season from repentance to celebration. The pink candle is called the '*Shepherds' Candle*' and represents joy. The last purple candle is called the '*Angels' Candle*'. It is lit on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** and represents peace.

Traditionally, on Christmas Eve, we light the white candle that represents the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world. It represents purity.



May God bless us to experience profoundly, the Advent Season.

Ribbons are gone...!



So glad to see the ribbons have gone from the pews. But, **let us take self responsibility to adhere to the 1.5m social distancing.**

Please move to the front or centre of the Church when you arrive at Mass, therefore those who are late may get a seat easily.



Congratulations and Welcome to the new team of Community and Mission Council St Agatha's Giving Tree - 2020

The new CMC members will be commissioned on Tuesday 1 December at 7pm. On this day, the upcoming programmes of the parish will also be discussed.

School Mass on Monday, 30 December

Due to COVID19 restrictions, the end of School Mass will be celebrated on Monday 30 November at 9am at St Agatha's School Presentation Centre. **There will be no 9am Mass held in the Church on that day.** Everyone is most welcome to attend the Mass at the Presentation Centre. Please contact Fr Biju if you wish to attend this special Mass.

Year 6 Graduation

The Year 6 Graduation Liturgy will be held on Wednesday 2 December 6pm at the Church. Congratulations to all the year 6 girls!! May the Lord be with you and guide and protect you towards the next chapter of your lives.

School academic year ends

The school year ends at midday on Friday 4 December and will resume on Wednesday 27 January 2021. Happy holidays everyone!!

Finance Council Meeting

The Finance Council meeting was held on Tuesday 24 November. The ongoing finance income and expenses were reviewed. The council expressed their gratitude to Brian Rada who is taking care of the maintenance of the church, presbytery and land. The council discussed about the renovation to the after school care area. The after school care and its space is owned by the parish. It requires painting and changing of floor carpet etc.. The next Finance Council meeting will be held in February 2021.

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 20 December**, as members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them for Christmas. You may also leave the gift at the Parish Office.

Vigil Mass 6pm 24 December

It's that time of year again where we are seeking any interest from the parish children to play the role of Mary and Joseph at our Vigil Mass. If your child is aged 8-11 years old and would like to be in the running, please email us at clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au so that their name can be placed in the draw. The names will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky pair will be notified in the week before Christmas. We would also like to invite all children (no age restrictions) to come dressed as shepherds or angels to take part in the opening procession. Please notify us via return email.

St Agatha's Feast Day Celebrations

St Agatha's Feast Mass and celebrations will be held on Sunday 7 February 2021 at the Presentation Centre. Trybooking link and more information will be provided at a later date. Details will be published soon.

Christmas Raffle

Be in the running to win one of our amazing Christmas raffle prizes. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Many thanks to parishioners who have donated items for the raffles.

Have a Blessed holiday

Our parish family offers love and prayers for our school staff and students who venture into their summer holidays. May each one experience the love and joy of Christmas during this special time.

Baptismal Joy!!

This Sunday we welcome with great joy three new members of Christ's faithful people, Levi Tully, son of Adam Tully and Petra Golis; Jack and Max Edwards sons of Daniel and Christina Edwards. May they always know God's love and the support of this Christian Community.



In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

David Cilento, Peter Doyle

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Jack Abercrombie, Joseph Riba, Nikolaj Kure Snr, Joe Majerle, Elizabeth Majerle, Rosalind Shun Wah, Reg Shun Wah Jnr

And those who are unwell:

Andrea Frendo, Delphine Schulz, Nayland Pinkey, Mavis O'Brien, Anne Quinlan, Shelley Winter, 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, Peter Armstrong

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.

A small break

Immediately after Christmas, Fr Biju will be taking a small break for three days. Therefore, there will be no Holy Mass on 28th, 29th and 30th of December. On Thursday 31st we will celebrate the year's end Holy Mass of thanksgiving and on 1st January, we will begin the year with the celebration of Holy Mass at 9am.

Adore

Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2020 are for sale at the piety stall for \$5.00 each. Limited stock available. **Adore** is an 88-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (29 November 2020) through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 January 2021).

Columban Calendars

2021 Columban Calendars are for sale at the piety stall for \$9.00 each. Limited stock available. The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information. 2021 marks the 99th edition.

Christmas Celebrations

Amid Covid 19 we are planning to have our Christmas Masses in our Church as below:

6pm	Vigil Mass
12am	Midnight Mass
7 am	Holy Mass
9 am	Holy Mass



This year we may celebrate Christmas in a simple way. The details will be published soon.

Due to the present restrictions, numbers will be limited at all these Masses. A separate **"Trybooking"** link will be set up for all the Christmas Masses. **Bookings are essential.** The booking link will be advertised as soon as possible.

A big thank you to Jenny Close

It is great to see the Advent environment and wreaths in the Church as the part of the observations of Advent season. A big thank you to Jenny Close for these wonderful decorations..

Choir Practice for Christmas

Choir practice for our Christmas Masses has begun. New members are always welcome. If you would like to be a part of the choir, please contact Robyn Cuming on 0414 861 988

Holy Communion for the sick

Holy Communion can be taken to the sick and homebound people. If you know anybody that would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office.

Hour of Prayer:

Every Friday at St Agatha's Church immediately after the Holy Mass at 9 am.

Exposition of Holy Eucharist, Rosary, Silent Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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.

Celebrating the Holy Rosary together:

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

Readings - Second Sunday of Advent (Year B) - 6 December 2020

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14; Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Weekend roster for Ministers of the Word November 2020

READERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
28/29 Nov	Nic Kure	Jeanine Bygott	Wilma O'Connell	Joel Perkins
	Tomos Walters	Sr Cecily Foster	Joseph O'Brien	
5/6 Dec	Jack Williamson	Andrew Douglas	Phill Ryan	Max Van Balen
	Ann Goves	Hannah Dalisay		

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
28/29 Nov	Edward Foley			
5/6 Dec				

If you have any queries regarding volunteering in the Church please contact the office.

The Parish secretary organises the rosters for all the ministries.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm
Sunday 7.00am, 9.00am,
5.30pm

The "Trybooking" link is:

[https://
www.trybooking.com/
BKFQD](https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD).

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 30 November
End of School Mass 9.00am
At the Presentation Centre

Tuesday 9.00am

Rosary 9.30am

Wednesday 9.00am

Friday 9.00am,

Please sign-in when you enter.

THANK YOU...

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

The offerings last weekend 21/22 November:

1st Collection \$475.00

2nd Collection \$377.00

Loose \$655.05

Model of our Church

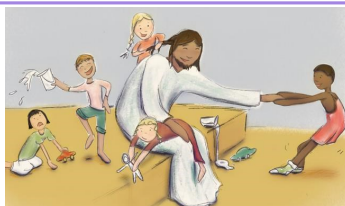
Thank you to John Gates who commissioned artisan Brian Martin to restore the model of our Church, which is on display in the Vestry. We appreciate the skill and obvious attention to detail Brian has given to the project.

If anyone knows the name of the person who actually constructed the model (at least 20 years ago), please let Fr Biju know or contact the Parish Office.



Children's liturgy

We have children's liturgy every Sunday during the liturgy of the word. Jane Cameron is the coordinator of Children's liturgy. Thanks to Jane.



Advent Adventures

We will be running Advent Adventures for the children during the 9am Masses on the 13th & 20th of December up in the O'Connell Centre. This is an interactive, activity based program with the aim of bringing meaning to the spirit of Christmas. Parents are most welcome to attend

Annual Finance Report

The annual Finance Report of St Agatha's Parish is enclosed in this week's newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions, please communicate them to Fr Biju or through the Parish Office.

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.

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

Local Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Representative:
Georgia Allan (0456 441 717)

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