



# 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

*Second Sunday of Advent  
5/6 December 2020*

## Congratulations to our new Community and Mission Council Members

The new parish Community and Mission Council members were commissioned and took charge as the new leaders of the parish. Manus Maher lighted the candle as the chairperson of the Community and Mission council. The Council members are Manus Maher, Joel Perkins, Alison Hall, Damien MacGinley, Phill Ryan, Lucy Crowe, Kerri McEwan, Chris Maher, Hannah Dalisay, Sally Bledsoe and Sean Finn.

The Community and Mission Council is the parish leadership team as well as a pastoral advisory council and a great help for the parish priest. This council may help the community in organizing pastoral activities; communal and social activities and fundraising events and other programmes. They are also the leaders of Holy Mass, by taking responsibilities of different ministries... They may strive for the better functioning of the parish.

While the Community and Mission Council are more social and community oriented, the Finance Council focus on the finance management of the parish. It helps the parish priest with the general administration and maintenance of building and land.

**At the same time the parish priest can plan and celebrate all the spiritual activities and liturgical programmes on his own, listening and understanding the majority of the community members, and for the spiritual wellbeing of the community based on church teaching and the needs of the time. All the social events, programmes and financial administrations may take care of all the parishioners, together with the leadership of Community and Mission Council and Finance Council, with the support of the parish priest.**

The council discussed about the upcoming programmes such as Christmas and St. Agatha's Feast Day and different other parish matters. The next meeting of CMC will be on 12 January presided by new chair person: Manus Maher. Manus Maher concluded the meeting by thanking everybody.

Fr Biju

### The First Christmas Crib

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, central Italy, in an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon secular materialism and gift giving.



In a cave near the village, St Francis of Assisi celebrated the birth of Christ, not with figures of the people and objects, or with actors, though St Francis did use live animals.

[Continue in 2nd page](#)

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.

“It happened in the third year before his death that St. Francis decided, in order to arouse devotion, to celebrate at Greccio with the greatest possible solemnity the memory of the birth of the Child Jesus. So that this would not be considered a type of novelty, he petitioned for and obtained permission from the Supreme Pontiff.

He had a crib prepared, hay carried in and an ox and an ass led to the place. The friars are summoned, the people come, the forest resounds with their voices and that venerable night is rendered brilliant and solemn by a multitude of bright lights and by resonant and harmonious hymns of praise.

The man of God stands before the crib, filled with affection, bathed in tears and overflowing with joy. A solemn Mass is celebrated over the crib, with Francis as deacon chanting the holy Gospel.

The hay from the crib was kept by the people and miraculously cured sick animals and drove away different kinds of pestilence. Thus God glorified his servant in every way and demonstrated the efficacy of his holy prayer by the evident signs of wonderful miracles”. (From the Life of St. Francis by St. Bonaventure)

*To Principal, teachers, staff and students at St Agatha's School, wishing you all a holy Christmas and happy holidays.*

## Rosters for Christmas

Are you available to be on roster at any of the Christmas Masses? Please fill in the sheets on the clipboard near the Vestry.

## Parish Office Christmas/New Year Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Wednesday 23 December and will re-open 8.30am Monday 4 January 2021.

## Covid 19 Updates

### How many people can attend a Mass ?

A maximum occupancy of 1 person per 2 square metres is permitted. Physical distancing is to be observed to the extent possible. This means that people should try to distance as much as they can while adhering to the current occupancy restriction of one person per 2 square metres. It may be challenging to achieve 1.5 metre physical distancing at full capacity, but people should distance as much as practically possible in these situations. People living in the same household are not required to physically distance from each other.

### Do we still need to physical distance using the 1.5m rule?

The Queensland Government has advised that the 1.5 metre social distancing rule is highly recommended, but not mandated. We are required to try to keep people as close to the 1.5 metre distance as reasonably possible while strictly adhering to the 1 person per 2 square metres occupancy.

### How should priests distribute Holy Communion in line with social distancing guidelines?

The priest should instruct people to distance themselves as they process to the altar. Avoid direct physical contact where possible and limit contact to hands. The priest should cleanse his hands with hand sanitiser before and after distributing communion. In the Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite, the Body of Christ should be administered only in the hand and the chalice should be received by the celebrant alone.

### What are the rules for funerals and weddings?

Funerals and weddings can occur with a maximum of 200 people. The maximum number is based on the size of the church, and as such is still governed by your occupancy under the 1 person per 2 sqm rule. Social distancing of 1.5 metres should be followed where possible.

### Are there penalties if we don't comply?

Yes. Noncompliance can result in an on-the-spot fine of \$1,334 for individuals and \$6,670 for the Parish under the Public Health Act 2005.

### From previous Newsletters...

#### 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.

#### 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](mailto: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 Giving Tree - 2020

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.

#### St Agatha's SVDP Christmas Appeal

The SVDP Christmas Appeal will be conducted over the weekends up to and including 19/20 December. The Conference visits people in a large area from Pinkenba to Bowen Hills. Assistance is provided for families and single people seeking food, clothing, furniture, and financial help. All donations will be gratefully appreciated. Appeal envelopes are available at the back of the Church. If making a donation by cheque, make payable to "St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference". Thank you.

# In our prayers we remember

## Those who have died recently:

David Cilento

## Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

James Power, Jack Abercrombie

## 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.*

## St Agatha's Catholic Primary School

### Accepting Enrolments Prep 2022

Have you lodged your enrolment forms for Prep 2022?

**If you have a child born between 1/7/16 - 30/06/17, they are eligible to commence Prep in 2022.**

Any existing or new families who has a child ready for Prep in 2022 should complete an Online Enrolment Application Form. Visit our website at [www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.stagathasclayfield.qld.edu.au)

Please note only completed applications will be considered for a place in Prep 2022.

- **NON-Sibling applications** close for Prep 2022 on Friday 12th March, 2021 and interview will take place for Non Siblings in April, 2021.
- **Sibling applications** close for Prep 2022 on Friday 9th April and interviews will take place for Siblings in May 2021.

### Limited Vacancies

### St Agatha's Catholic Primary School, Clayfield

We are now accepting Enrolments for Boys and Girls in our Co-Educational Catholic school. There are currently limited vacancies in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5.

For enquiries, please contact our Enrolment Secretary [pclaenrolments@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pclaenrolments@bne.catholic.edu.au) or phone 3326 9222.

**Advent: A time for preparation...**

## Prayer for the Advent Wreath - Second Sunday of Advent



Christ, the light of all who love you, help us to make ready for your birthday by preparing room for you in our hearts.

Let no selfishness of ours darken our homes.

Let no ill feelings spoil our fun. Draw us closer together by showing us the way to love you and others. Amen.

## 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.

## Children's liturgy

We have children's liturgy every Sunday during the liturgy of word. This week Erin Bledsoe and Sally Bledsoe will be assisting the children.

## Advent Adventures

We will be running Advent Adventures for the children during the 9am Masses on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Readings - Third Sunday of Advent (Year B) - 13 December 2020

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



## Weekend roster for Ministers of the Word November 2020

### READERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
5/6 Dec	Jack Williamson	Andrew Douglas	Phill Ryan	Max Van Balen
	Ann Goves	Annette Riba	Hannah Dalisay	
12/13 Dec	Alison Hall	Kirsty Stevens	Jane Arkinstall	
	Edward Foley	Marie Flynn	Erin Bledsoe	

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
5/6 Dec				
12/13 Dec				

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

The Parish secretary makes 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** 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 21/22 November:

**1st Collection \$1,287.05**

**2nd Collection \$551.00**

**Loose \$419.00**

If you are not part of the Planned Giving Program and would like to contribute via online internet banking, details are as follows:

Account name: St Agatha's Parish.

BSB number: 064 786

Account number: 0061 36002

### *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.

Due to the present restrictions, numbers will be limited at all these Masses. **Bookings are essential.** The booking link is the same as the weekend Masses. The Christmas Masses are specifically marked. <https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD>.

**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.

### **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

**E**ncourage practice of social distancing of 1.5m

**E**ncourage wearing a mask when distancing is not possible

**E**ncourage maintaining good hand hygiene practices

**R**equire people to stay home if sick and get tested

**C**ollect contact details for contact tracing

### **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 and Mission Council**

**Chair:** Mrs Mary-Caroline van Paassen

**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