



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent 19/20 December 2020

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

'Spirit Hovering'

Franco Zeffirelli was a great film director. In his film 'Jesus of Nazareth', he depicted the Annunciation in this way.

Mary is asleep at night. A gust of wind opens a window. Mary, startled and a little afraid, gets up and prays. As she prays we see her face change and her body bend over. With tears in her eyes, Mary looks up through the window at the moonlit sky and simply says 'Yes'. The swirling wind dies down at once.

That is beautiful imagery, trying to portray this extraordinary creative act in human affairs – in the life of this young woman.

How can one portray it? Zeffirelli takes the Jewish tradition of the Holy Spirit as the Divine Wind. The Hebrew word we translate as Spirit can just as well be translated breath or wind. In fact the old term 'Holy Ghost' is an unfortunate morphing of the English 'Holy Gust'. So Zeffirelli uses the wind to symbolise the presence of the Holy Spirit.

St Luke's account of the Annunciation also draws on the Jewish tradition. Let us listen to the first lines of the Jewish scriptures and then hear how Mary discerned what was happening with her.

**'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
Now the earth was a formless void.
There was darkness over the deep,
and God's spirit hovered over the water.
God said "Let there be light",
and there was light.'**

What is Mary depicted as hearing in the depths of her soul? It echoes the passage from Genesis:

**'The Holy Spirit will come upon you
and the power of the Most High
will cover you with its shadow.'**

Once again, the Holy Spirit hovers, this time over a young Jewish woman, and the most stupendously creative act in human history will take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied in Mary's womb.

How are we to respond to such a gospel? First, as a community.

Have you noticed that when we come together for the celebration of Mass, after the Holy, Holy, Holy the priest prays: **(Continue on second page...)**

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.

For emergency contact Fr Biju Thomas: 0470212502, Email: thomasb@bne.catholic.net.au

(Continued from first page...)

‘And so, Father, we bring you these gifts. We ask you to make them holy by the power of your Spirit.’

As he does so, the priest extends his hands so that they *hover* over the gifts of bread and wine. The symbolism is obvious. It alerts us to the fact that stupendous Divine creativity is about to transform material creation. With the words of consecration, what was simply bread and wine becomes the real presence of Our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

And individually, how can we respond to this gospel in our lives?

Mary knew her Jewish scriptures. A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God’s will because she understood the imagery and symbolism of the Genesis story. So, we need to get to know the scriptures more intimately so that we will have the language skills to converse with God. God needs conversation partners in order to enter into human history and change the way things would otherwise pan out.

We need to read the gospels so that we can understand when God attempts to speak to our souls.

And during the next few days before Christmas let us be alert. To use Zeffirelli’s imagery, if we hear the wind blowing, let us resist the urge to get up and close the window. Let it rattle a bit, however disconcerting.

Since our baptisms, the Divine Wind, the Holy Gust, the Holy Spirit, has been hovering over each of us wanting to do great things. It may be that the time has come for a Marian response: ‘Be it done unto me according to your word.’

Advent Liturgy for Children is continued...

During the Holy Mass at 9am this Sunday 20th December, the children have the second session of Advent Liturgy. Thanks to Jane for coordinating it. Thank you to Julie Kordic and Kate Wick who are helping in the liturgy and teaching the children about the true meaning of Christmas through storytelling, discussion and play. All children are most welcome. Parents can attend if your child is a little reluctant.



Time for personal renewal

Fr Biju is available at any time for the sacrament of reconciliation, and also for the dates and times listed below. Don’t be worried about what words to say. Sometimes we may not have anything to say; still let us move to the confessional to get the absolution and blessing during this advent season and prepare for Christmas.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Fr Biju will be in the confessional during these times)

Saturday 19	4.15pm - 4.30pm	Sunday 20	6.15am - 6.45am
Sunday 20	8.15am - 8.45am	Sunday 20	4.45pm - 5.15pm
Monday 21	8.30am– 8.50am, 9.30am - 10.00am		
Tuesday 22	8.30am– 8.50am, 9.30am - 10.00am		

2021 Parish Calendar - only one per family

The 2021 Parish Calendar, featuring illustrations from our young parishioners are available. If you have not received a copy via the school, please collect your copy this weekend.

Catholic Leader - free copies

The Catholic Leader’s 2020 Christmas edition, available for free in parishes this weekend 20 December, will be the first physical newspaper printed since the March 22 edition. The Christmas edition will also be available as a digital newspaper through a free subscription. This will be the only print newspaper available to readers until further notice.

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Robert Gunthorpe

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Douglas Munt, Bill McAvoy, Stan McKenzie, Roman Pavlyshn, Bruce Woolnough, Hugh McBride, Bernie McBride, Eric Brumptom

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.

On the Fourth week of Advent we remember the gift of Love we have in Christ.

The light of the candles is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect love.



PRAYER for the ADVENT WREATH

Lord, our God, we praise You for Jesus Christ Your son, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Saviour of us all.

God our Father, thank you for loving us, and for sending us Jesus to teach us about your love.

Help us to remember that your love will never come to an end.

Strengthen us to love others as you love us. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light all the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets in our Christmas Raffle. Raffle will be drawn this Sunday 20 December at the 9am Mass.

St Agatha's SVDP Christmas Appeal

The SVDP Christmas Appeal will be conducted over the weekends up to and including 19/20 December. 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".

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.

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.

Important Updates Increased numbers for all Christmas Masses

We have been advised that we can increase attendance numbers at all of our Christmas Masses.

It is very important that everyone

books for contact tracing purposes.

The "Trybooking" link is:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD>.

No Holy Mass

We will not have the 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.

Readings - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - 27 December 2020

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; 2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Weekend roster for Ministers of the Word - December 2020

READERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
19/20 Dec	Cate Barrett	Andrew Douglas	Dan Butler	Max Van Balen
	Ann Goves		Hannah Dalisay	
26/27 Dec	Jenny Close	Sr Cecily Foster	Eileen Duncan	
	Tomos Walters	Chris Maher	Joseph Tan	

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

DATE	5.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
19/20 Dec	Jenny Close	Manus Maher	Andrea Whata	Jo Hayes
26/27 Dec	Ann Goves			

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>.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
 Rosary 9.30am
Wednesday 9.00am

Please sign-in when you enter for weekday Masses only.

Thursday 24th/Friday 25th
 Christmas Masses.

THANK YOU...

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

The offerings last weekend 12/13 December:

1st Collection \$811.00

2nd Collection \$298.00

Loose \$1,620.35

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



5.30 pm Carols
5.50pm Lighting the Candles
6.00pm Holy Mass, Nativity Scene

11.30pm Carols
12am Midnight Mass
7 am Holy Mass
9 am Holy Mass



Covid safe plan for Vigil Mass according to the guidelines:

1. Access to Church and check-in through front doors only.
2. There will be no access through side doors. Please contact office if you need access to disabled parking and access through eastern door.
3. Ushers will take you to your seats.
4. Pews will be filled from front to back.
5. Each pew will have a limited number.
6. Please arrive anytime from 5pm for ease of process.
7. If wanting to be seated with/near extended family, please arrive and check-in together.

Bookings are essential for all

Christmas Masses

The booking link is the same as the weekend Masses. The Christmas Masses are specifically marked.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKFQD>.

If you encounter any difficulties in booking, please contact parish office.

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: Manus Maher

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