



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

Phone: 3262 2859 After Hours Emergency: 0470 212 502

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



Happy B'day dear Jesus

Christmas comes once again, filled with great joy...

We love Christmas, we love all the decorations and lights and the warmth of Christmas.

It is a time for children, who fill homes with energy, excitement, and sheer joy.

It is a time for the aged, who cherish Christmas memories, drawn from decades of Christmas celebrations.

Yes, Christmas is for everyone.


People all over the world are celebrating Christmas with its humble and heavenly scenes bringing joy, warmth and hope to the hearts of young and old everywhere.

Actually, it is my fantasy about Christmas that the child Jesus is born in me ... and I see, whoever walks around me, praising God, singing the Gloria like angels:

Continue in next page....



Masks are mandatory inside the church



*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to those who enjoy his favour”.*

At the same time, I have doubts about dreaming of a Christmas like this being celebrated in heaven ...

I am aware that Christmas is also for those who grieve ...

It is the experience of the events that night in humble Bethlehem. The baby Jesus was born into a world of grief, suffering and loss. I am worried that there are so many people, who, even now, are suffering grief that feels very much like the shadow of death. *How can they celebrate Christmas, and how might we celebrate with them?* On the very evening of the celebration of Christ's birth, Christians are called to remember all the suffering people, otherwise we may miss the real Christmas.

We are all praying for the protection from Covid19, and on this Christmas Day we specially pray, asking our Lord to look with favour on us, on our suffering people, on young and old who have lost their jobs and are struggling to maintain their livelihoods. Sustain and give new heart to all ...

I pray with all my heart that wherever you are on Christmas Day, that you smile with great joy. I Pray you may have a very Blessed Christmas.

*A beautiful new year is about to begin, and with it, so much hope!!
May God bless you, keep you, protect you, shelter you,
and help you at all times ...*

Fr Biju

Message for the Holy Family Sunday

In many of the catholic traditions, in many places, it is important for families, and even necessary for the home to be blessed. The priest would say some prayers, asking God to bless the house as well as the members of the family. And then he will go around the house, even going to each room, to sprinkle holy water.

But actually, not many people know or understand the meaning of the ritual. Some say that the blessing will cleanse the house asking God to cleanse it. Some families will even light the candles at the family altar.

Now, holy water and lighted candles will remind us of the symbols of a particular sacrament – the sacrament of baptism. The home is indeed the first place to live out our baptism commitment. Because the home should be where love is, and where there is love, there is God. And if our home is the dwelling place of God, then our home is to be like a domestic church – meaning to say, our home is to be a house of prayer. So that is why we must remember to live out our baptismal commitment to love, and first and foremost, at home.

At times, living as members of the family can be so painful and hurtful, that we think it might be better off living alone.

The Holy Family showed us how to live together in love and to bear the pain together. And let us also call upon the grace of our baptism so that our families will be a blessing for the Church and for the world.

Prayer For Family

Dear Lord,
Bless our family.
Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in the family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph,
pray for the head of our family.
Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary,
pray for the mother of our family.
Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing.
For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be.

Lord Jesus,
bless the children of our family.
Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents.
Make them more and more like You.
Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and strength and grace before God and man. Amen

Sunday, 26 December

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Before the end of the year, before I go...

We come to the end of 2021; and it is the last weekend of the year, and today we are celebrating the feast of the Holy Family. On the last day of the year, we may be asking: So what happened during the past 364 days? There are many things to remember, loving, joyful, painful, Covid 19 ...

Today, I am not just thinking of 364 days but about my 684 blessed days in our parish; how wonderful it has been, how loving these days were at Clayfield..! I remember, the love, the prayers, the good words, and the appreciation that I received from our parishioners, and I tell you most sincerely that I will always remember you with immense gratitude.

I have been so happy to live in Clayfield, living with loving and good people. We have always celebrated the Holy Mass with gratitude and love. On our great feasts, and all other occasions, and all the ordinary days... and during the difficult days of lockdown and covid19, we all have stood together in love and unity and made the past two years beautiful and grace filled.

It has been a beautiful and memorable journey with you in this parish and I greatly appreciate those sharing and helping moments with you. I thank all who have been so good to me, helping me in different ways. All our dear parishioners who supported me so much, the most loving staff and students of our school and many more... I thank them all... It was so great to have an experience standing at the Crombie Street as a volunteer with school children.

It is my hope and desire that not only will we remember each other but also that we will be strengthened in our prayers...

Because I'm leaving to go to my new parish community at Aspley, I won't be able to share my thoughts with you in this newsletter anymore... I remember how much I have benefited from being able to speak to you through this newsletter and in my simple homilies.

Before going away, let me impart an Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be ever at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields.

And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand...

Let us thank God for all the blessings we have received during the last two year.

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

Words of Farewell

St Agatha's Parish is sad to see Fr Biju leave. St Agatha's parish has appreciated and thank you for your pastoral care over the last two years as the parish navigated uncharted waters of COVID pandemic with masks and lockdowns. We are sure your time at St Dymphna's Aspley Parish will be a great success. Wishing you God's blessings always.

On behalf of parish community,

Manus Maher, Chair Person, Community and Mission Council

Roster for December/January

Date	5pm	7am	9am	5.30pm
26 December	No Mass	Sr Cecily Foster	Amanda Bell	No Mass
<i>The Holy Family</i>				
Communion Minister 26 December		Manus Maher		
PowerPoint Clicker 26 December				
Collectors/Marshall				
1/2 January	Judy Bartels	Sr Cecily Foster	Eileen Duncan	Julia Dixon
<i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	Paul Bartels	Karen Birtles	Joseph O'Brien	Max Van Balen

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Dr Kevin Hourigan, Lorraine Vass, Gerry Withey

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Eve, Noel and Peter Turnbull, John Hele, Hugh McBride, Bernie McBride, Eric Brumpton, Roman Pavlyshyn, Bruce Woolnough, Florance Hinson, Doren Haine, Dell Murphy, Maria Bruzzese, Rosalina Adornato, Stan McKenzie

Those who are unwell:

Deanne O'Shea, Harry Arkininstall, Pauline Cass, Gavin Taylor, Peter Smethurst

Preparing for next Sunday's readings

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph :
26 December 2021

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

2022 News

Fr Neville Yun will join the parish on 5th of February, on the feast of St Agatha. He will be away for holidays during January and Fr. John Fowles will be assisting the parish in his absence.

Mass times for the month of January 2022

Tuesday 9am

Thursday 9am

Friday 9am

There will be no Mass on Mondays or Wednesdays. During the month of January Fr. John Fowles will be celebrating Holy Mass.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michele Lemeraz, Angela Berlese Esposito and Tom Treston who were the lucky winners of our Christmas raffle.

Thank you

A huge thank you the parishioners response to the Christmas Hampers. It is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas to you all... *SVDP Conference.*

Date Claimer

St Agatha's Feast Day, Saturday 5 February 2022. Mass at **4pm**, followed by BBQ and Disco at the Presentation Centre, St Agatha's School. More information will follow in the new year.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday 7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Friday 31 December
9am

JANUARY 2022

Tuesday 9am

Thursday 9am

Friday 9am



Support St. Agatha's Parish

Your financial support of St Agatha's Church is always appreciated.

Ways to financially support your parish:

Direct debit, Place your offerings in the collection plates during the Mass or Planned Giving Envelopes

The Parish Giving App.
Hover the camera on your smart phone over the QR code and tap on the link to the Parish Giving facility.

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

PLEASE NOTE NEW BANK DETAILS

Account name: St Agatha's Parish Clayfield

BSB number: 064 786

Account number: 100006157



Parish Administration

Parish Administrator: Fr. Biju Thomas
Email: thomasb@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer

E-mail: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

Phone: 3262 2859

Family and Sacramental Ministry:

Mrs Jane Cameron

Finance Council Chair: Jodi Sutton

Community and Mission Council

Chair: Manus Maher

Aggies Youth: Ewan McPherson

Local Safeguarding Representative:
(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