



ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm, Friday: 8.30am-12.00pm

Third Sunday of Advent 11/12 December 2021

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas.

'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next.

(Continues in third page...)



Jane speaks...

As my 14 years of service to the St Agatha's Parish draws to a close, I look back and reflect with a thankful and grateful heart. I am incredibly thankful for Maureen Long who put my name forward 14 years ago to fill the position. I am thankful for the opportunities granted me to serve this community under the strong leadership of Fr Adrian, Fr Anthony and Fr Biju & for their support & guidance which helped me grow and flourish in my various roles here. From what started out as a temporary fill in job, I could never have imagined that 14 years later I would still be here. Something else I could never have imagined even up until a month ago, that I would be leaving the role that I have absolutely loved to take on a permanent position at another Parish but as we know life is unpredictable and the opportunity presented itself.

My role here at St Agatha's evolved over the years from simple admin to sacramental co-ordinator and all things related to children's & family ministry. I have always said to people that I get to do the "Fun Stuff" and that, it has been. It has been fun and an absolute blessing & joy from the start to work with such a wonderful team of people including Peter Bowden and of course our beautiful Rosemary. Rosemary and I have been firm friends and a winning team from the start with never a cross word and in complete sync with each other and this I am so thankful & grateful for. I will miss our daily routine of tea, talk and work, not necessarily in that order.

Finally, I am so thankful and feel so privileged to have worked with this community and I take with me some cherished forever memories & strong friendships. Although I will be working elsewhere, St Agatha's will always be my home and I will continue to contribute but from the other side. With much love.. Jane Cameron

Fr Anthony Mellor celebrating Holy Mass with the religious Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem

This Sunday at the 9am Mass we welcome Fr Anthony Mellor; members of the Order of St Lazarus and special guests.

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.

Blessed

Extra copies of the Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2021 are now available at \$5.00 each.

Columban Calendars

Extra copies of the 2022 Columban Calendars are now available at \$10.00 each.

2022 Parish Calendar

Copies of the 2022 Parish Calendar are now available. If you have not yet received a copy through the school, please take one today.

Confession

Fr Biju is available for confession before and after the Holy Mass on week days and on Saturday at 4.15 pm to 4.45 and after Mass on Saturday, as well as before Mass on Sundays 4.45 pm to 5.15 and after Mass on Sundays. He is also available any time by appointment.



Advent Adventures The final day



The final day for Advent Adventures for the children is next Sunday 19 December 9am Mass. This is an interactive, activity based program with the aim of bringing meaning to the spirit of Christmas. Parents are most welcome to attend.





O come let us adore him

Our Christmas Crib is made for our children.

Little Charlotte invites all the children of the parish to come forward and have a glance of Baby Jesus, Joseph and Mary, shepherds and who else...!?

Vigil Mass 6pm 24 December

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.

(from first page...)

We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ. (Richard Leonard)

**Bookings for the Christmas Masses are now open and will close
Wednesday 22 December.**

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

The Third Advent Candle

Today, is the third Sunday of advent, and the third Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy, today we light the rose candle, it is also known as the **Shepherd's Candle**.

As we light the third advent candle, may its light remind us to be people of joy, and as we are closer to Christmas, these days are very important to prepare for Christmas.

Prayer For The Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the third candle (pink) of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. **Amen.**



Roster for October

Date	5pm	7am	9am	5.30pm
11/12 December	Judy Bartels	Karen Birtles	Amanda Bell	Julia Dixon
	Tomos Walter	Jeanine Bygott	Erin Bledsoe	Matthew Crossley
18/19 December	Terry Manso	Dianne Eden	Jane Arkinstall	Alison Hall
	Annette Riba	Nick Eden	Hannah Arkinstall	Max Van Balen
Communion Minister 11/12 December	Edward Foley	Marie Deuble	George Arkinstall	Alexa Velasquez
PowerPoint Clicker 11/12 December	Nicole Conlon	Paul Marshall	Bell Family	Tom and Jess Luxford
Collectors/Marshall		Kevin Court	MacGinley Family	

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

Julie Taylor

Those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Douglas Munt, Alice Shun Wah, Anna, Peter, Cammie Ashton

Those who are unwell:

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

Advent Adventures Sunday 12 December, 9am

Catechists: Jane Cameron

Preparing for next Sunday's readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent : 19 December 2021

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44

Parish Office Christmas/New Year Closure

The Parish Office will be closed from 12pm Wednesday 22 December and will re-open 8.30am Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Holy Masses: Christmas



Friday 24 Dec. 5.30pm Carols
6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols, Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 December 7.00am & 9.00am

Bookings for the Christmas Masses are now open and will close Wednesday 22 December.

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

St Agatha's SVDP Christmas Appeal

All donations will be gratefully appreciated. Appeal envelopes can be found at the entrance and side doors of the Church. We have the facility to accept electronic deposits, into its bank account.

Account name:

St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference

BSB: 064-786, Account: 100026667.

please email : sa4011@svdpqld.org.au

St Agatha's Vincent De Paul Giving Tree - 2021

Bless the needy, take a tag from the tree and bring a gift and keep it at the base of the tree. Gifts to be in by **Sunday 19 December**, as members of St Vincent de Paul will be distributing them for Christmas.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday 7.00am

9.00am

5.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday: 9.00am

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.00am

Adoration 9.30am

Reconciliation 9.30am

Reconciliation before Mass every weekday and Saturday before the 5pm Mass or any time by appointment.

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