



# ST. AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Rd Clayfield Q 4011

Phone: 3262 2859

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

Priest: Urgent After Hours Telephone: 0416 387 188

## Third Sunday of Advent 17 December 2023 (YEAR B)

Hi all,

We are speeding towards Christmas. **Rejoice in Anticipation**

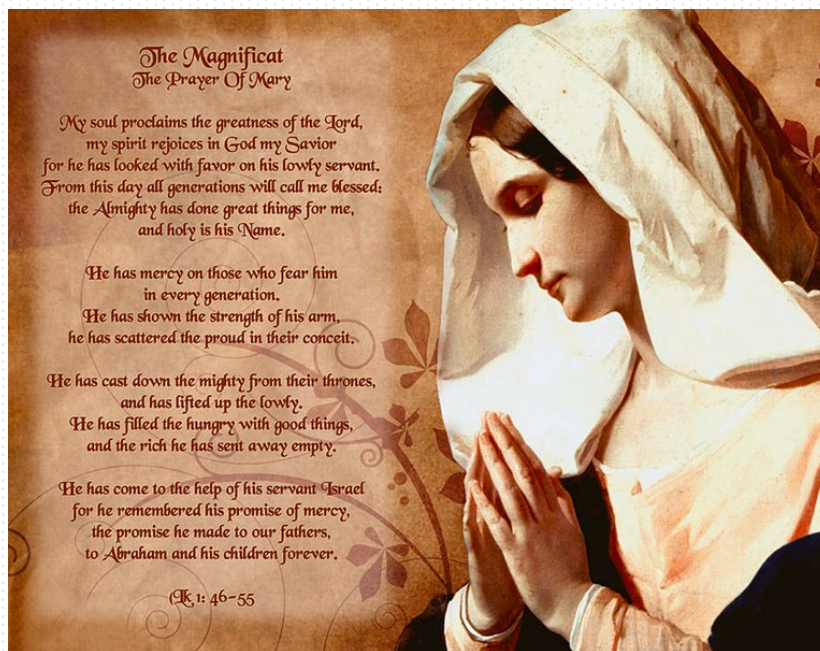
The readings for the Third Sunday of Advent fill our hearts with anticipation and joy as we journey through the season of Advent. Isaiah's prophecy paints a vivid picture of the Messiah, the anointed one, who comes to bring good news to the oppressed and proclaim freedom to the captives. This vision echoes through the ages, resonating with the deep longing of humanity for a saviour, a liberator, and a bearer of glad tidings.

As we listen to Mary's Magnificat, we are invited to join in her song of praise. Mary, a humble and obedient servant, exalts in the greatness of God's mercy and faithfulness. Her soul magnifies the Lord as she reflects on the extraordinary role she has been chosen to play in God's redemptive plan. In her joy, we find inspiration to magnify the Lord in our own lives, recognizing the blessings and grace He pours upon us.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians adds a layer to our reflection. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances," he exhorts. These are not mere suggestions but a roadmap for a life attuned to the Advent spirit. The anticipation of Christ's coming should fill our hearts with unceasing joy, a joy that is not contingent on our circumstances but rooted in our relationship with the Lord.

In the Gospel according to John, we encounter John the Baptist, the voice crying out in the wilderness, preparing the way for the Messiah. His humility and self-awareness are evident as he denies being the Light but points to the true Light that is coming into the world. John's role as a witness calls us to reflect on our own testimony. How are we, like John, preparing the way for Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us?

As we reflect on these readings, let us embrace the spirit of Advent with open hearts. Let us rejoice in the anticipation of the Messiah's coming, finding inspiration in the joy of Mary, the exhortation of Paul, and the witness of John the Baptist. May our lives be a testimony to the Light that shines in the darkness, and may we prepare the way for Christ with unceasing joy and gratitude.



Have a blessed and joyful third week of Advent. Fr Nev

**Children's Liturgy for Prep to Year 4** this Sunday 17 December at the 8am Mass.

We invite children to come along to learn more about Jesus and the gospel through child-friendly, engaging activities.

**Children's Liturgy will also be held next Sunday 24 December, 8am Mass.**



**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** meet every fortnight at 5.00pm. Next meeting will be held on Monday 18 December at the Parish Office.

### Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed from midday Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will reopen Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Blessings for a Holy Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

*Rosemary and Sandy*



### SVDP Christmas Appeal

The St Agatha's Clayfield SVDP Conference is commencing its Christmas Appeal.

At present with the escalating costs of living and rising interest rates and rents, there is an increased demand for emergency relief.

Our conference is able to assist people in need, with food, clothing, furniture and bills. In the new year, requests for assistance with back-to-school expenses will also be received.

Please give generously to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, so that the Conference can continue to provide critical support to those who request assistance. Appeal envelopes can be found on the pews.

### St Agatha's Vincent De Paul Giving Tree 2023

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

**this Sunday 17 December,**

as members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them next week for Christmas.



### Piety Stall

For sale at the Piety Stall

**Columban Calendars \$10.00 each**

And various other items e.g.

Christmas cards | Christmas gift wallet cards

Rosary beads

St Christopher medals and keyrings

Baby Boy's/Girl's First Christmas Ornament

Biography cards of various saints

**Cash or card accepted.**

If there is something that you would like but is not in stock, please let Liz know and we will endeavour to get it in for you. If you would like to assist Liz in any way, please contact Rosemary at the Parish Office.

### AVOCATION VIEW: Third Sunday in Advent - B

There was a man sent by God who came as a witness to testify to the Light so that through this person all people might believe.

Is your name in the Gospel today?

Items for inclusion in this newsletter, please email to: [clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au) or call 3262 2859. Cut off deadline - 5.00pm Tuesday.

### Parents/Guardians please note:

For safety reasons, children **are not permitted** up in the Choir Loft unless accompanied by an adult.

### Christmas Masses - volunteers needed

The Parish is calling for volunteers to assist with the Christmas Masses this year. We are looking for Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, PowerPoint Clickers and Welcomers. If you and/or your family are going to be attending any of the Christmas Masses, please consider whether you could help out!!

Please place your names on the roster sheet at the back of the Church.

Christmas blessings to all!



### Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle will be drawn this Sunday 17 December at the 8am Mass. Many thanks to everyone who helped sell tickets, everyone who purchased tickets and to the parishioner who kindly donated items for the raffle.



Your gift helps support the health of children, individuals and families like Petrolina's, through the work of Sr Carolina in Timor-Leste, as well as many other similar projects around the world. Catholic Mission gratefully acknowledges:

St Agatha's Parish - Clayfield



Signed:

*[Signature]*

### Advent and Christmas Reflection Books available:

The Parish has purchased copies of the booklet **"The Sign—Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections 2023"**. These are produced by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and provide beautiful and thoughtful reflections in this Advent and Christmas season. The booklets are available at the church door.

**A \$5.00 donation would be welcomed and a donation box is provided nearby.**



## Baptismal Joy!!



This Sunday we welcome with great joy two new member of Christ's faithful people: Emilia Colwell, daughter of John Colwell and Sarah Miranda and Mabel Wheeler, daughter of Alexander and Grace Wheeler. May they always know God's love and the support of this Christian Community.

# ADVENT ADVENTURES

Primary- Aged Holiday Program  
Tuesday 19th December, 2023

\$12 PER CHILD  
TICKETS LIMITED

Time: Dropoff from 8:30am, 9:00am start - pickup at 4:00pm.  
Place: Mother of Mercy Parish Centre, Hendra.  
Sausage sizzle lunch provided.

Online ticket purchase essential.

<https://app.tickets.org.au/StAgathasParish/AdventAdventuresatHendra2023>

Registrations close this Sunday 17 December

### catholic encounter KIDS

17th January  
9 am - 5 pm  
Mother of Mercy Parish Centre, Hendra

For primary school aged children.  
A day filled with fun, games, activities and engaging messages and prayer.

More info here

[www.encountercatholickids.com.au/clayfieldhendra](http://www.encountercatholickids.com.au/clayfieldhendra)

### PARISH GIVING APP – QR CODE (Collection Plate):



The Parish Giving App is part of the Archdiocese of Brisbane and has been set up specifically for parishioners to electronically connect via their mobile phone to donate to their own parish. Please scan the QR code attached to the church collection baskets to your mobile telephone and follow the prompts to complete your giving donation. You can also access the Parish Giving App by scanning the QR code above. Your generous financial support of the parish is greatly appreciated.

### Cathedral of St Stephen Advent Concert Series



Susan Collins (violin)  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December | 5.00pm  
Music and poetry to celebrate the Advent season



Tickets through [www.trybooking.com/CNGCC](http://www.trybooking.com/CNGCC)



## ST AGATHA'S Masses for 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas 2023

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
(4th Sunday of Advent)**  
Sunday 8.00am Mass



**Christmas Vigil Mass**  
Sunday 24 December 6.00pm Mass  
Carols from 5.30pm

**Midnight Mass**  
Sunday 24 December  
Carols from 11.30pm



**Christmas Day**  
Monday 25 December  
8.00am Mass

### ALPHA

Have you been involved with Alpha?  
Are you curious to know more about Alpha? All are invited to the...



### Festive Season Alpha Reunion.



Please BYO drinks and a plate of food to share to the MoM parish centre, 9 Bowman Street, Hendra.

**Time:** 6-8pm

**Date:** Wednesday 27 December, no need to RSVP.

We're planning for our next Alpha to begin in May 2024. Please consider inviting yourself and/or someone else. All are welcome. For more information, please go to: [www.alpha.org.au/try](http://www.alpha.org.au/try)

### The Catholic Leader

As you may already now, the Catholic Leader will no longer be sending out bulk deliveries to parishes, and will stop production of their digital online editions from the end of the year. Their new subscription -only model means they will be able to print their newspaper with less excess and streamline delivery so readers will receive the newspaper straight to their door. The Catholic Leader is always full of local and global Church news, and well worth reading. If you would like to receive it, there are **subscription envelopes at the back of the church** or you can call their office on 07 3324 3555 or go online on <https://catholicleader.com.au/subscribe/> (Every new subscription will go into a draw for a chance to win from a range of weekly prizes like movie tickets, books and restaurant vouchers.)

## Roster for December 2023

|                                     | 8am           | 5.30pm                   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 17 December                         | Eileen Duncan | Declan Harte             |
| 3rd Sunday of Advent<br>YEAR B      | Erin Bledsoe  | Volunteer                |
| Eucharistic Minister<br>17 December |               |                          |
| PowerPoint Clicker<br>17 December   | Bell Family   | Tom & Jess Luxford       |
| 24 December                         | Andrew Pippia | Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm |
| 4th Sunday of Advent<br>YEAR B      | Volunteer     | Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm |

We acknowledge the Turrbal and Jagera people, the traditional custodians of the Land on which St Agatha's is built. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

### Mother of Mercy Parish Saturday Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every Saturday, including holiday times, from 6am -5pm at OLHC Hendra for personal prayer. Entry to the Church is via the Bowman St side door. Please sign in and out. For enquiries, please contact Julie Anne on 0418 193 235 or Pat on 0411 597 781.

## In our prayers we remember

### Those who have died recently:

Jack Fischer

### Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Stan McKenzie, Alice Mary Shun Wah; Peter, Noel and Eve Turnbull; Max, Alan & Jennifer Leutenegger; Lenard Williamson, Fillipe Pereira, Xantipa Gomes

### Those who are unwell: Simon Grisales



### Mother of Mercy Parish Prayer Engine of the Parish

This prayer group prays for the intentions of the parish and the personal intentions of parishioners. Prayer intentions can be placed in the special baskets at each of the churches (St Agatha's and Hendra) and Parish Office (Hendra).

The Prayer Engine will meet at OLHC Church, Hendra every Tuesday, from 1:00-2:30pm.

All are welcome to join in prayer!

## Received into Full Initiation



Daniel Athanasellis will be received into Full Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion) into the Catholic Church this Sunday 17 December at the 5.30pm Mass at St Agatha's, along with Melinda Scott, a St Agatha's school mum, who will be received into the Catholic Church, after being baptised Anglican.

Please join Daniel and Melinda and their families and friends on this wonderful occasion.

Congratulations and blessings Daniel and Melinda!

The Team would like to thank Fr Nev for his commitment to this very important Ministry - always attending the meetings and being a significant part of each journey.

Thanks also to Monica and Rosemary for their admin support.

The Team - Kate, Lorelei, Janeen and Joseph

### Parish Administration

**Parish Administrator:** Fr. Neville Yun

Email: [clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev. Dr. Peter Pellican

Email: [pellicaanp@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:pellicaanp@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Rosemary Greer

Email: [clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Children and Families

**Pastoral Associate:** Sandra Cantarutti

Email: [cantaruttis@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cantaruttis@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Phone:** 3262 2859

Finance Council Chair:

### Community and Mission Council

Chair: Matthew Crossley

**Local Safeguarding Representative:**

Catriona McPherson (0456 441 717)

[lsr.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:lsr.clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au)

### 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



### Readings for 24 December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent (YEAR B)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

### Support St. Agatha's Parish

We very much appreciate your continued financial assistance and donations to the Parish are most warmly welcomed.

Ways to financially support your parish:

\* Direct debit (please contact Parish Office)

\* Place your offerings in the collection plates during the Mass

\* Planned Giving Envelopes or

\* The Parish Giving App:

Scan the QR code (or the code attached to the church

collection plates), to your

mobile telephone and follow the prompts to complete your giving donation.

\* If you wish, you can also contribute via online internet banking, details are as follows:

### BANK DETAILS

Account name: Clayfield Parish

BSB number: 064 786

Account number: 100006157

Reference: PGDonation and your surname



### Mass Times

**St Agatha's, Clayfield**

Sunday 8.00am

5.30pm

**Our Lady Help of Christians, Hendra**

Saturday 5.00pm

Sunday 9.30am

**St Cecilia's, Hamilton:**

Saturday 4.30pm

**St John's, Northgate:**

Sunday 7.30am

**Reconciliation/ Confession:**

by appointment

**Weekday Masses**

**St Agatha's, Clayfield**

Thursday 9am

**St John's, Northgate**

Friday 9am