



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent 24 December 2023 (YEAR B)

Hi all,

Welcome to a busy weekend for both the 4th Sun of Advent and Christmas.

I pray Advent has been a wonderful time of preparing yourselves for Jesus' coming and how he will grow in your hearts in 2024. Remember to thank Jesus for this year in amidst your celebration. I would like to wish everyone a holy, safe and restful Christmas. Remember the Holy family didn't have the smoothest first Christmas but God was present and never left them.



Below is a photo from our combined staff and volunteers lunch. Thank you to all of our volunteers at all four communities for your commitment of service and time. One last thing - **I'll be blessing salt and water for at my last two weekends at OLHC and St Agatha masses only. (30-31st Dec and 6-7th Jan)**



Gloria in excelsis Deo... Fr Nev

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS LIKE MARY

Dear friends, today is the fourth Sunday of Advent and the last Sunday before Christmas. The long-awaited light of God is almost here! In the Advent season, we prepare for the arrival of Christ, not only in the world but also in our hearts.

Mary serves as a role model for the ideal reception of Christ, as seen in today's Gospel. As we heard, Mary listened and sought clarity when the Angel announced that she would bear and give birth to Christ. Christ has given us his Word to listen to, reflect on, and be nourished in, and his Church to guard us. No doubt, welcoming Christ entails listening as Mary and David did today.

Mary listened and welcomed the message from the Angel despite initially being unsettled by the Angel's salutation. Friends, do we accept God's will quickly even when they appear too strange?

Mary's significant role in the economy of salvation is rooted in her 'fiat'. As God's handmaid, she believed by claiming all the Angel revealed to her. Today, we are called to become the handmaid of the Lord, people who do the will of the Father.

This belief of hers presupposed her obedience to God's invitation to be the *Theotokos*- God-bearer. Through her obedience, she became an instrument of reconciling humanity to God.

Friends, this Christmas, we are invited to conceive and give birth to Jesus by listening, accepting, believing, and obeying as Mary did. This is to make Jesus continually present in the world. Let us open our hearts so Christ may be born in them!
Christmas Blessings... Val Ohaneje.

Children's Liturgy for Prep to Year 4 this Sunday 24 December at the 8am Mass.

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



This is the last Children's Liturgy for the year. Children's Liturgy will resume Sunday 28 January 2024

Welcome

This Sunday we welcome Fr John Gillen who will be celebrating our 8am (4th Sunday of Advent) Mass.

Parish Office

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

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

Rosemary and Sandy



Father Nev, together with Rosemary and Sandy, wish all of you every blessing at Christmas and a very happy New Year. Travel safe and enjoy this special time of gathering with family and friends.

Farewell and thank you Valentine Ohaneje

Val will be leaving the parish after Christmas.

We would like to thank him for his assistance to the parish and his presence among us. Val, blessings for your future studies in the Seminary. God bless you always.

The SVDP Christmas Appeal

Envelopes are still available at the back of the Church.

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.

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.

A VOCATION VIEW: Fourth Sunday in Advent - B

Every person who has ever bore a child and who has freely vowed away this honour helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?

Items for inclusion in this newsletter, please email to: 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 Raffle

Congratulations to our lucky raffle winner **Persephone Delahunty**.

Many thanks to everyone who helped sell tickets, purchased tickets and to the parishioner who kindly donated items for the raffle. **A total of \$430.00 was raised.** Thank you!!

Thank you to all parish volunteers.

We would very much wish to thank all our fabulous volunteers for the dedicated support of parish activities throughout the year.



Morning tea... Thank you!!

Many thanks to all our Sunday morning tea roster teams, and also to everyone who bakes and cooks goodies to be shared. It's becoming quite an event and a beautiful way for the community to gather and get to know each other better.

Please note: there will be no morning teas (following the 8am Mass) for the next four weeks. The next morning tea will be held on **Sunday 21 January**.

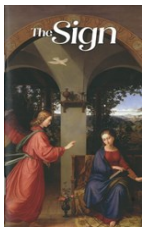
On a lighter note... A few days before Christmas, two young brothers were spending the night at their grandparent's house. When it was time to go to bed, and anxious to do the right thing, they both knelt down to say their prayers. Suddenly, the younger one began to do so in a very loud voice.

"Dear Lord, please ask Santa Claus to bring me a play-station, a mountain-bike and a telescope."
His older brother leaned over and nudged his brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf."
"I know" he replied, "But Grandma is!"



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.**





CMC Chair Matthew Crossley with Fr Nev after presenting a Papal Blessing celebrating Fr Nev's ten year anniversary of his ordination as a Priest.



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



Thank you! Through your generosity, you have been the face of Christ for those in need in your local community.



At the end of 2023, nine priests will retire from active ministry.

Your support will provide them a home and basic healthcare in their retirement.



Holy Spirit Seminary welcomed three young men to the transitional diaconate in 2023.

Through your gift, you ensure priests for the future of our faith.



Six Mary MacKillop Bursary recipients graduated Year 12 in 2023.

Your support makes it possible to award bursaries to eleven new children in 2024.



With your gift, you have given women and children fleeing domestic violence a safe space this Christmas.

Because of you, they look forward to a brighter 2024.



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

Sunday 24th 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



Roster for December 2023/January 2024

	8am	
24 December	Andrew Pippia	<i>Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm</i>
<i>4th Sunday of Advent YEAR B</i>	Amanda Bell	<i>Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm</i>
Eucharistic Minister 24 December		
PowerPoint Clicker 24 December	Bell Family	<i>Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm</i>
31 December	Annette Riba	Giselle Hossinger
<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph YEAR B</i>	Phill Ryan	Catie Kelly

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 Street side door. Please sign in and out. For enquiries, please contact Julie Anne on 0418 193 235 or Pat on 0411 597 781.

Mother of Mercy Parish Prayer Engine of the Parish

The Prayer Engine is on recess for the holidays, resuming Tuesday 30 January 2024

In our prayers we remember

Those who have died recently:

William Abraham

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Stan McKenzie, Florence Hinson, Roman Pavlyshyn, Bruce Woolnough

Those who are unwell: Simon Grisales



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA - The Nativity of the Lord

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

Parish Administration

Parish Administrator: Fr. Neville Yun

Email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Deacon: Rev. Dr. Peter Pellicaan

Email: pellicaanp@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Greer

Email: clayfield@bne.catholic.net.au

Children and Families

Pastoral Associate: Sandra Cantarutti

Email: 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

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 31 December 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (YEAR B)
Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

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