



ST AGATHA'S PARISH

52 Oriel Road Clayfield Q 4011

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

Web <http://www.clayfieldparish.org.au>

Very Rev Dr Adrian Farrelly KCHS JCD

Mrs Catherine Newell

Mrs Jane Cameron

Monday - Friday: 8.00 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30pm

Please note Office is closed 12.30 - 1.30pm.

Mrs Carol Sayers

Ms Sarah Ash



Jesus Communion Mission

Administrator

Executive Assistant

Administrative Assistant

Parish Office Hours

School Principal

Outside School Hours Care Coordinator

A Parish of the North East Deanery in pastoral association with Hamilton Hendra Northgate Nundah Banyo Wavell Heights Aspley Geebung Zillmere Bracken Ridge Sandgate and Brighton

18 December - 4th Sunday of Advent Year B

1st Reading: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; 2nd Reading: Rom 16:25-27; Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



For the children, young and old, 7 sleeps to go until Christmas day. The business of the season increases with shopping, card sending, parties and gatherings of different kinds. Children look forward to presents, giving and receiving. Adults look forward to that too and also some days off. Joys and tensions form part of the fabric of the season. Songs of peace and good will are well and good but they highlight in many lives the presence of hostility and ill-will.

On this last Sunday of Advent we come to the events leading directly up to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth, notably through the Gospel account of the Annunciation to Mary.

Appropriately, the first reading, from 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-11, 16, sets the birth of Jesus within a wider arc of expectation by describing the promise to David alluded to in the Gospel.

Everything turns around the idea of 'house'. After many years of campaigning, David has finally conquered Jerusalem and established himself there in his own permanent palace ('house of cedar'). But the symbol of the Lord's presence, the Ark of the Covenant, still resides in the impermanent home ('tent') in which it accompanied the Israelites in their years of wandering. David determines to remedy the situation by building a fitting 'house' (temple) for the Lord.

But, as so often when human beings plan to do something for God, the Lord has other ideas. Instead of David building a house for the Lord, the Lord will build a 'house' for him – not a house of bricks and mortar but a 'house' in the sense of a royal dynasty that will stand for ever and be the guarantee of Israel's security and peace. This is the famous 'throne oracle' upon which the legitimacy of the Davidic monarchy was seen to rest.

Solomon, David's son would build a temple, the ruins of which are still a wonder to see in Old Jerusalem. But, as we arrive at the Christian perspective with the Gospel, Luke 1:26-38, we discover that the Lord's promise to build David an everlasting 'house' is to be realised in a way that will surpass all previous expectation.

Cont next page.....

Christmas Mass Times

24 December:

- Christmas Eve - Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm with carols from 5.30 pm.
- Midnight Mass with carols from 11.30 pm.

25 December, Christmas Day :

- Mass at 7.00 am and 9.00 am.



PLEASE NOTE:

NO 5.30 pm Mass on Christmas Day

ROSTERS for Christmas.

Are you available - Christmas Masses?

Needed: Communion Ministers, at all Masses. Some Altar Servers 2 Adult Readers at 6.pm Vigil.



If you can help please write your name on the clipboards near sacristy.

Children who want to be in the Entrance Procession at the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve are asked to dress as angels, shepherds or wise people.



Youth Happenings
 NEDYM - North East Deanery Youth Ministry

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB

"FINDING TIME FOR GOD IN OUR BUSY LIVES"

MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2012

**Royal English Hotel
 - In the Bistro -
 Nundah Village - 7.00PM**

**Guest Speakers
 Watch This Space**

OPEN TO ANYONE 18 AND OVER

Meals available

Spirituality in the Pub will be happening on the 4th Monday of every month

**For further details on all events contact:
 Deanery Youth Co-ordinator:
 Narelle Guyder, Mob 0419-661-744
 Email narelle@nedym.com**

Christmas Choir Practice

Tuesday 20 December

6.00pm—7.30pm

St Agatha's Church - All welcome



CHRISTMAS

AT THE PIETY STALL

ON SALE NOW



- * Christmas Cards & Gifts
- * Columban Calendars 2012

LOOKING AHEAD

REVISED MASS TIMES 26/12/11 – 2/1/12

**MASSES: Monday 26 December 6.30am
 Friday 30 December 9.00am**

NO MASS

TUESDAY 27, WEDNESDAY 28 OR THURSDAY 29

**OFFICE: Closes Friday 23 December
 Reopens Thursday 29 December.**

**ALSO PLEASE NOTE - NO MASS
 MONDAY 2 JANUARY 2012**

Continued from previous page.....

The story of the Annunciation to Mary takes us, of course, into the world of the Infancy stories of Matthew and Luke, where angels come and go in a way seen elsewhere in the Gospels only in the resurrection narratives. As in those later narratives, what is being signalled here, in imagery and form taken from the Old Testament annunciations of birth – especially those of Samson and Samuel – is an intensity of divine intervention into human affairs, something that cannot simply be told literally and realistically. This is what we must hold on to, even if we can – and perhaps should – relieve the more critically-minded in our congregations of the need to take it all literally.

Gabriel's announcement to Mary comes in two distinct stages, separated by a query on her part. After the opening greeting and assurance, Mary is told that she is to be the mother of a child, whose titles ('Son of the Most High') and role indicate that he will be the long-awaited Messiah of conventional expectation: not a divine figure but a virtuous and just ruler of David's line who would restore freedom, justice and prosperity to Israel. Mary asks how, in her current situation this birth is to occur. She is married (the NRSV translation 'engaged' is too weak) but, in accordance with the custom of the time where women married very young, is still living in her parental home and not yet having relations with her husband.

The angel's majestic explanation lifts everything to a totally new, transcendent level. The birth will not come about through relations with her husband but through her being 'overshadowed' by the creative power of God's Holy Spirit. Thus the child to be born from her will be God's 'Son' in a unique way, vastly outstripping conventional expectation. The God who did not wish to dwell in a house built by David, will come to dwell among us in the person of a son of David whose reign will not end.

Central in all of this is Mary's faith – as the later remark of her cousin Elizabeth will bring out: 'Blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled' (1:45). Unlike Zechariah in connection with the birth of John the Baptist (1:11-19), Mary does not simply have to believe that God will overcome barrenness and old age in order to bring about the promised new life; she has to believe that God's power will take the place of the male parent in a completely unparalleled way. At the angel's bidding, her faith goes in search of the 'sign' constituted by Elizabeth's pregnancy; it does not rest upon it. Supremely here, in the person of Mary, we learn that it is people of faith who channel God's presence and power into the world.

Fr Brendan Byrne and Fr Adrian Farrelly

In our prayers we remember



We pray for those who have died:

Sr Margaret Press, John Cardinal Foley, Sadie O'Brien, Brian Hill, Craig Power, Mary Gibson, Ursula O'Connor, Louise James, Ken Long.

And for those whose anniversaries occur about now:

Grace Russo, Dell Murphy, Estelle Rees, Doris Webb, Adrian Martin, Noela Hoskins, Douglas Munt, Desmond Roberts, Gladys and Lesley Roberts, Mary Dethlefs, Florence Hinson,.

Those who are sick:

Sue Hall, Patricia Woolhouse, Judy Freeman, Jan Heslewood, Johnathon Adams, Rosaria Tieppo, Jennifer Baker, Jayne Burns, Monica Hay, Maia Balsillie, Ryan Masterson, Pamela Bright, Charles Kannengiesser, Ronald McCann, Alison Doust, Garry Ahern, Jonathan O'Brien, Alma Kaus, Peter Wood, Andrea Collis, Gabrielle Greathead, Vera Jokic, Chas Hudson, Don Morrison, Rosina Waugh, Tim Devlin, Sr Mary McDonald, Loretta Giles.

You will note a number of names which have been on the sick list for many months have been removed. If you would like to have a name put back on please contact the parish office. Also a reminder to let us know when names are no longer required to be shown on the list.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

At this special time of year SVDP has it's **CHRISTMAS APPEAL**. Please brighten someone's Christmas and give them hope for a better future. Envelopes are on the seats for your donation.



St Agatha's Giving Tree - for 2011

At Christmas time we may be overindulged with food and presents whilst many go without basic necessities. The Giving Tree is loaded with little 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 within the next few weeks.

Members of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting the gifts and distributing them for Christmas.

This Sunday

Sunday 18th December at 2.30pm in the Cathedral of St Stephen

Archbishop Emeritus John Bathersby

will celebrate a Mass to conclude his ministry as the Archbishop of Brisbane

All welcome. Mass will be followed by afternoon tea on the lawns of the Cathedral Precinct. No reserved seating or car parking, and the Cathedral Car Park also has a limited number of spaces available.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER 18 December Edition

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS JOHN BATHERSBY

Also

Christmas Edition December 25 will contain photos and coverage today's Farewell Mass

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

With great joy we welcome into the Catholic Church Community:



Christian Long
Helen Hoessler
Maxwell Turnbull
Samantha Garcia
Cormac McGuire
Noa Campbell
Ava Campbell
Nicholas Kelly
Hannah Elliott
Cameron Elliott

who will be Baptised this Sunday

THE TRADING CIRCLE

100 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington Ph: 3217 5382

**Two Christmas presents for the price of one!!
Gifts with meaning and feeling.**

The Trading Circle is a not for profit fair trade project established by the Good Shepherd Sisters which helps empower women to earn the money they and their families need to survive and live with dignity. The Trading Circle works in partnership with women in African, Asian and Latin American countries who live in situations of severe poverty.

Open 7 days a week and with free gift wrapping

Opposite the Paddington Central (Woollies) - handy parking

2nd Rite of Reconciliation:

St Cecilia's, Hamilton: Monday 19 December 7pm.

PARISH ROSTERS

Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable on your rostered day.

	6.00pm	7.00am	9.00am	5.30pm
<u>READERS</u>				
17/18 December	Marian Nolan Anthony Domanti	Sr Cecily Foster Kirsty Steven	Katrina Murphy Delphine Schultz Peter Johnson	Life Teen Mass

COMMUNION MINISTERS

17/18 December	Ann Goves	Blue Doyle	Peter Ryan	Life Teen Mass
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Gift Bearers will be arranged by the Communion Minister, except for the Young Parishioners' Mass and special masses.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will resume 29 January

ORGANISTS:

17/18 December	Robyn Cuming	Mark Leung	Catriona McPherson
24/25 December	Mark Sayers	Mark Leung	Robyn Cuming

SANCTUARY CARERS

17/18 December	Beverley O'Brien
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Note: All Readers and Children's Liturgy Team Members are asked to pick up their copy of *Break Open the Word* for Year B. Books (with your name on them) are available on table in church foyer.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: As per volunteers sheets
Please arrive in good time and let Fr Adrian know you have arrived.
(NB Readers will be emailed a copy of their reading)

Volunteers needed. These important ministries need more volunteers. Please contact Fr Farrelly or the Parish Office on 3262 2859 if you would like to help.

WEEKEND TIMETABLE

Masses:	Saturday	6.00 pm	
	Sunday	7.00 am	
		9.00 am	
		5.30 pm	

Reconciliation: Saturday 5 pm – 5.30 pm

Rosary: Before most masses

WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

Mass:	Monday	6.30 am
Mass:	Wednesday	9.00 am
Mass:	Thursday	9.00 am
Mass:	Friday	9.00 am

A list of Mass times for neighbouring churches is on the Notice Board in the foyer. Copies are available from the Parish Office.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

If you need to speak to a priest about an urgent matter, please phone pager 3835 9885.

Baptismal Preparation Meeting

We hold a preparation session for baptism on the First Sunday of the month after the 9.00 am Mass.

We celebrate baptism on the 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. For further information and bookings, please phone the parish office on 3262 2859.



Care and Concern



- Do you need transport to a doctor's appointment?
- Do you need a meal cooked for you?
- Would you like someone to visit you?

If you or someone you know would like assistance with transport, meals or visits please call St Agatha's Care & Concern on **0419 988 811**.

We are available and ready to help.

JUST CALL.



As a parishioner, do you have some time to give to help in the above ministry?

Are you interested in helping to bring parishioners to Mass?

If you can help please contact the parish office on 3262 2859 or email: clayfld@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Calendar

December

Tuesday 20

- **Xmas Choir Practice 6pm Church**

Quote.....

'Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope. It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.'

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

The CATHOLIC LEADER
On sale \$2.00

Readings - 25 December - Christmas Day (Mass during the Day) Year B
1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10; 2nd Reading Hebrews 1:1-6; Gospel John 1:1-18
(Christmas Readers will be emailed a copy of their reading)