



Love your
neighbours.

Love your
enemies.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

23 February 2025

Weekly bulletin for the parish of St Agatha's, Pennant Hills

TODAY'S READINGS

OUR MASSES

Mon - Fri 6:30am, 9:30am
Saturday: 8am, 6pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm

OUR SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation: 8:30 - 9:30am Sat
Anointing of The Sick: 11am last Wed of month
Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, RCIA: By appt

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday: 1pm - 2pm
Saturday: After 8am Mass
1st Friday of the Month 6:00pm - 8:30pm

OUR PRAYER GROUPS

Monday - Friday 12 noon: Online Rosary
Monday 1pm: Cenacle
Wednesday 6pm: Legion of Mary
Saturday 10am: Bible Study (also Online)
1st Sunday of the Month 11.30am: Rosary

OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr Raphael Kimaro AJ Parish Priest
Fr Peter deSouza Assistant Priest
Chatty Zaragoza Parish Secretary
Anne Bailey Parish Worker (Seniors)
Tina Muscat Catechist & Sacramental Coordinator

**For emergencies requiring a Priest
please call 0478 386 277 or 9484 1427**

OUR PLACE

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Phone: 9484 1427
Website: www.stagatha.org.au
School: 7256 2108

Email addresses:

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Postal Address: PO Box 127
Pennant Hills NSW 1715
Parish School: Anna Montgomery - Principal
7256 2108
School Email: saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,11-13,22-23

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. In the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul lying asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt? The Lord forbid that I should raise my hand against the Lord's anointed! But now take the spear beside his head and the pitcher of water and let us go away.' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. He called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm: 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Safeguarding in our Parish

Safeguarding our parish children is everyone's responsibility.

At St Agatha's, we value our children, teenagers and young adults and want them to feel safe and supported at all times.

Baptisms for February

As a faith community, we pray for
Rafael Joe Rios



Please pray for the sick in our community:

Pope Francis, Ramon Pimentel, Anthony Walters, Bro Rizki W, Eva Grace del Gallego, Caroline Ugarte, Jenny Jones, Antonia Harkin, Mick & Dianne Carroll, Kate McFadzen, Aileen Feeney, Evelyn Mousa, Hans, Denis Murphy, Marion Cogan, Patricia Farley, Precious Tamayo, Romana Choi Sung Ah, Eleanor Raftery, Paul Gooley, Andrew Chung, Margaret Donges, Linda Garrett, Michael Thom, Jill Howcroft, Cath Hennessey, Henry Field, Jane McGirr, Jo Helmers, Anita Lozaga, Colin Garrity, Gerard Kenny, Vic Juan, Kain Hatch, Pammie Lee, Louise Williams, Siena Maria Burns, Mary Kent, Becky Lozano, Michael & Joan Bradley, Sarah Raftery, Jose & Josefina Carreno, Ramon Quizon, Leslie Styles, Joe Lozaga, Margaret Doyle, Dorina Petre

Please pray for our recently deceased:

Fr Joe Martins, Antonio Gerometta, Connie Capri, Terese Masserot, Michael Dudman, Nena Ripoll Araullo, Michael Lyons, Dorothy Keohane, Juan (Jimmy) Gimenez, Rhondda Lucas, Edward Werbicki, Peter Chua Cheng Hin, Patria Tolentino, Fr Michael O'Toole, Michael Lennon, Ignacio Cristaudo, Agnello Mendes, Evelyn Yvonne Koelmeyer

And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Elizabeth Houchin, Jeremy Doowage, James Kwan, Joseph Fernandopulle, Roshika Therese Fernando, Carmella Ferraro, Rose Nieto, Teodoro John Gomes, Julia Nieto, Jose Nieto, Leslie D'Souza, Irene Muliylil, Fr Denis Callahan, Wilfred Lobo, Hilda Thomas, Michael Rochford, Nicola Rochford, Leah & Patrick Sequeira



Praying the Rosary as a Parish

Monday 1pm (Cenacle Prayer Group)

Tuesday - Friday 9am (before 9:30am Mass)

Saturday 8.30am (after 8am Mass)

1st Sunday of Month (after 10:30am Mass)

Daily Rosary Monday - Friday at 12noon

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/92575468077> passcode: 159403

First Sunday Rosary

We will pray the Rosary together as a parish next Sunday, 2nd March after the **10:30am Mass**.



Next Weekend's Readings

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Eccl 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45

Next Week's Parish Ministers		2 March 2025			
Mass	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm
Readers	C Underwood D Mockler	R Abrams G Abrams	M Encarnacion P Houchin	S Thomas Y Thomas	S D'Silva L D'Silva
Prep	D'Costa Family	P Cheung	Leung Family	Rossi Family	Menezes Family
Euch Minister	S D'Cunha U D'Cunha T Higgins	J Batten D Bower T Cheung	B Myers L Myers T Abdipranoto	P Anderson T Anderson S Kottaram	M Chan M D'Silva V Logan
Music	Christian & Leisha		Louisa	M Berry	P Newton
Counters	Y Daniels J Daniels G Miller	Floral Ministry	A Budhi	Altar Society	T Anderson V Logan M d Gallego

Reflection

First Reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23) David turns down an opportunity to kill Saul because he believes it would not be right before God.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:45-49) Paul draws parallels between Adam and Christ: to Adam we owe the life of earth; to Christ the life of heaven.

Gospel (Luke 6:27-38) Jesus stresses the duty of loving one's enemy and the obligations of fraternal charity.

Because of his great successes on the battlefield, David was very popular with the people. As a result, Saul saw him as a threat and sought to kill him. The First Reading contains the moving story of how David had an opportunity to kill Saul, but refused to do so because in his eyes Saul, as king of Israel, was a sacred person.

This passage prepares us for the Gospel, which contains Jesus' injunction to love our enemies. Jesus goes on to stress the obligations of charity. The ideal of love to which his followers must aspire is that of God himself. We are to love as God loves.

Jesus' vision of human behaviour is at such variance with the view most people have, that many people regard it as humanly unachievable, and therefore ignore it. From a human point of view it is unachievable. We must rely on the grace of God.



Funeral Notice

The funeral liturgy for Antonio Gerometta will be held at St Agatha's at 12:30pm, Wednesday 26th February 2025

May he rest in peace and may he experience all he had looked forward to in faith and hope

First Anointing Mass for the year at 11am this Wednesday, 26th Feb. Stay for a cuppa and a chat. Please consider offering to help with transport.



**Last weekend of the First Fruits Offering Campaign
Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd of February 2025**

Our First Fruits Offering will end this Sunday, 23rd of February 2025. Parishioners have well received it, and we thank you for your interest, generosity and ongoing support.

YOUTH NIGHT THIS SATURDAY - Calling ALL Youth Come and Join!
7:00pm - 9:00pm, Saturday, 1st March, School Hall



For assistance, please call 9477 5010.



Save the Date!
Parish Farewell for Fr Stephen. Sunday, 23rd March.

Please pray for the 59 children preparing for First Reconciliation and for their parents and group leaders meeting over the coming weeks.

Fr Stephen will celebrate 10:30am Mass, which will be followed by Lunch in the Hall. More details to come.

Gemma Sisia who in 2002 opened The School of St Jude in Arusha, Tanzania with just three students, is coming to Australia. St Jude has grown to three schools with 1,800 students including a girls only secondary school. Gemma is speaking at 7:30pm, Sunday, 16th March at the School Hall about the School of St Jude. Pls come and join us. For info, contact Trish 0428604405.



Letter to the Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Broken Bay

12 February 2025

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In February 2023 I committed the Diocese to an innovative annual Diocesan Safeguarding Awareness Framework. This framework seeks to increase awareness of our own personal and collective ongoing responsibility as a Church community to be vigilant in safeguarding. This is a commitment marked by consistency and constancy.

In 2024, the theme I chose for Safeguarding Awareness was “The Voice of the Vulnerable with a particular focus on Domestic Family Violence.” This informed our in-services for Clergy and Chancery personnel and provided us with the opportunity to focus again on our Diocesan resource, ‘A Catholic response to Domestic Violence.’ It is very important that this not be forgotten, and again I commend the continuing use of the resource to everyone, available at the following [link](#).

After consultation and prayerful consideration, I have chosen for 2025 our Safeguarding Awareness theme as, “Raising mental health awareness: Encouraging hope for the future.”

In the first instance, the theme highlights the particular crisis in mental health in our society today, especially experienced by young people. Recent data indicates that 38.8% of individuals aged 16–24 have experienced a mental condition in the past year, and the prevalence of mental conditions among young Australians has seen a substantial increase, rising from 26% in 2007 to 39% in 2021. This surge is driven primarily by heightened rates of anxiety in young people, intensifying feelings of isolation, uncertainty, and stress. Further, the pervasive use of social media has been linked to increased psychological distress, with a 120% rise in such distress among 15–24-year-olds between 2011 and 2021.

Notwithstanding, between 2020-2022, an alarming 40.5% of people aged 16-85 years living in New South Wales have identified with a lifetime mental illness, and nearly 1 in 5 have experienced a mental illness for longer than 12 months. These figures are represented in daily stories of distress, evidenced in our parish communities, schools, and social services agencies. In response to these challenges, there is a pressing need for comprehensive reforms in mental health services as agencies struggle to meet the demand, as well as the development of new pastoral skills to attend to those who come to us in distress.

The Safeguarding Awareness theme for 2025, however, also stresses the dynamism of Hope which speaks always of the possibility of a future. Hope is the key theme in the 2025 Holy Year of Jubilee, declared by Pope Francis and now being celebrated through our Diocese. As we read in the document implementing the Jubilee year:

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

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Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm. It is gratifying to see the energy they demonstrate, for example, by rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to help when disasters strike and people are in need. Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security, or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless. Escaping into drugs, risk-taking and the pursuit of momentary pleasure does greater harm to them in particular, since it closes them to life's beauty and richness, and can lead to depression and even self-destructive actions. For this reason, the Jubilee should inspire the Church to make greater efforts to reach out to them. With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world! (*Spes non confundit n.12*)

Therefore, through the adoption of the Safeguarding Awareness theme for 2025, may we commit to identify and initiate new ways to bring hope to those who are struggling, in different ways, with anxiety, loneliness, and depression, for the Lord himself says to all, "Come to me all who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28). I convey my deep gratitude to all our communities, schools, and agencies for the manner in which they already act as beacons of hope in a world that struggles with the effects of isolation and fragmentation. Through this year's theme, may they continue to bring forth new initiatives and practices to welcome and accompany those struggling with their mental well-being.

A calendar of events to support the theme across our Parishes, the Chancery, CatholicCare Broken Bay, and Catholic Schools Broken Bay is being developed, and will be published soon.

I commend the Safeguarding Awareness theme for 2025 to you all,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Anthony Randazzo'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay