

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

OUR PRAYER GROUPS

Monday - Friday 12 noon:

Monday 1pm:

Cenacle

Wednesday 6pm:

Saturday 10am:

Bible Study (also Online)

1st Sunday of the Month 11.30am:

Rosary

OUR PARISH TEAM

Fr Raphael Kimaro AJ
Fr Peter deSouza
Chatty Zaragoza
Anne Bailey
Parish Worker (Seniors)
Tina Muscat
Parish & 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:

stagathas@bbcatholic.org.au
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Parish Office 20 Boundary Road (Callahan Centre) Pennant Hills NSW 2120 Postal Address: PO Box 127

Pennant Hills NSW 1715

Parish School: Anna Montgomery - Principal
7256 2108

School Email: saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au



First Sunday of Lent

Year C

9 March 2025

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

TODAY'S READINGS

Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the pannier from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement: "My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, the Lord, have given me." 'You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm: 90(91): 1-2, 10-15 Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Scripture says: The word (that is the faith we proclaim) is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

CONVERSION	COMMUNITY	MISSION

Baptisms for March 2025

As a faith community, we pray for John Irving Black, Sofija Nicolina Brunskill, Luca Alfonso Fitzgerald, Kaia Lily Hendricks, Gianna Patricia Villella



Please pray for the sick in our community:

Pope Francis, Darryl Fernandes, Jose & Josefina Carreno, Michael & Joan Bradley, Manuel Lozano, Ramon Pimentel, Anthony Walters, Bro Rizki W, Eva Grace del Gallego, Jenny Jones, Antonia Harkin, Kate McFadzen, Aileen Feeney, Evelyn Mousa, Hans, Denis Murphy, Marion Coglan, Precious Tamayo, Romana Choi Sung Ah, Eleanor Raftery, Paul Gooley, Andrew Chung, Margaret Donges, Linda Garrett, Michael Thom, Henry Field, Jane McGirr, Jo Helmers, Anita Loyzaga, Colin Garrity, Gerard Kenny, Vic Juan, Kain Hatch, Louise Williams, Siena Maria Burns, Mary Kent, Becky Lozano, Sarah Raftery, Ramon Quizon, Leslie Styles, Joe Loyzaga, 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, Evelyn Yvonne Koelmeyer

And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Annie & Patrick Rodrigues, Ursula & Xavier Rodrigues, Bill Meehan, Betty de Saram, Cecilia Lew, Patrick O'Sullivan, Mary Woodward, 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 Muliyil, Fr Denis Callahan



Praying the Rosary as a Parish

Monday 1pm (Cenacle Prayer Group)

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

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



Next Weekend's Readings Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

Gen 15:5-12,17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-36

Next Week's Parish Ministers				16 March 2025	
Mass	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm
Readers	T Mamachan R Venugopal	A Woods K Holst	E Leung B Myers	C Man Yan S Kottaram	J Marsh C Marsh
Prep	N Tomasovic	Volunteer	Myers Family	R Surya	D'Silva Family
Euch Minister	Volunteer T Mamachan U D'Cunha	J Batten D Bower T Cheung	V Frizza M Soria D Wiggins	W Surjadi T & T Muscat A Rangel	M Chan L Pereira V Logan
Music	Children's Choir (LR)		Jean-Marie	Choir	Group 5
Counters	M Underwood J Duncan	Floral Ministry	A Budhi	Altar Society	A Budhi V Pereira

Reflection:

First Reading (Deuteronomy 26:4-10). Through the ceremony of offering the first fruits, the Israelites recognized all that God had done for them in the past, especially in the Exodus. Our worship of God is also a recognition of his favours to us.

Second Reading (Romans 10:8-13). The core of the Christian *credo* is that Jesus is our risen Saviour. Anyone who can say that and live by it, will be saved.

Gospel (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus was tempted like we are, but did not sin. Through his grace we too can resist temptation and overcome sin.

All three readings are concerned with **faithfulness to God**. The First Reading describes the ceremony of the offering to God of the first fruits of the harvest. It was an occasion for the people to thank God, not only for the blessings of the harvest, but for all he had done for them in the past, and especially in the Exodus. The creed which the offerer recited is a summary of Israel's early history and humble origins. The readings of the following Sundays will focus on significant moments of that history.

The Second Reading contains in its simplest form the **Christian credo**: Jesus is Lord; he died for our sins and was raised up for our justification. Obviously for this faith to be genuine, it must be professed not just with one's lips but also with one's life.

Luke's account of **the temptations** follows closely that of Matthew, except that he deliberately changes the order of the last two temptations so that the series ends in Jerusalem. This is in keeping with his theological interest in the holy city. The three scenes serve to correct a false understanding of Jesus' mission. Jesus repels the tempter by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy which stresses God's will for Israel, and for all people.

Stations of the Cross will be held in Church at 7:30pm on Friday, 14th March 2025



First Reconciliation Program

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





Next Anointing Mass is at 11am, Wednesday 26th March

Stay for a cuppa and a chat. Please consider offering to help with transport.

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 0428 604 405.

Lost & Found Notice

An Optus mobile phone in gradient blue colour has been found and is now with the St Agatha's Parish Office. If this belongs to you, please collect it at the office. Thank you.





Please join us for BBQ and a chat following 6pm Youth Mass this Sunday, 9th March



New Items at the Piety Stall – Just in Time for Lent!

The Piety Stall has just received new stock, including: First Reconciliation items, Sunday Missals, Catechisms, Lenten books for adults & children.

Visit the stall and explore these resources as we prepare for Lent!





Please donate today. Support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes and envelopes located at the church foyer or by scanning the QR code above or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



St Vinnies de Paul provides assistance to people in immediate crisis (food, clothing, bills) call 9477 5010.

Small Groups for Lent

Lent has begun! If you are **interested in hosting or joining a Lenten Group this year (online or in person)**, please contact Anne Bailey at the Parish Office as soon as possible. We have groups meeting in the Parish Office from 7pm, Monday, 3rd March and 10:30am, Tuesday, 4th March and a group in a private home for mums & bubs 10am on Wednesdays beginning 12th March. A sign up sheet is available in the Church foyer. Copies of the Diocese of Broken Bay Lenten booklet, "A Promise of Hope" are now available for groups and individuals or it can be accessed online here - https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/lenten-resource-2025-a-promise-of-hope

All Welcome!

Lenten Gospel Reflection Group continues on **Tuesdays in the Parish Office from 10:30-11:30am.**

Men's Lunch this week – **Tuesday, 11th March** from 12noon at the Galston Club.

Next Ladies Lunch – **Tuesday, 18th March** from 12noon at Hotel Pennant Hills (opposite the train station).

Please consider car-pooling as parking is limited. For further enquiries, contact Anne Bailey (9484 1427) or anne.bailey@bbcatholic.org.au







Parish Farewell for Fr Stephen - Sunday, 23rd March Fr Stephen will celebrate 10:30am Mass, followed by Lunch in

the School Hall. A sign-up sheet is available in the church foyer for contributions to the Farewell Lunch.

Dear valued members of our community,

Thank you for reflecting on joining our Planned Giving Program by giving to our First Fruits Offering. The process we are undertaking is vital to the



future of our Parish and will help me, as your Parish Priest, get to know you better. We appreciate your ongoing support of our community in St Agatha's Parish and wanted to take a moment to say thank you. You are valued and loved, and your consideration is deeply appreciated. We will update you on the results once our staff have updated all the details. Thank you again for your participation. God Bless you.

Fr Raphael Kimaro

PS: If you missed receiving the First Fruits Offering pack, envelopes are on the pews. You can fill them out at your convenience and drop them on the collection plate or at the Parish Office. Thank you.

First and Second Collections

1st Collection: supports the priests of our Diocese **2nd Collection:** used to meet Parish running costs

Ways to contribute to the collections:

- Forms are available in the church foyer;
- the Tap n Go facility is available in the church foyer;
 - set up a Bank Standing Order BSB 062 784 ACC 100002208;
- Giving BB app https://brokenbay.goodgiving.com.au contact the Parish Office 9484 1427.

Mission Broken Bay

Catholic Mission | Young Leaders in Action

Thursday 4 May 6pm-8pm St Vincent's College, Ashfield
A side event to the Mission: one heart many voices conference, in
partnership with St Vincent's College and Parish, Young Leaders in
Action is aimed at senior students and post-school aged young people.
An evening focused on faith-in-action, panel address on community
refugee supports truth tellings interfaith work climate justice, small

refugee support; truth telling; interfaith work, climate justice, small group discussions, food and music too.

Website and Registration: https://bbcatholic.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?

u=466af249e088db70ab864d088&id=c7e806f350&e=279fb510b3

Catholic Mission | One Heart Many Voices Conference

Monday 19 – Wednesday 21 May 2025 | SMC Conference and Function Centre, Sydney

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference focus on themes of encounter, inclusion, reconciliation, ecology, governance, justice, formation, celebration, synodality and challenge participants to consider, discern and choose a path to be agents of hope and mission. Website: https://bbcatholic.us8.list-manage.com/track/click? u=466af249e088db70ab864d088&id=5deabb2ec6&e=279fb510b3

National Conference Liturgy & Music | Adelaide 1-3 October 2025

Registrations are open for the jointly presented National Liturgy & Music Conference, Pilgrims of Hope: Transformed through Sacrament & Song.

Visit https://bbcatholic.us8.list-manage.com/track/click? u=466af249e088db70ab864d088&id=19ad1dc894&e=279fb510b3

Safeguarding Awareness Theme 2025

This year's Safeguarding Awareness Theme is "Raising mental health awareness: Encouraging hope for the future." As mentioned in Bishop Anthony's letter issued on 12 February 2025, the theme highlights the growing mental health crisis, particularly among young people. It has been identified that this increase is largely due to higher rates of anxiety, isolation, and stress, amplified by such things as social media use, which has contributed to a substantial rise in psychological distress among 15–24 year olds.

Although this is something that is prevalent for youth in our communities, it also has a huge impact on adults, with those most vulnerable in our communities being impacted. As such we are wanting to focus on there being more education and awareness created around mental health, how to identify these concerns and what supports can be implemented to assist those most in need. The 2025 Safeguarding Awareness theme emphasizes Hope, symbolising the potential for a better future. Hope is also central to the 2025 Holy Year of Jubilee, declared by Pope Francis and currently celebrated in our Diocese.

In 2025, to support the theme, there have been events that have been chosen as key safeguarding awareness dates throughout the year. With mental health challenges on the rise, especially among young people, it's crucial that we respond with compassion, understanding, and action.

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.

Parish Office Notice

St Agatha's Parish Office will be closed on **Tuesday, 11th March** for staff training.



Jubilee events for March 2025

8-9 March Jubilee of the World Volunteering

28 March 24 Hours for the Lord

28-30 March Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

The Jubilee of the World of Volunteering is an opportunity to thank, affirm and encourage the many lay people who contribute to the world through volunteering.

Jubilee Pilgrim Passports Now Available

With the installation of the relic at the last of the three Shrines of Hope for the Diocese of Broken Bay, we are ready to launch our **Jubilee Pilgrim Passport initiative for the Holy Year**. Our Parish has received Pilgrim Passports and an accompanying Prayer and Resource Journal. Make sure you get a copy and use it to record your own local Jubilee Pilgrimage to the holy sites and the Cathedral in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Please contact Anne Bailey at the Parish Office 9484 1427 if anyone from St Agatha's would like to help organise Parish pilgrimages to the three Shrines in the Diocese.

The Art of Celebrating Holy Week | Saturday 15 March 2025

Members of Parish Liturgy Committees, Acolytes, Ministers at the Altar, Senior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are invited to attend this day seminar, which will focus on the different Holy Week – Easter Triduum liturgies: Palm Sunday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday 9:30am - 3pm in the Caroline Chisholm Centre, 2/423 Pennant Hills Rd Pennant Hills. Morning tea and lunch provided.

To register, please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

- Saturday 10 May Back to Basics
- Saturday 16 August RCIA Practical Foundations | Liturgical Fundamentals | Ongoing Formation
- Saturday, 25 October Rekindle Our Wonder For more information or to register your interest, please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au

Bishop Anthony's Lenten Message 2025

A copy of Bishop Anthony Randazzo's Lenten Penance and Preparation for Easter Message entitled "A Time of Grace and Renewal: Lenten Penance and Preparation for Easter in the Jubilee of Hope" is available at the church foyer for you to take home and read or access online www.bbcatholic.org.au

Pope Francis Lenten Message 2025

"Let us journey together in hope" is the message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2025. A copy of his message can be found at the church foyer or online via https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/02/25/250225b.html#