

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 Coglean, 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 Lozaga, Colin Garrity, Gerard Kenny, Vic Juan, Kain Hatch, Louise Williams, Siena Maria Burns, Mary Kent, Becky Lozano, Sarah Raftery, 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, 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 Muliylil, Fr Denis Callahan



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



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

Cancer Support Group

To provide a safe space where people can reflect on their journey

To develop a community within the church for patients, carers and family members who have faced or are facing Cancer.

R
REAL REFLECTION

A
ADAPTATION

You are not alone.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you"
Deuteronomy 31:6

7:30 PM
First Wednesday of the Month
Parish Office, St Agatha's Parish, Pennant Hills

For more information: Tony Muscat - 0499771394
tony.muscat@staggathapond.com


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!





this 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 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>

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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.

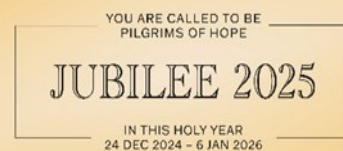
Safeguarding in our Parish

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#>