



Third Sunday of Lent

Year C

23 March 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

1st Friday of the Month 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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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Parish Office and Callahan Centre 20 Boundary Road Pennant Hills NSW 2120

Postal Address 20 Boundary Road Pennant Hills NSW 2120

Parish School Anna Montgomery - Principal 7256 2108

School Email saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm: 102:1-4, 6-8, 11

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

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, Corey Bell,
 Flynn Bell, James Bell



Please pray for the sick in our community:

Pope Francis, Steve Howcroft, 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 Cogan, 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:

Helen O'Riley, George D'Souza, 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:

Victor Batten, Pierina Lamari, Noel D' Mello, Michael Garcia, 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

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

Saints & Feast Days

Tuesday, 25 March - **The Annunciation of the Lord**

Next Weekend's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Reflection:

First Reading (Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15). We are shown God's concern for his oppressed people.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12). What happened to the Israelites in the desert is a warning for us Christians.

Gospel (Luke 13:1-9). We see how Jesus rejected the popular belief that accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. And Jesus tells the Jews that they will lose the promises unless they repent. The barren fig tree symbolises the barren state of Israel. God is patient. There is still time to repent, though that time is getting short.



Indonesian Mass at 3:30pm, Saturday, 29th March

Stations of the Cross
 will be prayed in Church on Fridays
 during Lent at 7:00pm



2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7:00pm - 8:00pm Thursday 10th April



Anointing Mass

this Wednesday at 11am, 26th March

Stay for a cuppa and a chat.

Please consider offering to help with transport.

"YOU ARE INVITED this Sunday, 23rd March"

After 7 years of service to St Agatha's Parish let us give Fr Stephen a Warm, Heartfelt Thanksgiving !

Come and Join us at the school hall for a Thanksgiving Lunch after the 10:30am mass celebrated by Fr Stephen.

- Stop by the church foyer to sign Fr Stephen's Thanksgiving card
- Please bring along a dessert plate or drinks to share in the Thanksgiving Lunch
- We welcome financial contributions toward a Thanksgiving present for Fr Stephen either via the cash donation box in the church foyer or EFT Direct Deposit:

Acct Name Pennant Hills Parish
 BSB 062 784
 Acct Number 100002208
 Reference Thanksgiving Fr Stephen

Let us come together to celebrate and thank Fr Stephen for his service!

First Reconciliation Program

Please pray for the 59 children preparing for First Reconciliation and for their parents and group leaders. **REMINDER: Practice is at 4:00pm, Tuesday, 25th March in Church.**



Lenten booklet, "A Promise of Hope"

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/lenen-resource-2025-a-promise-of-hope>

Live-in Carer Opportunity either part-time or full-time capacity for a 96 year-old father - please contact Jason 0414 987 206 or jason@jjmail.me

Next Week's Parish Ministers		30 March 2025			
Mass	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm
Readers	D Mockler G Hall	J Rayan V Rayan	S Gabrael P Houchin	N Rodrigues T Muscat	M Soames V Logan
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	C Gould Volunteer T Papandrea	P Anderson T Anderson S Kottaram	M Chan M D'Silva V Logan
Music	Ray & Sarah		Preschool Choir (JMV)	Volunteer	Volunteer
Counters	C Haynes H Haynes	Floral Ministry	A Budhi	Altar Society	D Wiggins V Haryanto CC Kos



CatholicCare has been approved to provide Home Care Packages

CatholicCare Broken Bay is delighted to announce accreditation as a provider of Home Care Packages. This is one of the ways that older Australians can access affordable care services to stay at home

for longer, and delay or avoid their entry into residential aged care facilities. CatholicCare's first focus is to understand the needs of seniors across our Diocese and then start recruiting support workers, dependent on where the interest is geographically.

Please complete an "Expression of Interest" form. There's no obligation to partner with CatholicCare but they may contact you to discuss your needs and you're welcome to opt-out at anytime. For info 1800 324 924 or info@catholiccaredbb.org.au



Join the Celebrations for Divine Mercy Sunday:

You are invited to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday devotions at St Agatha's on Sunday the 27th of April. From 1:00pm to 4:00pm special devotions to Divine Mercy will be conducted including:

Jesus, I trust in You

1:00pm Confessions will commence and be available for the whole afternoon.

1:30pm: Welcome, Rosary, Act of Entrustment to Our Lady, Prayers for the Pope.

2:00pm: Mass. Jesus said: "The soul that will go to confession and receive holy communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

3:00pm: Adoration and Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Jesus said: "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death".

3:45pm: Benediction and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. Jesus said: "The soul that will venerate this image will not perish."

"Tell the whole world of My great mercy ... mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (Jesus to St Faustina).

Enquiries: Church Office 9484 1427 or Therese 9651 3028.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Thursday of the Lord's Supper, **17th April**
7:30pm Mass followed by 1 hour Adoration
(No morning Mass on this day)

Good Friday, **18th April**
10:00am Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Celebration of the Passion of our Lord

Easter Saturday, **19th April**
Easter Vigil, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, **20th April**
7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm



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!

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.



VOLUNTEER POSITION VACANT - Social Justice Ministry is looking for motivated young adults (18-35) who are ready to get involved in the **Social Justice Ministry** of St. Agatha's!

Call the parish office **9484 1427** to enquire.

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.

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@bigpond.com



Jubilee events for March 2025

- 28 March 24 Hours for the Lord
- 28-30 March Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy 28—30 March

The Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy recognises those who work to spread mercy throughout the world.

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.

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#>

Parish Notice

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held every first Friday of the month from 7:00pm - 8:00pm.
- Our Post Office (PO) Box subscription will cease on 31st March 2025. Our advertised PO Box 127 as postal address will therefore conclude. Effective 1st April, all mail should be directed to postal address - 20 Boundary Road Pennant Hills NSW 2120



Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the **donation boxes and envelopes located at the church foyer. Please return them by 17th April.**

Or scan QR code

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413

24 HOURS FOR THE Lord

A Lenten initiative of prayer and reconciliation.

REGISTER NOW → trybooking.com/CZUBM

9am - 9am
28-29 March 2025
Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral
23 Yardley Ave, Waitara



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY