



**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Laetare Sunday**

**Year C**

**30 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**

**No First Friday Adoration during Lent**

**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:**  
[stagathas@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:stagathas@bbcatholic.org.au)  
[Raphael.Kimaro@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Raphael.Kimaro@bbcatholic.org.au)  
[Peter.deSouza@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Peter.deSouza@bbcatholic.org.au)  
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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:**

*Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning: exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.*

**First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12**

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-7**

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening. "'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

**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 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:**

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:**

Rosemarie Judith Guterres, Xavier, Cecelia, Michael, Valerian, Angelina Miranda, Antony de Rosairo, Celine & Pascal Rodrigues, Sr Ivy Pinto, 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

**Reflection:**

**First Reading (Joshua 5:9-12)** The Israelites, free at last from the humiliation they suffered in Egypt, enter the land of promise and partake of its produce.

**Second Reading (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)** Christ brought about a reconciliation between God and humanity. The Church's task is to bring the benefits of this to all people.

**Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)** The parable of the prodigal son shows that God delights in showing mercy to repentant sinners.

A clear theme runs through all three readings: God's mercy to sinners. In the First Reading we have the beautiful words God spoke to his people: 'I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The shame of sin and the darkness of slavery are behind them. The years of wandering in the desert are over; they have come to the promised land. A new era was about to begin. They mark their homecoming by celebrating anew the feast of Passover.

This reminds us of the home-coming of the prodigal son. His shame also is behind him. His years of wandering are over and he returns home to a warm welcome and a great feast. A new and bright future lies ahead of him. Jesus told the parable in response to the criticism of the Pharisees that he was too lenient towards sinners. They were meant to see themselves in the older son. For Luke the 'Pharisees' include those righteous Christians, for whom God's mercy to sinners is unfair and scandalous.

The Second Reading stresses how God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, not holding our faults against us. The task of the Church is to bring the benefits won by Christ to all people.

**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

**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, 5:30pm **Carols**, 6:00pm

**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  
 Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

Next Week's Parish Ministers		6 April 2025			
Mass	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm
Readers	S Messina T Messina	K Siddle J Siddle	E Leung C Ferreira	M Mundackal S Mamachan	R Cleland A Cleland
Prep	H Quinlan	D Salvestro	Casey Family	N Tomasovic	Pereira 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	Mark Berry	Paul Newton
Counters	C Haynes H Haynes	<b>Floral Ministry</b>	A Budhi	<b>Altar Society</b>	M Nicholas G Nicholas

**First Sunday Rosary**

We will pray the Rosary together as a parish next Sunday, 6th April after the **10:30am Mass**.



**Family Mass** at 9:00am, Sunday, 6th April  
 Sponsored by Years 3 & 4



**First Reconciliation Program**

We congratulate the 59 children who completed their program of the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this week and thank their group leaders and parents. May God bless them abundantly.





Jesus, I trust in You

**Join the Celebrations for Divine Mercy Sunday:**

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

**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.

**PPC**



To the organising committee,  
To all the cooks, bakers, food preparers and servers,  
To all the musicians and youth,  
To the set up and clean up teams,  
To all other volunteers and donors,

a heartfelt thank you from your parish priests and pastoral council on a well attended and well organised farewell lunch. Father Stephen advised a member of the pastoral council that he was very touched and left feeling that St Agatha's was more than a parish - it was a family!  
Well done everyone.

Through the generosity of the St Agatha's Parish Community, we raised **\$3,226.00** towards Fr Stephen's Thanksgiving present.

Dear Parishioners,

Words cannot express fully my gratitude for your love, generosity, and support but I thank you sincerely very much.

I will always treasure the moments we shared together and keep you in my prayers.

May God Bless you abundantly,

*Fr Stephen Wayoyi*

**Chrism Mass**

The **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 15th April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral.

**Online Information Sessions:**

**Broken Bay Pilgrimage of Hope**

**10:30am and 7:30pm, Thursday, 3rd April**

For info: <https://bbcatholic.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=466af249e088db70ab864d088&id=45eedd078e&e=1cf481ee3a>

**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 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. **To date, 17 new donors have responded to our initiative and pledged a total of \$18,936.00 a year and 7 existing donors who have upgraded their total giving by \$3,300.00 a year.** 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.

*The parents of St Agatha's Catholic School kindly helped Mrs Ashley Jansz, Parent Engagement Coordinator, to make 'Good Deed Beads' as a gift for the 59 children receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation this week. A heartfelt thank you especially to the St Agatha parents Ms Anna Kennedy, Mrs Kiara Black, Ms Jane Abrams and Mrs Marie Fernando for their beading expertise.*



# 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**  
ADORATION

**W**  
WORSHIP

**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**

With the installation of the relic at the last of the three Shrines of Hope for the Diocese of Broken Bay, the Jubilee Pilgrim Passport initiative for the Holy Year was launched earlier this month.

More Pilgrim Passports and an accompanying Prayer and Resource Journal are available in the Church Foyer.

If anyone from St Agatha's would like to help organise Parish pilgrimages to the three Shines in the Diocese, please contact Anne Bailey at the Parish Office.

**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](http://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#>

**Lenten booklet, "A Promise of Hope"**

Copies of the Diocese of Broken Bay Lenten booklet, "A Promise of Hope" are 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>

**Youth Events**

**Youth Night**

7:00pm—9:00pm

**Saturday, 5th April, St Agatha's School Hall**

**Parish Notice**

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**



**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.



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
29th and 30th of March 2025

**Irene** lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



*Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia*

**Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the **donation boxes on the pews, envelopes in church foyer** or by scanning the QR code above. **Please return them by 17th April 2025.** Or online at: [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) Or by calling: 1800 024 413

**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible**

A Quick Journey through Salvation History

**Session 5, this Sunday, 30th March**

A free 8 session course will be offered for

Young Adults (aged 18-35) after 6pm

Sunday Mass in the Parish Centre. You are invited to join this Bible Study group where we will watch a DVD and share our thoughts as well as sharing a meal together. Continues each fortnight till 11<sup>th</sup> May. For further information, contact Eilia Keyhaneé – [eilia.key@hotmail.com](mailto:eilia.key@hotmail.com) or 0435 162 957.



**Getting to know you - Visitation Ministry**

Do you know of any parishioners or neighbours who would like to have a visit from someone who can engage in conversation, provide occasional companionship and learn from their wealth of knowledge and experience? If you would like to find out more, please contact Anne Bailey on 9484 1427 or [anne.bailey@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:anne.bailey@bbcatholic.org.au)



SVdP provides assistance to people in immediate crisis (food, clothing, bills) call 9477 5010.