

THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

15 December 2024

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:** By appt  
**Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, RCIA:** By appt

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Monday:** 1pm - 2pm  
**Saturday:** after 8am Mass

**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 Stephen Wayoyi AJ **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)  
[Stephen.Wayoyi@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Stephen.Wayoyi@bbcatholic.org.au)  
[Chatty.Zaragoza@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Chatty.Zaragoza@bbcatholic.org.au)  
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[Anne.Bailey@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Anne.Bailey@bbcatholic.org.au)  
[ppc@stagatha.org.au](mailto:ppc@stagatha.org.au)

**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

**Entrance Antiphon:**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.*

**First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

**Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12**

*Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.*

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!*

**Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**PARISH VISION**

We are a diverse Catholic community drawn to help each other and grow closer to God. We foster a warm and friendly environment nourished by the Eucharist and the Word. Guided by the Holy Spirit we seek to spread God's kingdom through prayer, words and action. We promote: love, peace, equality, justice, forgiveness and compassion. We look for opportunities to help others; especially the poor and disadvantaged.

**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.

**CONVERSION**

**COMMUNITY**

**MISSION**

**Baptisms for December**

As a faith community, we pray for  
Lily Isobel McRae, Darcy Thomas Abrams,  
Nicholas Alberto Soliman



**Please pray for the sick in our community:**

Marilu Eguaras, 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 Coglean, Patricia Farley, Precious Tamayo, Romana Choi Sung Ah, Eleanor Raftery, Paul Gooley, Andrew Chung, Margaret Donges, Linda Garrett, Michael Thom, Jill Howcroft, Cath Hennessey, Michel Lyons, Henry Field, Jane McGirr, Jo Helmers, Anita Loyzaga, Colin Garrity, Gerard Kenny, Vic Juan, Kain Hatch, Pammie Lee, Louise Williams, Michael Dudman, Siena Maria Burns, Mary Kent, Becky Lozano, Michael & Joan Bradley, Sarah Raftery, Jose & Josefina Carreno, Ramon Quizon, Leslie Styles, Joe Loyzaga, Margaret Doyle, Dorina Petre, Peter Goh, Alvito Gracias.

**Please pray for our recently deceased:**

Patria Tolentino, Fr Michael O'Toole, Michael Lennon, Ignacio Cristaudo, Agnello Mendes, Terry Twohill, Reg Millett, Aarti Byrne, Adam Christopher King, Mary Peterson, Deirdre Clear, Evelyn Yvonne Koelmeyer, Frederick de Sayrah, Rosa Rosado, Julia D'Souza, Jasmine Quinlan.

**And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Wilfred Lobo, Hilda Thomas, Nicola Rochford, Michael Rochford, Leah & Patrick Sequeira, Prisca & Aloysius Gomes, Gretchen de Rosairo, Margaret Vaz & Cassian Rodrigues, Kisani de Saram, C S Goretti, Beatrice Doughty, Kosu D'Souza, Linda & Neville MacKinnon, Vittona Macerola, Thereza & Lawrence Mendes, Maria Luisa Ferrara, Milagros Calabon Ignacio, Helen Ferrara.



**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: 4th Sunday of Advent, Year C**

Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

| Next Week's Parish Ministers |                                     | 22 December 2024                |                                  |                                       |                                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mass                         | 6.00pm                              | 7.30am                          | 9.00am                           | 10.30am                               | 6.00pm                           |
| Readers                      | J Vattoly<br>D Mockler              | K Holst<br>A Woods              | T Abrams<br>K Abrams             | C Man Yan<br>S Kottaram               | V Logan<br>M Somes               |
| Prep                         | N Tomasovic                         | D Salvestro                     | Myers Family                     | R Surya                               | Pereira Family                   |
| Euch Minister                | U D'Cunha<br>Volunteer<br>Volunteer | J Batten<br>D Bower<br>T Cheung | V Frizza<br>M Soria<br>D Wiggins | W Surjadi<br>T & T Muscat<br>A Rangel | M Chan<br>M D'Silva<br>L Pereira |
| Music                        | Ray & Sarah                         |                                 | Youth Choir<br>(LR)              | Pimenta Family                        | Christian & Marea                |
| Counters                     | C & T Dennis<br>B Jones             | Floral Ministry                 |                                  | Altar Society                         | L Jackson<br>M & P<br>Murphy     |

**Reflection:**

The prophet Zephaniah, writing in the seventh century BC, bids Jerusalem to rejoice because salvation is near (First Reading). God stands in her midst and will deliver her from her enemies. God is portrayed, not only as a king and warrior, but also as a loving bridegroom, who steadfastly loves his unworthy and unfaithful bride.

The theme of joy is even more emphatic in the Second Reading. Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice because the Lord is near. So there is no need to worry. If they need anything, they are to pray for it, and the peace of God will be with them.

The theme of the nearness of the Lord is also at the heart of the Gospel. John the Baptist tells the people what they must do in order to prepare for the Lord's coming and to escape his searching judgement. In all things, John points the way to Christ.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Leader: Light and peace,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. John the Baptist says:  
*I am not the light but I testify to the light.  
He is among you, believe in him.*

All: **By the light of this wreath, O God,  
we shall wait in joy for your Son.  
The Lord is near, we have no anxiety;  
he shall come down upon us like gentle dew.**

Leader: My friends, let us light our third candle.

*Lighting of third candle*



**Pilgrim Virgin Home Visitation  
St Agatha's Church, Pennant Hills**

**On 8th December**, St Agatha's Parish launched the Pilgrim Virgin Mary Program. The statue of the Blessed Virgin will travel to homes in our parish and stay for a week.

By hosting the statue and praying the Rosary, we ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for our family and parish community, that we may receive infinite graces and protection from God, our Father.

If you would like to host the statue in your home, register your contact details in the booking calendar at the back of the church. More information about the program is also available at the back of the church.



**The Parish Office will be closed from 12 noon, Tuesday, 24th December and re-open 9am, Thursday, 2nd January 2025.** For emergencies requiring a Priest, please call the Office on 9484 1427 and follow the prompts.

**Christmas has arrived at the Piety Store!**



a selection of Advent calendars, wreaths, Nativities, Christmas figurines, decorations,



Holy Cards, bookmarks (for Catechist's classes).

**OPEN after each weekend Mass and Friday morning from 9am to 12pm.**

For easy payment, we have our own "tap and go" facility when purchasing from the Piety Store. This is separate from the Parish's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> "tap" collection points.

**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)

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

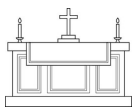
We would like to offer the Sacrament of Holy Communion to our homebound parishioners and those in Nursing Homes & Retirement Villages on a more regular basis. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, training and mentoring provided. Please contact Anne Bailey at the Parish Office.

**Would you like to join the Money Counters' roster?**

We are looking for more volunteers to join the money counting roster. Please call the Parish Office on 9484 1427 to sign up.



**Looking to contribute to your parish? Why not join the Altar Preparation Ministry?**



We are looking for volunteers to help set up the altar before weekend Masses for 6pm Saturday Vigil and 7:30am Sunday. Full training provided. Doing this as a family is a great way to get the children involved. You will be rostered once a month. Please contact Chatty 9484 1427 or Amelia 0413 922 574 or [ameliapereira@hotmail.com](mailto:ameliapereira@hotmail.com) if you'd like to know more.

**Altar Serving Ministry - Junior & Senior Altar Servers Invited**

help continue building the altar serving ministry at St Agatha's. Formal training provided. If interested, please call the Parish Office on 9484 1427.



**Readers Needed**



If you would like to be a lector at one of the weekday or weekend Masses, contact the parish office 9484 1427

ST AGATHA'S YOUTH MINISTRY PRESENT

*Carols at St Agatha's*

SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

8PM

Save the date!

ALL WELCOME | REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

**DECEMBER 2024**

*TIME TO Celebrate*

Friday 6th Adoration Advent Reflection 7.30-8pm in Church

Sunday 8th Youth Mass BBQ 6pm

End of Year Party 7-8.30pm outside the Church

Sunday 1st Christmas craft & Personal Care Pack for the Homeless 10-11.30 in Parish Centre

Saturday 7th Youth Night Games 7-9pm in Hall

Saturday 21st Youth Christmas Carols 8pm in Church & refreshments 9pm

Youth group Y7-10 welcomes Y5-6

**LAUNCH**

**This Weekend is Name Tag Weekend**

Please help us to get to know each other better by joining the Name Tag Weekend.



Write your name on a sticky label as you walk into church. Use the labels to greet parishioners next to you at the start of Mass and at the sign of peace.

Use the sticky label to meet and greet someone new!

Join us for a sausage sizzle after the **6pm Vigil Mass.**



Meet new families ..... Stay back for a cuppa after the 7:30am, 9am and 10:30am Sunday masses.

**Volunteers needed** for hospitality and name tag welcomer for 6pm Sunday Mass. Please call the parish office 9484 1427 if you are able to assist.



**To all the Year 6 students of our parish**

We congratulate the Year 6 students from all the schools within the Parish. We wish you well for your years of Secondary school which begin in 2025.

We thank you for all you have contributed to St Agatha's school. We wish you success and happiness in secondary school and we look forward to you continuing to be members of our parish community.

**School Holidays**

With the school year drawing to a close on Wednesday, 18th December, we wish all the students, teachers and staff of St Agatha's school a happy and restful holiday.

**St Agatha's Parish Needs You!**

Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve the Lord? Join our **Altar Society Ministry** and help keep our Church welcoming for all!



**Commitment:** once every two months on a rostered schedule  
**Purpose:** ensuring our church is always presentable and ready for worship. Let's work together to keep St Agatha's a place of beauty and reverence for all who enter. Please call the Parish Office 9484 1427 to sign up.



## St Agatha's Parish



All singers in the parish, whether part of a regular group or not, are invited to **join the choir for Christmas midnight Mass.**

Rehearsals 7-9pm for the next two Mondays 16th and 23rd December. Choir also meets at 10:30pm on Christmas Eve for 11:15pm carols and midnight Mass. Contact Christian 0491 609 251 or [cwj23c@gmail.com](mailto:cwj23c@gmail.com)

*Prepare the Way of the LORD*

### Children's Christmas Eve Masses

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

The 5pm Mass will have a nativity play, involving children participating in many varied roles. All costumes provided. A list of all the roles that need to be filled and a participation sheet are in the foyer of the Church. Please fill in the details. All children participating will also need to **attend the rehearsal to be held at 1:30pm Monday, 23rd Dec in the Church.**



### Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Times

**Christmas Eve (Tue evening)**

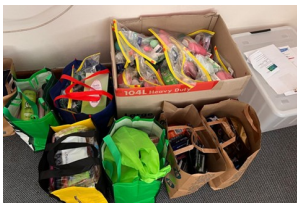
5pm with nativity play,  
6:45pm Carols, 7pm Mass  
8:45pm Carols, 9pm Mass  
11:15pm Carols, 12 Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day (Wed)**

7:30am, 9:00am  
10:30am, 6pm

### Volunteers for the Christmas Mass Roster

Please fill out the **Volunteers' roster** located in the Church foyer if you can assist with any of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day with Parking Attendant, Altar Prep, Welcomers, Wardens, Communion and tidying the Church.



**A big THANK YOU from the Social Justice Ministry and Dom's Place** in Hornsby to all of you who donated items or money to put together toiletry packs for the homeless. With the much-valued help from Anita Setiawan and the

youth of the parish we were able to put together 32 packs with plenty of left over toiletry items that were all gratefully received. God bless you for the difference you have made to those in need.



**Christmas Offering** envelopes available in the church pews.

REMINDER: A number of Planned Giving Envelopes are still for collection in the Church foyer. Please ensure you collect yours on your way out. Thank you for your continued support.

### Christmas Hampers

Thank you to those parishioners who have taken a tag from the Gifting Tree. Please return hampers **(in green reusable shopping bags) this Sunday, 15th December.** Thank you for your generosity.



## JUBILEE 2025

### GENERAL CALENDAR

**DECEMBER 2024**  
24 December  
Opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica

**MAY 2025**  
1-4 May  
Jubilee of Workers  
4-5 May  
Jubilee of Entrepreneurs  
10-11 May  
Jubilee of Marching Bands  
12-14 May  
Jubilee of the Eastern Churches  
16-18 May  
Jubilee of Confraternities  
30 May - 1 June  
Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly

**JULY 2025**  
28 July - 3 August  
Jubilee of Youth

**SEPTEMBER 2025**  
15 September  
Jubilee of Consolation  
20 September  
Jubilee of Justice  
26-28 September  
Jubilee of Catechists

**OCTOBER 2025**  
4-5 October  
Jubilee of the Missions  
4-5 October  
Jubilee of Migrants  
8-9 October  
Jubilee of Consecrated Life  
11-12 October  
Jubilee of Marian Spirituality  
31 October - 2 November  
Jubilee of the World of Education

**JANUARY 2025**  
24-26 January  
Jubilee of the World of Communications

**FEBRUARY 2025**  
8-9 February  
Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel  
15-18 February  
Jubilee of Artists  
21-23 February  
Jubilee of Deacons

**MARCH 2025**  
8-9 March  
Jubilee of the World of Volunteering  
28 March  
24 Hours for the Lord  
28-30 March  
Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy

**APRIL 2025**  
5-6 April  
Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers  
25-27 April  
Jubilee of Teenagers  
28-29 April  
Jubilee of People with Disabilities

**JUNE 2025**  
7-8 June  
Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities  
9 June  
Jubilee of the Holy See  
14-15 June  
Jubilee of Sport  
20-22 June  
Jubilee of Governments  
23-24 June  
Jubilee of Seminarians  
25 June  
Jubilee of Bishops  
25-27 June  
Jubilee of Priests

**NOVEMBER 2025**  
16 November  
Jubilee of the Poor  
22-23 November  
Jubilee of Choirs

**DECEMBER 2025**  
14 December  
Jubilee of Prisoners

[www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va) @iubilaeum25.va

### Encounter for Vocations Broken Bay

All parishioners are welcome to attend the Holy Hour from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. **Friday, 20 December, 2024**  
**St Agatha's Church, Pennant Hills**

Feel free to pass this invite along to any young adults who would love to join, we would love to see them, too!

Blessings, Fr Sam, Fr Stephen & Michelle  
The Vocations Team

### Mission Broken Bay

**2025 Holy Jubilee - The Jubilee Prayer**

[https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/prehiera.html?mc\\_cid=ce82ee940c&mc\\_eid=d42fdf442d](https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/prehiera.html?mc_cid=ce82ee940c&mc_eid=d42fdf442d)

**XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**

[https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html?mc\\_cid=ce82ee940c&mc\\_eid=d42fdf442d](https://www.synod.va/en/news/final-document-of-the-xvi-assembly.html?mc_cid=ce82ee940c&mc_eid=d42fdf442d)

**Read Pope Francis' note**

[https://www.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/11/25/241125k.html?mc\\_cid=ce82ee940c&mc\\_eid=d42fdf442d](https://www.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/11/25/241125k.html?mc_cid=ce82ee940c&mc_eid=d42fdf442d)

**St Vincent de Paul Annual Christmas Appeal**  
**this weekend, 14/15 December.**

Envelopes available on the pews.  
Thank you for your support.

