



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

22 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:

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(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:

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; this origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79(80):2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: *You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation*, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will*. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

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 Coglán, 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 Lozaga, 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 Lozaga, Margaret Doyle, Dorina Petre, Peter Goh, Alvito Gracias.

Please pray for our recently deceased:

Rhondda Lucas, Edward Werbicki, Peter Cheng Hin Chua, 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.

And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Wilfred Lobo, Hilda Thomas, Michael Rochford, Nicola 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.



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

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

Next Weekend's Readings: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Year C

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52

Next Week's Parish Ministers		29 December 2024			
Mass	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	6.00pm
Readers	T Messina S Messina	G Abrams R Abrams	P Houchin M Encarnacion	S Thomas Y Thomas	C Menezes B Cruz
Prep	T Ponn	Volunteer	Kos Family	T Mamachan	Cruz Family
Eucharistic Minister	P Anderson T Anderson A Casey	Volunteer Volunteer K Holst	B Myers L Myers T Abdipranoto	T Mamachan S Thomas E Vitale	R D'Silva A Poille S Parsons
Music	Ray & Sarah		Preschool Choir (JMV)	Volunteer	Group 5
Counters	K McRae T McRae	Floral Ministry		Altar Society	L & B Pacheco S Suparman

Reflection:

First Reading (Micah 5:1-4). The prophet Micah announces to the beleaguered inhabitants of Jerusalem that a Ruler will come from Bethlehem who will bring them peace.

Second Reading (Hebrews 10:5-10). Jesus came, not to offer the sacrifices of the old law, but to do the will of God. His one perfect sacrifice replaced all the former sacrifices.

Gospel (Luke 1:39-45). Elizabeth praises Mary, and, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, hints at the uniqueness of the child she has conceived.

When Micah was writing (late eighth-century BC) Jerusalem was under siege and David's dynasty was in jeopardy, but salvation would come from a comparatively insignificant place - Bethlehem. From there a new leader would come to gather together the scattered exiles and unite the nation once more. Christians see this promise as foreshadowing the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who was born in Bethlehem and descended from the line of David.

The Gospel tells the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Both are pregnant. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth praises Mary and tells of the uniqueness of the child she has conceived. Elizabeth speaks of faith of the infant Church, revealing the place of honour in which Mary was held from the beginning.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Mary says: *I am the servant of the Lord: may his will be done to me.*

All: **By the light of this wreath, O God, we shall wait in love for your Son. When he comes, may he find us watching in prayer. When he comes, may he find us bright with hope and love.**

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

Lighting of fourth candle



Saints & Feast Days

Wednesday, 25th December - **The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

Thursday, 26th December - **St Stephen**

Friday, 27th December - **St John the Evangelist**

Saturday, 28th December - **The Holy Innocents**

On Leave

Fr Raphael will be taking annual leave from 26 December till 27 January. We wish him a safe and enjoyable visit home to Tanzania.

During Fr Raphael's absence, Fr Stephen will be in charge of the Parish and will have assistance with weekend Masses from the Priests at Woy Woy Parish.

A word of appreciation for all who exercise ministries in the parish

As we come to the close of the liturgical year, we extend our thanks to all those engaged in the groups, works and ministries of the parish:

- Preparers
- Readers (Lectors)
- Musicians and Singers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Servers
- Wardens and Money Counters
- IT and Social Media
- Flower Ministry
- Linen and Altar Society
- Cleaners
- Catechists
- Children's Liturgy
- Prayer Groups, Rosary, Alpha, Legion of Mary, Cenacle
- Bible Study
- Bulletin Delivery and Visits to the Homebound
- Piety Store
- Youth Group Coordinators
- Seniors Activities Coordinators
- Roster Coordinators
- Welcomers & Hospitality
- Building Committee
- Those who assist with Maintenance, Safeguarding, WHS
- Those who reach out to meet the practical and spiritual needs of many in our parish and local community
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Members of Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee



You are welcome to join any of these ministries. Please contact the parish office at 9484 1427.

On behalf of the priests, parish team and all who worship at St Agatha's, many thanks for all you contribute to the life of the parish. - Fr Raphael

Diocese of Broken Bay Clergy Appointments for 2025



A number of clergy in the Diocese of Broken Bay have received new appointments for 2025, as the Diocese prepares to celebrate the 2025 Jubilee Year.

Fr Stephen Wayoyi AJ, currently assistant at Pennant Hills, **will move to the Lower North Shore Parish on January 31** to serve as assistant priest. We are very grateful for all Fr Stephen has contributed to our Parish in the 7+ years he has been with us. Our appreciation and a farewell for Fr Stephen will be held in February—the date to be advised. Fr Stephen will also serve as Director of Joseph House, Willoughby.

Fr Peter deSouza will move from Wyoming to **Pennant Hills** where he will serve as assistant priest and Chaplain at the San Hospital, Wahroonga. We thank Fr Peter for accepting the request to move to our Parish and will express a warm welcome to Fr Peter on the weekend of 1st and 2nd of February, 2025.



Full information can be found on the Diocese of Broken Bay website —<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/news/latest-news/clergy-appointments-for-2025>

Holy Year 2025

Sunday 29 December 2024 | Feast of the Holy Family and Opening of the 2025 Holy Jubilee

Invitation to Clergy and the People of God in Broken Bay

Bishop Anthony prayerfully welcomes clergy and the People of God in Broken Bay to join him on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday 29 December for 9.30am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara and to officially mark the beginning of the 2025 Holy Jubilee.



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 on Monday, 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

Prepare the Way of the LORD

Children's Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, 24th 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. New rehearsal time, 10:30am, 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.

Dom's Place would like to extend our utmost thanks and gratitude for your kind and generous donations in supporting our families and community who are experiencing homelessness. Our service needs the support of community to be able to help those in need and your contributions go a long way in allowing us to continue to support some of the most vulnerable in our community.



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy New Years. Warmest regards, Dom's Place

"Thank you for your very generous contribution to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, thereby joining us in our Mission to Serve Christ in the poor and marginalised".



Christmas Offering envelopes available on 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.

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER 2025
14 December Jubilee of Prisoners

www.iubilaeum2025.va | @iubilaeum25.va

Places of Pilgrimages - Jubilee of Hope 2025



Within our own Diocese of Broken Bay, we are called to celebrate this Jubilee Year with "deep faith, lively hope and active charity". The three diocesan "Jubilee Shrines of Hope" will form significant places of pilgrimage, worship, prayer, and hope for God's people in Broken Bay during the Jubilee Year.

- The **Parish of Gosford with Relic of Saint John Paul II** will be a Shrine of Hope for our families.
- The **Parish of Chatswood with the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis** will be a Shrine of Hope for our young people.
- The **Parish of Manly-Freshwater with the Relic of Saint John Vianney** will be a Shrine of Hope for our Priests and Vocations.

May I call upon your prayerful support and active presence in the celebrations for the Jubilee of Hope throughout the coming year.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo

Mission Broken Bay

2025 Holy Jubilee - The Jubilee Prayer

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

Read Pope Francis' note

https://www.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/11/25/241125k.html?mc_cid=ce82ee940c&mc_eid=d42fdf442d