



# St Agatha's Parish Cranbourne



**THIRD SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT  
Year A  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

## ST. AGATHA'S PARISH INFORMATION

**Church:** 129 Sladen Street, Cranbourne

**Presbytery:** 131 Sladen Street, Cranbourne

**Parish Office:** 1 Scott Street, PO Box 95,  
Cranbourne 3977

**Office Hours:** Mon 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Tue to Fri 8.30am - 3.00pm

[Closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1.00pm]

☎ 5996 1985 Fax: 5996 1992

**Email:** [parishoffice@stagathas.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@stagathas.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stagathas.org.au](http://www.stagathas.org.au)

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Joseph Abutu

**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Antony Rebelo IVD

**Sisters of the Nativity:** Sr. Mary Olofu,  
Sr. Faustina Ede & Sr. Victoria Orinya  
Sr. Julie Ogbale [St Thomas the Apostle Parish]

## Parish Safe Guarding Officers:

Leonard Foo & Loretta Chin ☎ 5996 1985

**Email:** [cranbourne.safety@cdsale.org.au](mailto:cranbourne.safety@cdsale.org.au)

**Parish Secretaries:** Sue Ryan & Tina Dam

☎ 5996 1985

## St Agatha's Primary School

3 Scott Street, Cranbourne

☎ 5996 2724

**Principal:** Mr Terry Cahill

## St Therese's Primary School

131 Endeavour Drive  
Cranbourne North

☎ 5996 7525

**Principal:** Mrs Michelle Bruitzman

## St Peter's Secondary College

Cranbourne Campus - Navarre Drive Cranbourne West  
Clyde North Campus - 55 MacKillop Way Clyde Nth

☎ 5990 7777

**Principal:** Mr Chris Black

## ST. AGATHA'S PARISH MASS TIMES

**Saturday:** 6.00pm

**Sunday:** 5.00am, 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.45am &  
6.00pm

## Weekday Mass Times

**Monday:** 5.00am & 9.30am

**Tuesday:** 5.00am & 9.30am & 11.30am Funeral

**Wednesday:** 5.00am & 9.30am

**Thursday:** 5.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am & 7.30pm

**Friday:** 5.00am & 9.30am

**Saturday:** 5.00am & 9.30am

## Reconciliation/Confession

Friday: 10.00am

Saturday: 10.00am

## Mass for Vocations

Saturdays 9.30am

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday: 10.00am - 11.00am

Saturday: 10.00am - 11.00am

First Friday of the Month: 8.30pm - 9.00am

**Adoration Chapel:** 24/7 Entry to the chapel is via a  
PIN code, obtained through the Parish Office.

**Healing Mass** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month at 6.00pm

**First Saturday Mass at 9.30am**

In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**First Friday Mass** 7.30pm followed by a spiritual  
teaching and all-night Adoration

**Mass for the Unborn:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month 9.30am

**Holy Hour for the Unborn** - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month  
7.30pm-8.30pm in the Adoration Chapel.

## Baptisms

Sundays at 12.30pm by appointment. Baptism Information  
Session held on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, starting at 3.00pm  
in the Hall. [Bookings may be made through the parish  
website or by visiting the parish office]

## Marriages

6 months' notice requested

## PARISH NEWS

### ST. AGATHA'S CHURCH - CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMETABLE

**Advent Reconciliation Service:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm  
**Christmas Eve: 7.00pm** – Family Mass, **9.00pm & Midnight Mass** (carols from 11.30pm)  
**Christmas Day: 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.45am** **“NO EVENING MASS”**  
**New Year's Eve: 11.00pm** Vigil Prayers, followed by **Midnight Mass.**  
**New Year's Day: 9.00am & 10.45am**



**Dear Parishioners,** Mass will be celebrated at 5.00am for everyone for a nine-day novena 'Misa de Gallo' Simbang Gabi before Christmas tomorrow 16<sup>th</sup> December to 24<sup>th</sup> December. All Welcome! Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am everyday as usual.

In preparation to celebrate Christmas, Parish Reconciliation will be celebrated this **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** in the Church with several priests expected on the night. Please make every effort to attend this evening.

During this week both schools will be celebrating their end of year Mass, we wish the staff, students and their families a very Happy, Holy and safe Christmas and New Year.

We are in need of volunteers next Saturday 21st December for a working bee to clean the Church and help set up the Crib & Christmas Tree in preparation for Christmas after the 9.30am Mass, there will be no Adoration after Mass.

I will be away to Nigeria on annual leave from 26<sup>th</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020. Fr Antony will be looking after the parish in my absence, please give him your full support. God bless, Fr Joseph

**WE WELCOME AS CHILDREN GOD:** Ayaan Fernando, child of Moratuwage & Bodiabaduge, Jai Allen, child of Judd & Jacinta, Reyven Villan, child of Jose & Angelica, Jasmine Gajudo, child of Kenneth & Candice, Brendan Christopher, child of Richard & Tania and Ruvarashe & Robyn Chimombe, children of Freeman & Shelter.

**FUNERAL MASS** for Giovanna Bellinva will be celebrated this Tuesday at 11.30am and Rosary on Monday evening at 7.00pm.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION: On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm** we will be celebrating our big parish celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas. There will be numerous priests available. Other opportunities for Reconciliation times all at 7.30pm, are OLHC Narre Warren 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, St Michael's Berwick 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**SCHOOL MASSES:** End of year Whole School Masses will be celebrated in the Church this Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am for St Agatha's School & Thursday 11.30am for St Therese's school.

**CHURCH FLOWERS:** If you would like to make a donation towards Church flowers please place the money in an envelope marked "Flowers" in the second collection. Thank you

**CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS:** A Christmas offering collection will be taken up at our Christmas Masses. There will also be a collection taken up for the support of the Sisters of the Nativity.

**BABIES FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES:** We are in need of some babies and their parents to help dress up as the Holy Family during the gospel at our Christmas Masses. If you are able to help at this special time please contact Sr Faustina on 5996 1985.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas holidays from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and resumes normal office hours 8.30am to 3.00pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. If you have a very urgent sick call or need to arrange a funeral please phone the parish office and leave a message.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN:** If you have a special needs child/adult and would like them to receive Sacraments of Confirmation and/or First Communion? Bishop Patrick will be coming to St Agatha's early next year for this ceremony. Please contact the parish office for more details on 5996 1985.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** There will be no Baptism Preparation session in January during the holidays. Next Baptism Preparation Session will be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 3.00pm to 5.00pm in the Parish Hall.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:** A guest speaker has been invited to come and speak on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to all Extraordinary ministers and those interested in taking communion to the sick. Please mark this date in your diaries.

**LIVE STREAMING MASSES:** *This will require permission from the parents of the all Altar Servers.* Forms are available on our Parish website at <https://www.stagathas.org.au/resources>

**CARPARK USHERS:** Due to the large numbers attending Masses at Christmas we are in need of carpark ushers, especially at the 7.00pm, 9.00pm and midnight Mass. If you are able to help please place your name and number on the clipboard in the foyer.



**THURSDAY EVENING MASS:** focuses on a special intention of the week, praying for different needs within our families, parish and the wider community. Intentions for the month of December: 19<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving for families blessed with a baby in 2019 and blessing for those born in December.

**MASS FOR HOLY INNOCENTS** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am. Children can come dressed up as Angels or Saints. Morning tea after mass in parish hall please bring a plate of food to share.

**CHILD SAFETY CORNER:** A training session for St Agatha's parish will be conducted on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 202 at 10.00am.** All employees, parish council members and volunteers are requested to register your participation online at: <http://www.ccam.org.au/events/category/30/child-safe-training> The training session is expected to take about 2½ hours. There will be no charge as it is sponsored by the Diocese of Sale. It includes a training booklet, tea and coffee.

**CHILD SAFEGUARDING CORNER:** The best protection for the safety of our children is their awareness of the dangers of potential abuse in various forms. In this respect, it is of paramount importance for parents themselves to be fully aware of such dangers and to educate their children to them. Below are some shocking statistics we should all pay attention to:

- 12% of female and 4.5% of males report having been sexually abused before the age of 15 years.
- 2 girls and 1 boy in a typical Australian primary school class of 22 kids, will report being sexually abused before the age of 15 years.
- In 11% of these cases the child was abused by a stranger.
- In 89% of these cases the child was abused by someone they knew.
- 45% were abused by a relative (i.e. parent, step-parent, grandparent, sibling, uncle, aunty or cousin).
- 47% were abused by a friend, neighbour, acquaintance or were otherwise known to them

[Statistics courtesy of Australian Institute of Criminology – as quoted in *The Magellan*, Winter 2019]

## FORMED

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

A Netflix for Catholics, free for all parishioners! Collect a flyer, from the foyer, on how to join and logon with the parish code. **2QKKNB**

*Pick of the week: St Nicholas the real Story*

<https://watch.formed.org/saint-nicholas-the-real-story>

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** We would like to invite parishioners to donate a toy for a child aged between 2-14years. These gifts do not need to be wrapped as the parents are then able to choose a gift for their child. The toys will be distributed with the Christmas Hampers. Part of making those experiencing difficulties in our community have a nice Christmas. Thank you and God bless you all.

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVITY SCENE (ANS) AT ST ELIZABETH'S PARISH, DANDENONG NORTH:** 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 to Friday, 10 January, 2020 Where: St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Baker Rd, Dandenong North. All Welcome! Cost: FREE. Children are to be accompanied by an adult/guardian/parents Viewing time: After Mass times and any other time by appointments only Contacts: 9795 6217 (parish office) Website: <http://www.australiannativityscene.org/>

**MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** A rare opportunity to journey with Mary to the Holy Land and gain astounding insights into the life of Mary from the Old Testament. Dates of travel are 13th January to 26th January 2020. Bookings close on 18th Dec 2019. For more details and bookings please contact: Regina Abraham. Mob: 0433 156 419. Email: [bethuelcare@gmail.com](mailto:bethuelcare@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:** 2020 Study Options Now Available! Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation: Meditation in the Christian Tradition; Applied Meditation; Meditation and Wholeness. Audit and Credit options available Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments. Ph: 03 9412 3309, email [AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au](mailto:AssistantDean@ctc.edu.au) – 278 Vitoria Parade, East Melbourne [ctc@ctc.edu.au](http://ctc@ctc.edu.au)



**The Recently Deceased:** Giovanna Bellinva, Leonard Green, Francesca Duncan, Agnes Onaivi  
**Those whose anniversary or remembrance occurs at this time:** Veronica Scammell, Perc Clancy, Paul D'Mello, Daphne Joachim, Carmelo & Mattia Molino, Kevin Bird, Thressia George, Espeolito & Lina Faraone, Olga Alves, Elizabeth, Theodore, Elysee, Charlette, Lebon Seeborun, Remedios Sangrones, Fr Cornelius Sheehan, Fr John Gowen, Mgr Thomas Lynch, Fr James Duffy

**Those who are sick:** Arlette Lalouette, Stanley Jacobs, Catherine Williams, Felix Weinman, Warren, David Fernando, Lorenzo Gabriel, Leo Domantay, Ignazia Carcangio, Eugene D'Cruz, Glen Lippert, Olivia Newton John, Patrick Adams, Margaret Fry, Edgar Lalouette, Una Williams

*With respect for the privacy of the person who is ill, we can only accept requests from the ill person or their immediate family. Please advise the Parish Secretaries if you wish to be taken off the sick list.*

*If you would like a Mass Offered for a loved one, special occasion or other intention please contact the Parish Office at least a week prior to the date requested.*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Yr A: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

14/15 Dec Rosters	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers	Welcomers
Sat Vigil	A Simmons	R Weinman, L Lim, T de Pradines, K Jolley, R Trevisan, P Hunt, A Hughes	C D'Lima
7.30am	P Condina	A Quintal, P Martin, D Krella	R Macapagal
9.00am	H Guerra	M & A Dam, T Marinelli, R Daly, M Nieuwesteeg, H Speelmeyer, A Malia Ulu	C Pocock
10.45am	N Atulia	T Lupeamanu, R D'Mello, R D'Mello, R Beloso, M Robinson, T Felise, L Caballero, M Auvale	P & O Schreurs
6.00pm	A Ah Sui	L Booth, R Lupeamanu, E Abraham, Y Prasetyo, A Antony, T Hummel, B Evans	M Maroney
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		C Poliquit, A Mastroianni	
CHURCH COUNTERS		R David, J & M Laufou	
CHURCH CLEANERS	16-21 Dec	S Jean Louis, D Krella, C Ancheta, M Magkase, K Susanto	
21/22 Dec Rosters	Lector	Extraordinary Ministers – Christmas Masses see roster in Church foyer	Welcomers
Sat Vigil	Childrens' Choir	C D'Lima, N Carter, T Heldt, R Weinman, L Lim, T de Pradines, K Jolley	T Jolley
7.30am	B Vechooretu	M Soni, L Adikari, A Quintal	A & A Quintal
9.00am	R Spierings	T Marinelli, F Guimmarra, G Spierings, G Nelson, P Joseph, J Seeborun, L Ahsio	J & H Speelmeyer
10.45am	Sr Mary	R Alejandro, S Lucas, A Ortencio, J Thomas, P Schreurs, L & G Clark, R Holsinger	D Deri
6.00pm	M Lutu	C Joseph, S Ganesh, T Treacy, J Connell, S Labella, C James, L Booth	
CHILDREN'S LITURGY		No Children's Liturgy	
CHURCH COUNTERS		D Green, A & R Estrada	
CHURCH CLEANERS	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Volunteers	
CHRISTMAS CHOIRS	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.00pm Children's Choir, 9.00pm Youth Choir, 12 Midnight Divine Mercy Choir	
	25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30am Rasa Choir, 9.00am Organ Choir & 10.45am Milo & Family Choir	

#### GROUPS & MEETINGS

**RCIA:** [For Adults interested in becoming Catholic] Enquiries: Tina 5996 1985.  
**RCIC:** For children aged 4 years and above preparing for Baptism. Sr Faustina 5996 1985.  
**CATECHETICS [R.E.] CLASSES:** Each Wed at 4pm in the Hall during School Terms. Enquiries: Sr. Faustina 5996 1985  
**AFRICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month after 10.45am Mass in the Hall. Enq: Sisters  
**THE BRIGADIERS OF LOURDES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month 2.30pm-4pm. Enq: Lorraine Dunkley 5996 8771  
**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** Weekdays after morning Mass & Rosary in the Church.  
**SAMOAN DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP:** Tuesday 6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Church. Enq: Leo 5995 6813  
**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Mon 10.30am Parish Hall Ph Jacinta 0426973026, Wed 7.30pm Providence. Ph: John 0448343074  
**PARISH CELLS COMMUNITY:** For further information contact Parish Office.  
**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** Providence House, 135 Sladen Street. 1 hour by appointment only. Enq: Ruth 0477 800 161  
**YOUTH GROUP INVIGORATE Jnr [Age 10-13] INVIGORATE Snr [Age 14-17] & AGAPE [Age 18+]:** Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 12noon to 3.00pm after 10.45am Youth Mass. Enq: Sr Mary 5996 1985  
**AGAPE [Age 18-35] YOUNG ADULT GROUP:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 7.15pm – 9.00pm. Enquiries Sr. Mary 5996 1985  
**VOICE FOR LIFE GROUP:** Enquiries: Maria Nieuwesteeg 0409 563 864 or email [voiceforlife@hotmail.com](mailto:voiceforlife@hotmail.com)  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Vinnies Shop- 218 High Street Cranbourne. Phone: 5996 3926, **Vinnies Help Line: 1300 305 330**  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month in the Hall; Rosary 7.00pm; Meeting 7.15pm.  
**CATHOLIC CARE GIPPSLAND:** For Family & Relationship Counselling phone 5941 4100 for appointments.  
**GODSTART:** Post-Baptism follow-up Program. For further information contact Sr Victoria 5996 1985  
**PLAYGROUP:** Tuesdays 9am-11am during school terms in St. Agatha's Hall. Contact Sr Victoria 5996 1985  
**FAMILY ROSARY GROUP:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month. Enquiries: Anita 5995 5545

Like <https://www.facebook.com/StAgathasCP> @StAgathasCP **PARISH APP:** The parish has an APP that is available from the 'APP STORE' and the 'GOOGLE PLAY STORE'. It contains Mass Times, Parish Calendar, Weekly Bulletin and much more! Simply search for St Agathas and download the APP to your mobile device.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** Parish Pastoral Council members are a means of communication for perceived needs in the Parish, ideas, suggestions & feedback.

*We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to our Mass today. If you have recently moved into the parish or have not registered as a parishioner, we invite you to complete a new parishioner card and invite you to join the stewardship program. The new parishioner cards are located on the stone pillar in the foyer next to the welcome table or to register on our website at <https://www.stagathas.org.au/new-parishioners>*

**FIRST READING**

*Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**R. Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



**SECOND READING**

*James 5:7-10*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgment yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

**GOSPEL**

*Matthew 11:2-11*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

When we eat this Bread ... ..

**Welcome to St Agatha's Parish!** We extend a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers to our Mass today. If you have recently moved into the parish or have not registered as a parishioner, we invite you to complete a new parishioner card and invite you to join the stewardship program. The new parishioner cards are located on the stone pillar in the foyer next to the welcome table or go to our website to register at <https://www.stagathas.org.au/new-parishioners>

"The Lord is Near" Today the Church bids us rejoice, the Lord is near, indeed He is with us. Let us rejoice today for those who have said 'yes' to the call of Jesus. Pray for our priests and religious. Pray for the seminarians and religious in formation at this time and for more young people to join them.