



St Agatha's Parish Pennant Hills  
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Dear Parishioners

Our St Agatha's parish vision statement reminds us we are "a diverse community of Catholic believers, drawn together through our Baptism to help each other grow closer to God. We foster a warm and friendly environment in which people are nourished by the Word and the Eucharist."

The three key goals of our parish vision, meant to be reflected in all we do, are conversion, community and mission.

- **CONVERSION** is openness to the work of grace, turning our hearts and lives toward Jesus Christ.
- **COMMUNITY** is about Christ-centred relationships. "By this shall all know that you are my disciples, that you have love one for another."
- **MISSION** is sharing the call of the Gospel and our experience of God with others.

We all contribute to the ongoing life and development of our parish as God calls us to give our time, talent and treasure. Over the coming weeks we will embark on a Planned Giving Program in order to support our parish into the future.

I am very grateful for your generosity in contributing to our 2016 Christmas appeal and for additional personal donations which saw the installation of new monitors, new microphones and updated AV system. There are further projects planned through the PPC. As a parish we have been very generous to those in need through the special collections for external charities like Charitable Works Funds and St Vincent de Paul held in 2016/2017 where our parish donated a total \$106,181.00.

Thank you to those who are making contributions through our parish's Planned Giving and regular cash donations to the plate. Your generosity and commitment is very much appreciated.

As a parish community, we rely enormously on these contributions to cover the following:

- Liturgical needs and resources (vestments, bread and wine)
- Ongoing ministries – youth and seniors ministry, and RCIA
- Special ministries of the parish – Catechetics in state schools, sacramental program, and visits to aged care
- Equipment and resources – computers and photocopier
- Increasing electricity costs and insurance
- Repairs and maintenance for the church, presbytery, meeting rooms and offices
- Staff wages
- Special projects as decided through the Parish Pastoral Council

It has been 30 years since we last had a Planned Giving program and our parish income, through collections, has not kept pace with our parish needs. Our parish is generous to external charities and NOW is an opportunity to contribute to the needs of our parish.

Of the 1500 parishioners who attend Sunday Mass regularly, **212 contribute** through Planned Giving. We believe it would be beneficial for the parish to have a regular income and I would encourage more parishioners to participate in the Planned Giving Program.

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committees will be speaking to you at Masses over the next two weekends about how we can all participate in the Planned Giving Program. I ask that you pray with me that the program will be successful and that our plans for the future of the parish can be realised.

Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you and your family.



Fr Paul Durkin  
Parish Priest