



SALT OF THE EARTH

Doctors and dietitians would have some difficulty with the first part of today's Gospel. Jesus does not seem to know that salt is bad for hypertension and cholesterol! Just as health professionals are encouraging us to be careful in using salt, Jesus is telling us to keep it up. Salt in Jesus' day, and for centuries before and after, was the primary preserving agent for food. That day-to-day usage gives us a clue as to the challenge being laid before us.

We are told that if salt has lost its taste it's good for nothing. So the challenge is to keep it fresh so it can keep doing its job. Jesus suggests that, in the same way, we have to be on guard to make sure that our faith remains fresh so it's able to do its job as well.

The fifth and sixth chapters of Matthew's Gospel are devoted to describing the elements of Christian faith. At the start of the fifth chapter we have the Beatitudes that tell us that the presence of God can be discovered in all of life's situations. It reminds us that as Christians we can find God wherever we want to. The rest of these two chapters go on to give us specific directions about the dangers and aides to faith.

Jesus tells us that a hollow attachment to the letter of the law, unbridled anger, an inability to forgive, being unfaithful in marriage, seeking revenge on our enemies, not being true to our word and being enslaved by money are all examples of bad faith. Think for a moment of people you know who are trapped by any of these vicious forces. It's sad to see the energy it takes them to remain angry, greedy, legalistic, fraudulent and unforgiving.



More positively Jesus tells us in these chapters that prayer, being generous to the poor, being discerning about whom we spend time with and what we see and hear, and going without things we often consider essential are helpful to living a faith-filled life. Think for a moment of people you know who live lives like this. Their detachment, sense of generosity and ease with others stands out in our stress-ridden world.

My professor of liturgy used to say 'Good liturgy enlivens faith and bad liturgy deadens it.' This is the same message Jesus gives us today about faith in general. It's crazy for us to keep spending time with

people and doing things that deaden our faith. We know the impact of these people or activities by the bad taste they leave in our mouths. After an encounter with them, or it, we usually tell ourselves that we must not go back for more, but the bad spirit seduces us into repeating the entire episode with frightening frequency. St Ignatius Loyola tells us that in these situations we have to deal with the bad spirit

quickly and consistently and learn a new pattern of behaviour that will lead us away from darkness into the light.

The job of faith is to enable us to live out and build Christ's reign of justice and love in this world as a foretaste of what awaits us in heaven. May this Eucharist enable us to seek out the people and places that will see the saltiness of our faith remain fresh and interesting so that we will have every chance of preserving our faith in the dryer times, and of our faith in Jesus preserving us in the face of the trials and tests that come our way .

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Liturgy Help

OUR VISION

"Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God".

OUR MISSION

The St Agnes' Parish Community strives to make our Vision a reality by a commitment to:

- holiness in the image of Christ
- proclaim the good news of salvation
- minister within the faith community
- the service of all, particularly those in need

Parish Retreat



**THE FRANCIS
RETREAT**

‘Throw open the door of your heart and let the fresh air of Jesus’ spirit of mercy blow through.’

Pope Francis

Parish Retreat will be held on Saturday, 11 February at the Francis Retreat Centre, Bonny Hills. The facilitator for the retreat will be Fr Elio Capra SDB. It’s a one day retreat with the focus ‘*The Fullness of Mercy in our Lives*’. Fr Elio has been described as a ‘modern, straight talking theologian’. He is a lecturer at the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. All parishioners, teachers and parents are invited. To register, forms are available at the Presbytery Office or, register on line via the St Agnes’ website using the following steps, or call the Presbytery Office.

- Website: www.stagnesparish.org.au.
- Click on Parish Education link.
- On the RHS click on Parish Registrations.
- This will take you to School Interviews, enter Event code for Parish Retreat - 422eh - then click green ‘Go’ button. This will take you to Retreat Registrations. You will be given an option to select if you require transport.

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Gregory Homeming

In anticipation of the forthcoming ordination of Bishop-elect, Gregory Homeming OCD, on 22 February in St Carthage’s Cathedral, Lismore, we are asked to offer this prayer :

‘For Gregory, our Bishop-elect, as he prepares to take up the sacred office of Bishop of the Church of Lismore. As our Chief Shepherd in the line of the Apostles, may he govern your people in love, and inspire and strengthen them in the faith, and in their lives of Christian witness.’

Lenten Programme 2017

It is time to begin preparing for our Lenten Groups. If you are interested in being a group leader contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024 and advise them of the following:

- 1 Your name.
- 2 Location for Lenten group.
- 3 Day and time for group meeting.
- 4 Number of people you can handle.
(usually no more than 10).

If you are thinking of joining a Lenten Group, please also contact the Presbytery leaving your:

- 1 Name.
- 2 Contact details.
- 3 Preferred location.



You’re Invited!

Start the Year as One Body Together

All staff and volunteers are invited to join us on Wednesday, 15 February as we begin the year as One Parish One Body. St Agnes’ Parish Beginning Mass is not only a chance to take time to reflect on our values and to remember why we do what we do, but it is an opportunity to get together with those from other parish service areas and to remember that we do not work alone - we serve as One Body. Mass will commence at 5.15pm in St Agnes’ Church and will be followed by supper. All are most welcome to join this important annual event in the life of our Parish.



Dedication Mass - CWL

The Catholic Women’s League will be holding its Dedication Mass on Friday, 17 February at the 12.05pm Mass in St Agnes’ Church. Afterwards you are invited to a shared lunch at the John Worner Centre followed at 1.30pm by the first meeting of the year. For more information contact Monica on 6582 5770 or Helen on 6583 5391.

Reflection

We live in a world where appearances frequently matter more than they should. Contrary to this predominating tendency, Jesus teaches us that what we do flows from who and what we are. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others in various ways, only because we have been saved by God’s grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others. Our own renewal becomes the means through which God renews the world. This may sound grandiose, but it isn’t. It is the truth about the way God works. Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; some of the apostles were fishermen; Paul was a tentmaker; we are clerks and teachers, bus drivers and doctors, bank tellers and engineers. Like Paul we come to ministry in weakness and fear and much trembling. It is the Spirit and power of God that work the wonders, and God works them through mundane elements of life such as light and salt. As children, many of us learned the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. We learned that we can practise them in every walk of life. Today’s readings remind us of this. We may not be asked to perform extraordinary feats, but all disciples of Jesus are called upon to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

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St Agnes' Care & Concern Group

The Care and Concern Group will be holding its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, 7 February at 2.00pm in the Pastoral Assistant's Office. All are invited to attend.

Offertory Roster

If you are currently a volunteer on our gift bearer's roster can you please advise the Presbytery Office by Monday, 6 February, if you wish to be taken off that roster, or change to another Mass time.

Parish Directory of Services

There are copies of the 2017 Parish Directory of Ministries and Services available from the Presbytery Office. The updated Directory details the many initiatives our Parish is involved in and provides the relevant contact details.

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard has helped many men and women to move on with hope. You are not alone, there is hope after an abortion experience. We can help, our next Rachel's Vineyard retreat for healing after abortion will be held on 13 - 15 October. To speak to someone please call Anne Sherston on the confidential phone lines 6229 8739 or 0478 599 241.

2017 Hospitality and Welcoming "cuppa tea" after Masses

The Parish Hospitality and Welcoming programme has been extended across all Masses. Over the course of a month, there will be a morning, or afternoon, tea after each Mass. Dates for February are as follows:

- Sunday 19 February after 9.00am hosted by the Pastoral Council.
- Sunday 26 February after 5.00pm hosted by Youth United.

Rome Pilgrimages

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is organising two special pilgrimages to Rome, departing on 13 April or 20 April 2017 for Catechists, their families and friends. If you would like more information there are brochures available from the Presbytery, or phone 1800 753 959 or visit the website www.romepilgrimages.com.

National Day of Prayer & Fasting

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting has been transferred from Sunday, 26 February to Saturday, 25 February. Join with Christian leaders and churches of all denominations to pray and fast for the revival and transformation of our nation.

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Freda Morton, Pat Webster, Rosemary Merhi, Jeffrey Condron.

Anniversaries: Kathleen & Harry Smith, Robert Gorman, Jack Dutton, Malcolm Campbell, Marguerite Carlon, Lilian Cavanagh, James Everson, Molly Ginman, Fr William Murphy, Peggy Collins, Kathleen Haxell.

Other Mass Intentions: Raymond Burke, Fr Bernie Kenny, Aubrey Hawes, Tony & Trudy Baker, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, John & Kathleen Carroll, Peggy Collins, Beryl Thomas, Helen Woolford, intentions of Anthony Sarks, Mary Sarks, Danny Sarks, donor intentions and Masses of thanksgiving.

St Agnes' Parish State School Sacramental Program

If you are interested in your child participating in this program and require a Registration Form, or you have any questions please contact Stacey or Donna. The sacramental timeline is below. More detailed information will be available closer to the dates. The Registrations will be held in St Agnes' Church.

- **PENANCE:** students in Year 4 or over. Registration: 20 February.
- **CONFIRMATION:** students in Year 2 or over. Registration: 15 May.
- **COMMUNION:** students in Year 3 or over. Narrated Masses will be held on 20, 21 & 22 August.

Email: sacramentalprogram@gmail.com.

Phone Stacey on 0438 287 898 or call Donna at St Agnes' Primary School on 6583 7433 when school resumes.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Begins this weekend at the Family & Youth Mass, Sunday 5.00pm. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this roster please contact Amanda Howle at ahowle@lism.catholic.edu.au. Volunteers for Sunday, 12 February will be Amanda Howle and Leanne Kalchbauer.



World Day of Prayer

AUSTRALIA

Friday 3 March
at 9.30am
in St Agnes' Church.

Need help with your parish giving?

Call Trudi
(02) 6588 7444



Parish Giving Programme

Parish Priest

Father Leo Donnelly

Assistant Priest

Father Peter Wood

Assistant Priest

Father Roland Agrisola

Pastoral Assistant

Peter O'Driscoll

T (02) 6584 9970

Presbytery Office

47 Hay Street Port Macquarie

PO Box 23

T (02) 6583 1024

E pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au

www.stagnesparish.org.au

Office Hours:

8.30am - 4.30pm

PARISH MASSES

ST AGNES' CHURCH | Hay Street, Port Macquarie

Monday to Thursday: 5.15pm

Friday: 12.05pm

Saturday: 8.00am, 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am, 5.00pm

Please note: Weekday Masses at 9.00am on Public Holidays

Reconciliation: Friday 11.30am -12 noon, Saturday 11.30am - 12.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

1st Saturday of the month 8.30am - 9.30am.

ST FRANCIS CHAPEL /Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie

Contact: Sr Anne Hannigan

Ph 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259.

Communion Service or Mass: 9.30am Monday - Thursday

Sunday Mass: 9.30am

CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL | Boronia St, Port Macquarie

Contact: Sr Anne Hannigan

Ph: 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259

Weekday Mass: See Notice On Chapel Door

Mass: Saturday Vigil - 4.30pm

Rosary: 1st Saturday of the month 4.00pm.

ST BERNARD'S, TELEGRAPH POINT | Rollands Plain Rd, Telegraph Point

Thursday: 6.00pm.

STAR OF THE SEA, LAKE CATHIE | Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie

Sunday: 8.00am.

FEAST DAYS

St Paul Miki & Companions

Monday 6 February

St Jerome Emiliani & St Josephine Bakhita

Wednesday 8 February

St Scholastica

Friday 10 February

Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday
11 February



ROSTERS

11 & 12 February 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Thelma McFarlane

Charlie Peoples

Barry Johnson

7.30am: Anne O'Brien

Cathy Murphy

Greg Grace

9.00am: Beth Flynn

Julie Preston

Betty Hodgson

5.00pm: Ellen Hales

Daniel Ward

Lani Gobius

9.00am: Albert Jacobs

Pat Daley

Mary Bennett

Hank Brinkman

5.00pm: Chris Kalchbauer

Marg Gobius

Timo Gobius

Tina Madden

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: P & F Shaw

7.30am: S Wilson & S Bale

9.00am: M Bennett

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Grace Ryan

2/16 Munster Street

Port Macquarie

Phone: 6584 0609

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

6th Sunday of OT Year A

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20;

Psalms 118;

I Corinthians 2:6-10;

Matthew 5:17-37

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Vanessa Denham

Paul Jones

Gae Green

Jodie Rich

7.30am: David Hogan

Sandra Wilson

Sandy Luschwitz

John McQueen

DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND PAYS 2.15% AT CALL!

There are no fees or charges on your account. AGENTS: Mrs Veronica Rinkin & Mrs Mary O'Brien
DIF Office, Parish Administration Centre, Phone: (02) 6583 7439 9am – 1pm Monday - Friday