



THE STONE IN THE ROAD

Two mind-numbing events occurred toward the end of last year. Firstly, the Dreamworld accident where four people were killed on a 'family friendly' ride and the death of a young bus-driver who was doused with accelerant and set alight. These types of incidents often prompt a search of our deepest thoughts. What was behind these awful events; the senseless violence against a man going about his business and the fateful deaths of four innocents on a fun outing?

In contrast to this is the proclamation and related teaching of today's readings: our right response to God's infinite majesty and love, and sincere love of our neighbour; qualities that Jesus shows are two sides of the one coin.

We can misconstrue Christ's meaning if our response is superficial; nor does it help that people are prone to twist rules for selfish material gain. Jesus, however, is demanding a deep conversion of heart and that we turn back to God with genuine humanity.

His teaching on marriage, for example, is about being true to God's covenant, stretching back to the origins of human life that proclaims mercy and justice. It is because of this deep 'heart' motive, sourced in transcendent love, that the Lord shifts to centre-stage the hidden thoughts of all of us. We are called to search within and remove anything that distracts or separates us from God.

In exaggerated language, a Jewish style of the time, Jesus shows God's Kingdom as a radical reversal of worldly ways that overturns ruthless power structures.

Jesus' passion is our salvation; the promised reward is not material prosperity, longevity, or social status but union with divine love and the coming of God's reign of peace and justice for all creation.

Admittedly, we are all implicated in inhumane behaviour when we neglect to challenge wrong doing on our doorstep, or fix flaws in our environment that threaten the wellbeing and safety of others. Are there oppressive social orders that we turn a blind eye to which result in acts of violence against others? Do we absolve ourselves of guilt and even target the perpetrator for punishment?

Surely, it is this last human failing that Jesus storms against. The backdrop is ever his call to "repent and believe the good news of the Kingdom" (Mk 1:15); his witness to God's reign in his teachings, healings, passion, and glorified resurrection and ascension that represent the goal of humanity and give hope.

It is our responsibility to clean up our act! The humble maiden of the old fable, who removes the harmful stone in the road and discovers a treasure, is the person we want to be: kind, caring and thinking of others. As Lent approaches, may we keep in mind the first stage of our liturgical journey, and that is the process of repentance.



Bet Green
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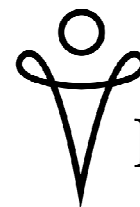
OUR VISION

"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.



Nourished by
FAITH



You're Invited! Start the Year as One Body Together

All staff and parishioners 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. If you are attending for catering purposes please:

- Phone the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024.
- Or, email
pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au.

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 prefer.
(usually no more than 10).



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

- 1 Name & contact details.
- 2 Preferred location.



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

Royal Commission

The Statistics published by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse on the extent of pedophilia in the Australian Catholic Church and religious communities is based on the number of allegations, not the number of proved allegations. Every priest or brother who has ever been an "alleged perpetrator" is treated as guilty for the purposes of the exercise, and every accuser is a truth-teller. Certainly this is what the media, quite understandably, have understood the omission to be implying.

No separate statistics are given for allegations that have been proved or established beyond reasonable doubt; nor has any caution been attached to the report warning that being accused does not necessarily mean guilt. What does this say about the objectivity of the commission...

"Whoever sings well, prays twice over"

Singing during Mass and other liturgies is a way of developing a living personal relationship with God by lifting our minds and hearts to Him through this form of prayer. My role as the Music Co-ordinator in St Agnes Parish is to enhance our liturgical celebrations through the use of music as prayer. To this end I am looking for more people to join the beautiful musicians and singers who currently make up our music ministry team. Everyone is welcome, so please consider this as an opportunity to make a difference in our Parish.

Jenni Searson. Music Co-ordinator 0438 522 854

Journey 4 Teens

We have reached the point in our program where our young candidates are preparing to receive the sacraments of Initiation. This will take place next Sunday, 19 February at the 5.00pm Youth and Family Mass. We ask that the St Agnes' Parish community please keep Amelia Stennett, Sofia and Marianne Gona and Monica Barth in your prayers as they take this next important step in their faith journey.

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.

Catholic Leader

The Catholic Leader is available for sale from the Presbytery office on a Friday afternoon or after each weekend Mass. The cost is \$2.50.

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.

Cathnews Insights

Cathnews Insights has become very much a popular part of our weekly source of information on events within the Catholic Church. Into the future we would also like to include local events, and special stories on our parishioners. If you have 'a story' you'd like to share please provide it in a word document and email to Jacob at jsoerenson@uf.stagneparish.org.au.

Dolphin Playgroup

The St Agnes' Parish Playgroup for Parents and Children will now be held at the Youth Hub .

Contact:: Vanessa Denham on 0447 992 986.

Email: Vdenham@pac.stagneparish.org.au

When: 9:30-11:30am Friday
(during the school term)

Where: Youth Hub, Horton Street,
Port Macquarie

Donations of toys appropriate for children between 0-5 years would be appreciated.

If interested in enrolling this may be done at the Youth Hub when attending for the first time.

2017 Hospitality and Welcoming "cuppa tea" after Masses

The Parish Hospitality and Welcoming programme has been extended across all Masses. 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.

Thank you to St Joseph's Family Services who were hosting our first Parish get together for the year last weekend. Unfortunately due to the weather it was cancelled.

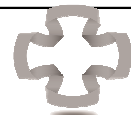
Christian Meditation St Francis Chapel

Christian Meditation will be held on Wednesday, 15 February from 6.00pm-7.00pm at St Francis of Assisi Chapel. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Simon on 0412 236 977.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this roster please contact Amanda Howle at ahowle@lism.catholic.edu.au.

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Gwen Hardgrove, Bob Blake, Pat Webster, Rosemary Merhi, Freda Morton.

Anniversaries: Clare & Joe Martin, Jean Curtis, Felipe Cañaveras Arnado, Thomas Moon, Conrado Ramirez, Amparo De la Rosa, Carmel Franklin, Gerald Cavanagh, Maureen McLean, Nicholas Connolly, Terence White, William Morcom, Robert Saunders, Molly Ginman, Beryl Toole, Cyril & Eileen Bennett.

Other Mass Intentions: John Bryan Heagney, Jack & Margaret Howard, Bernadette Stapley, Gregory Toole, Joseph Alfred Bujeya, Wendy Caroline Bujeya, Darren Vincent Bujeya, Wayne Joseph Bujeya, Rose-ann Torrión Arnado, John & Kathleen Carroll, Peggy Collins, Beryl Thomas, Helen Woolford, Kathleen Haxell, Tony & Trudy Baker, Marija Miller, donor intentions and Masses of thanksgiving.

St Agnes' State School Penance Sacramental Program



If you are interested in your child participating in this program to receive the Sacrament of Penance please contact Stacey or Donna. The Registration will be held in St Agnes' Church on Monday, 20 February at 6.00pm. It is for students in Year 4 or over. For more information phone Stacey on 0438 287 898 or call Donna at St Agnes' Primary School on 6583 7433. You can also email on sacramentalprogram@gmail.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.

Port Macquarie Men

Come along and join with us in sharing a meal and discussion on Thursday, 16 February at Westport Club from 12 noon to 2.00pm. If you are interested contact Greg on 0418 247 107.

Position Vacant - Diocese of Lismore

Applications are invited for the position of Manager Safeguarding Office. For more information visit www.catholicjobsonline.com.au or contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close 3 March.

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

FEAST DAYS

St Cyril & St Methodius

Tuesday 14 February



The Seven Founders of the Servite Order

Friday 17 February

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ROSTER FOR 19 FEBRUARY

5.00pm: Amanda Howle
Daniel Blackman

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.

ROSTERS

18 & 19 February 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Alan Wheatland
Margaret Donnelly
Bill Skane

7.30am: Joanne Hogan
David Hogan
Jim O'Brien

9.00am: Josephine Mockford
Genevieve Postlewait
Anne Thurgate

5.00pm: Daniel Underhill
Caitlin Rich
Thomas Inatey

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Barry Johnson
Thelma McFarlane
Charlie Peoples
Des Grissell

7.30am: Anne O'Brien
Dianne Gander
Denise McLoughlin
Pat McLoughlin

9.00am: Hebin Kallikkadan
Betty Hodgson
Nigel Toole
Judy Brady

5.00pm: Kylie Kipreotis
Kay Fowler
Cath Freeman
Tim McCosker

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: L English & Family

7.30am: S & K Panes

9.00am: L Fuller & J Howle

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Grace Ryan
2/16 Munster Street
Port Macquarie
Phone: 6584 0609

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

7th Sunday of OT Year A

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18;

Psalms 102;

1 Corinthians 3:16-23;

Matthew 5:38-48.

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