



SAINTLY

A tennis player in the 1980's gained unfavourable notoriety for his verbal stoushes with umpires and his use of the phrase, "*You cannot be serious!*" I sometimes wonder whether this phrase is our instinctive response when Jesus challenges us with his radical teaching in the gospel.

There were occasions when the apostles, mystified, questioned Jesus. It is worth remembering his response was that with God everything becomes possible. Paul reminds the Corinthians they are not dependent on human wisdom: they are temples of God's Spirit; God is living among them; they belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Old Testament people were not strangers to the call to love and forgiveness: Leviticus makes it clear the Lord had told Moses to teach the community to love and forgive and be holy, like God. And yet, by the time Jesus was speaking the same message, his own people were more familiar with an interpretation that meant they were only called upon to love their neighbour, not their enemies. Jesus more than takes them and us out of our comfort zone and culminates by insisting: "*You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

There are times we are inspired by some of the heroic examples of love and forgiveness in the saints who have risen above their human circumstances, either showing us how to reach out to those on the margins or how to heal the hurt when forgiveness seems all but impossible. This is why the Church cultivates our devotion to the

saints, especially in our time. Hopefully, they are people with whom we can identify because they have lived in our times and overcome the challenges of today's world. But the danger remains that holiness can be viewed as something reserved for the exceptional few, not something to which all of us can aspire.

This is partly the result of our own temperaments, as well as the language of the gospel. For example, Matthew completes Jesus' teaching in this section of the Sermon on the Mount with the command: "*You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

Matthew is writing for his own Jewish community, determined that they see the contrast with their former way of understanding God. But note how Luke, in his gospel, completes the same sequence of teaching: "*Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.*" The perfection of the gospel is not the perfection of the person who has to get everything right - the perfectionist - it is rather the compassion of God.

Luke, the doctor, the friend of Mary, was writing for a non-Jewish audience. Like Pope Francis today he was desperate that we should encounter Christ, the healer and bring his compassion to others. Perhaps becoming a saint is not out of the question after all?



Timothy J Buckley
CSsR
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2017

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



Nourished by
FAITH

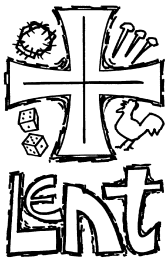
Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Gregory Homeming

In anticipation of the forthcoming Ordination of Bishop-elect, Gregory Homeming OCD, on Wednesday, 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.'

Live streaming of the Ordination is available via the Lismore web site of www.lismorediocese.org. It will commence at 7.00pm on Wednesday. You can go on line and test run before hand.

Lenten Programme

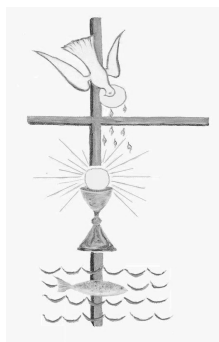


There is still time to put your name down and join a Lenten Group. Please call the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024. Lenten Groups enable us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Easter season and provide a way to rekindle the love that God has for each of us. The theme for this year is 'Up From the Waters.'

Leader & Location	Day and Time
Peter O'Driscoll Parish Hall	Monday 5.45pm Commencing 6 March.
Bill Skane Parish Hall	Wednesday 10.00am Commencing 1 March.
Maureen McCabe Lake Cathie Chapel	Wednesday 1.00pm Commencing 1 March.
Marg Gobius Bonny Hills	Wednesday 7.00pm Commencing 1 March.
Kay Fowler & Monica Doyle St Francis Chapel	Thursday 2.00pm Commencing 2 March.
Ellen Hales Youth Hub	Friday 5.30pm Commencing 3 March

Journey 4 Teens

You are invited to pray for our young candidates who are preparing to receive the sacraments of Initiation on Sunday, 19 February at the 5.00pm Youth and Family Mass. Please keep Amelia Stennett and Sofia and Marianne Gona in your prayers as they take this next important step in their faith journey.



Friday 3 March
at 9.30am
in St Agnes' Church

Baptism Information Night

The next Baptism Information night will be held on Thursday, 23 February at 6.00pm in the St Agnes' Church. If you have an enquiry please call the Presbytery Office.



21 & 22 February Communion Services

As our Priests will be away in Lismore for the Ordination of Bishop-elect, Gregory Homeming OCD, there will be no weekday Masses in St Agnes' Church on Tuesday, 21 February and Wednesday, 22 February. These will be replaced with Communion Services and all are invited.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

Weekend date: 19-21 May at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

Little Black Books

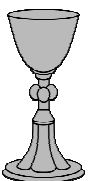
The Lenten books have arrived! And are available from the Church, Chapels and the Presbytery. These books provide a daily reflection for the Lenten season and offer a spiritual journey to prepare for Easter.

Franciscan Prayer Group

Join with us at the Tenison Wood Centre on Sunday, 19 February from 11.00am to 12 noon. All are invited. For more information contact Charlie on 0413 848 476.

Offertory Roster

The updated Offertory Roster can be collected from the Church entrance, or the Presbytery office. If you would prefer your roster emailed to you please call the Presbytery on 6583 1024.



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 (school term only).

Where: Youth Hub, Horton Street.

Donations of toys appropriate for children between 0-5 years would be appreciated. Enrolling may be done at the Hub when attending for the first time.

Hospitality and Welcoming Cuppas Sunday 26 February

- After 5.00pm Mass our cuppa will be hosted by Youth United. Please stay behind and enjoy a chat with parishioners.
- **Star of the Sea, Lake Cathie.** Morning tea will be held after 8.00am Mass. All attending Mass are invited to stay afterwards for a cuppa and a chat.



Christian Meditation St Francis Chapel

Christian Meditation will continue on Wednesday, 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.

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.

'Hope lets new life blossom like a plant that grows from the seed, fallen on the earth.'
Pope Francis



Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Henry and William Hoy, John Herring, Margaret Wright, Margaret Dess, Ken Appleby, Michael Connolly, Peg Eddy, Fr Frank O'Gorman, Rosemary Merhi.

Anniversaries: Eileen and Keith Morrissey, Patrick McDonnell, Kevin Franklin, Stan Larsen.

Other Mass Intentions: Daniel Graham, Julie O'Calligan, Clare & Joe Martin, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, John & Kathleen Carroll, Peggy Collins, Beryl Thomas, Helen Woolford, Kathleen Haxell, Tony & Trudy Baker, Marija Miller, donor intentions and Masses of thanksgiving.

MacKillop Gift Shop

The gift shop has for sale a wide range of gifts, religious items and cards. It is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 2.00pm and is located on Hayward Street, behind KFC. The phone number is 6584 9779.

National Day of Prayer & Fasting

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting will be held on Saturday, 25 February. Join with Christian leaders and churches of all denominations to pray and fast for the revival and transformation of our nation.

"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



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 Peter Damian

Tuesday 21 February

The Chair of

St Peter the Apostle

Wednesday 22 February



St Polycarp

Thursday 23 February

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF
THE WORD ROSTER FOR
26 FEBRUARY**

5.00pm: Simone Tidd
Craig Brazel

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

25 & 26 February 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Jodie Rich
Robert Green
Kym Condon

7.30am: Darren Smith
Peter Swan
Pat McLoughlin

9.00am: Cathy Hawtin
Trish Green
Mary Bennett

5.00pm: Kate Field
St Agnes' Primary
Kate Field
Daniel Ward

9.00am: Peta Rourke
Cathy Stevenson
Pheobe Morris
Peter O'Driscoll

5.00pm: Karen Robson
Pauline Murphy
Chris McCarron
Jacky McCarron

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: B & G Green
7.30am: B & W Arthur-Pfeil
9.00am: N & B Moore

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Mrs Zilla Tonks
2 Macquarie Place
Port Macquarie
Phone: 6583 4713

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

8th Sunday of OT Year A
Isaiah 49:14-15;
Psalm 61;
1 Corinthians 4:1-5;
Matthew 6:24-34.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Jason Gill
Phil Lloyd
Bill Skane
Sue Skane

7.30am: Lisa Toomey
Beverly Arthur-Pfeil
Wendy Pfeil
Kevin Lewis

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