



## WHAT COST, HAPPINESS?

A few years ago I read about a survey: 'Who are the happiest people on earth? The top five responses were very interesting. An artist or craftsperson whistling or singing while working. A little child playing or building sandcastles on the beach. A mother bathing her baby. A doctor or surgeon who brings healing or saves a life. A grandparent pushing a grandchild in a pram or on a swing.

Absent from the list of responses were the rich, the famous, royalty, sport and TV stars, politicians and civic leaders. The wisdom of the responses is clear. The essential quality of happiness is not found in wealth, prestige, power, status or possessions, so often worshipped as 'idols' in today's world.

This reminds me of Kevin, a 29 year old business executive who is well on the way to his first million and I get the feeling he won't stop there! I can't deny that Kevin has worked very hard to get where he is. However, it has come at a heavy cost, both personally and professionally.

He has alienated most of his family and friends. He rarely visits his parents. He's been involved in a string of failed and poisonous relationships, all superficial and convenient. He is driven by an insatiable desire for more wealth and possessions and he doesn't care who or what he tramples on to get it. He is seduced by the lure of fame and

craves recognition and attention to feed his ravenous ego. For Kevin, everything is me, me, me! He can't see beyond himself. There is no consideration or room for anyone else. There is no world apart from the world of Kevin.

Today's gospel offers a blunt challenge. "You cannot at the same time be the slave of God and money." Jesus is not criticising ownership of things. Rather, it is a question of our attitude towards them, having our lives controlled by them and being unable to share them with those in real need.



We're invited to reflect on what are our most basic values in life. Is it just what we want to have or is it what we most want to be? Is it about making a living or making a life? Is it a matter of getting what we have not got or sharing with others what we have, however little it may seem to be? Are there other values, other more precious qualities; like happiness, peace, freedom, contentment, wonderful friends, a supportive family? Sadly,

Kevin is so preoccupied with things and wanting more, he can't see that there is more to life. He is looking in the wrong places.

Jesus puts before us a choice between God's vision of life and a life that enslaves us and prevents us from experiencing true and lasting happiness. What's your choice?

David J Hore CSsR  
© Redemptorists 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.
- proclaim the good news of salvation.
- minister within the faith community.
- the service of all, particularly those in need.



Nourished by  
**FAITH**

# Ash Wednesday



1 March - Mass Times

**St Agnes' Church:** 7.30am, 12.05pm, 5.15pm.

**Star of the Sea, Lake Cathie:** 8.00am.

**St Francis of Assisi Chapel:** 9.30am.

## Rosters for Ash Wednesday

Readers & Commentators:

7.30am Joanne Hogan

12.05pm Sandra Wilson

5.15pm Sr Marjorie

Ministers of the Eucharist & Distribution of Ashes:

7.30am David Hogan

12.05pm Des Grissell

5.15pm Melissa Antrim

## 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.'



Please take home a Project Compassion set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Love your neighbour".

As Pope Francis said, "Love of God and love of our neighbour is one and the same thing." In this year's Project Compassion, Caritas Australia demonstrates how love for our neighbours can transform lives. Project Compassion 2017 shows the many ways we work around the world with our local partners to offer hope to people most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Through opportunities to learn, share their skills and work together our neighbours everywhere are empowered to create safe, resilient communities. As our neighbours grow in strength and hope, our one human family is enriched. Together we build lasting change in our world. You can donate through Parish envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or



phoning 1800 024 413.

## Reflections on Readings during Lent Ash Wednesday

The Prophet Joel and the Gospel of Matthew today call us to repentance, reconciliation, fasting, prayer and almsgiving. This call takes us to the heart of the penitential season of Lent: a conversion of heart that comes from a renewed and revitalised relationship with our God who is gracious and merciful and bestows abundant life on all.

As Christians we know that we are called to live life to the full. During Lent, this 'joyful season', we are called to give expression to the 'greatest commandment of the law', the love of God and the love of one's neighbour which is at the heart of Project Compassion.

This Lent, after the ash is washed away and we move through this journey to Easter, let us hold in our prayers the oppressed, the hungry, the broken-hearted, the captive, the prisoner. Can we fast so that others may have more of the world's resources? In a time 'when the divide between the mega-rich and the forgotten poor is ever widening', may we bring the good news to those most deeply affected by the inequities in our world — let us take home a Project Compassion box or envelope set and give generously to some of our neighbours

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



## Reflection Evenings

Each year we make one night a week available for a Lenten Reflection night where we can come together to pray before the blessed sacrament, reflect upon scripture and have confession available to us. It is, in fact, a holy hour. These evenings will commence on Wednesday, 8 March beginning with Mass at 5.15pm and end with Benediction at 6.15pm. All are welcome to attend.



## World Day of Prayer AUSTRALIA

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

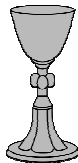
World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Throughout the entire day, we collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe. Co-ordinated services of Christian worship and prayer are held in over 170 countries. The program for the service is prepared by women from one focus country of the world. This year the service is prepared by women from the Philippines. The theme is 'Am I being unfair to you?' Come join with us in St Agnes' Church on Friday, 3 March at 9.30am. This will be followed by morning tea.

### Little Black Lenten Books

There are a few books still available. If you would like a copy please contact the Presbytery Office. These books provide a daily reflection for the Lenten season and offer a spiritual journey to prepare for Easter.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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.

### Christian Meditation St Francis Chapel

Christian Meditation will continue on Wednesday, from 6.00pm - 7.00pm at St Francis of Assisi Chapel. For more information contact Simon on 0412 236 977.

## Remember in Prayer



**Recently Deceased:** Leonie Cleary, Bill Linke, Bridget Downes, Henry and William Hoy, John Herring, Margaret Wright, Ken Appleby.  
**Anniversaries:** Sr Elsie Krelle, Stephen Castles Gerald Cavanagh, Eileen & Keith Morrissey, Gwen Daley, Mary & Andrew Boland, Eileen & James O'Connor, Jim Milkerin, Tom Ptolemy, Ronald O'Brien, Sarah McCarthy, Annie & Paul Quinn, Dot Heath, Kit Wright, Ella Giri, Kathleen & Allen Woods, Susan & William Brooks, John A & John P Woods, Helen Woolford, Fr John Durney, Fr John O'Sullivan, Fr John Naylor.  
**Other Mass Intentions:** Clare & Joe Martin, Patrick McDonnell, Jenny Jamour, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, John & Kathleen Carroll, Peggy Collins, Beryl Thomas, Kathleen Haxell, Tony & Trudy Baker, Marija Miller, donor intentions and Masses of thanksgiving.

### What's Happening This Week?

- **Parish Hospitality Cuppa**  
Saturday, 4 March after 6.00pm Vigil Mass: the weekly parish hospitality cuppa will be hosted by MacKillop Gift Shop and the Pastoral Office. All invited to stay behind after Mass for a cuppa and a chat.
- **St Francis of Assisi Chapel Morning Tea**  
Morning tea will be held after Mass on Sunday, 5 March. All are invited.
- **Christ the King - Anointing Mass**  
An anointing Mass will be held in Christ the King Chapel on Thursday, 2 March at 9.00am. All are welcome to attend.

### Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful 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](http://www.wwme.org.au) or Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 4283 3435 or [wsharpe@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsharpe@bigpond.net.au)

### Pope Francis' Tweet

'God knows better than we do about what we need. We must have faith, because his ways are different from ours.'

**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](mailto:pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au)

[www.stagnesparish.org.au](http://www.stagnesparish.org.au)

**Office Hours:**

8.30am - 4.30pm

**FEAST DAYS**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Day of Fast & Abstinence**

Wednesday 1 March



**Ember Day**

Friday 3 March

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF  
THE WORD ROSTER FOR  
5 March**

**5.00pm:** Rani Tink  
Natalie Jennings

**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**

4 & 5 March 2017

**READERS AND COMMENTATORS**

**6pm Vigil:** Maureen Dick  
Margaret Swan  
Vanessa Denham

**7.30am:** Mary Ann Wright  
Sonia West  
Denise McLoughlin

**9.00am:** Richard O'Brien  
Peta Rourke  
Judy Brady

**5.00pm:** Lani Gobius  
St Peter's Primary  
Ellen Hales  
Vanessa Denham

**9.00am:** Jacob Soerensen  
Jenny Soerensen  
Michelle Baird  
Anne Thurgate

**5.00pm:** Ginaya Yarnold  
Ellen Hales  
Angela Sullivan  
Diane Hughes

**GIFT BEARERS ROSTER**

**6pm Vigil:** Bell Family

**7.30am:** S Wilson & S Bale

**9.00am:** P Sharpe &  
A Schwennesen

**THE STATUE OF OUR LADY**

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

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**1st Sunday of Lent, Year A**  
Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32;  
Psalm 30; Romans 3:21-25,  
28; Matthew 7:21-27.

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**6pm Vigil:** Peter Brooks  
Joy Amos  
Rudolf Szibrowski  
Kym Condon

**7.30am:** Geoff Leary  
Kay Farrowell  
Jennifer Crossing  
Greg Grace

**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