



Father Jim was invited by Caritas, the Catholic Development Agency, to travel to the Philippines and see the excellent work they were doing with the monies collected in their Lenten appeal.

When he arrived in Manila he was asked if he would like to have some exposure to the real lives of the people Caritas was helping. It was decided that for two days he would live with a family on Smoky Mountain. Smoky Mountain no longer exists, but for over thirty years it was home to nearly ten thousand people. Smoky Mountain was the refuse tip for metro-Manila. It got its name from the smouldering pile of rubbish dumped there every day. People lived on three sides of this mountain of waste and made their homes and livelihood from the city's refuse.

Jim had heard of Smoky Mountain, but nothing prepared him for the reality. He smelt it before he saw it and when he saw it he couldn't believe it. The crest of the hill was indeed billowing smoke, and canals of water surrounded it. Running water was only available at public pumps. Over the canals were semi-public cubicles where people showered and went to the open toilets. As the bulldozers shovelled the day's deposit into the mountainside, the residents picked through the collection to see what could be salvaged. Homes were made of every weather-resistant material imaginable.

Jim met the Jesuits who looked after the Smoky Mountain parish. They were campaigning to have it shut down. The parish priest took him to meet the family with whom he would be staying. On a hot, humid afternoon he started the climb to Bing's home. There were children everywhere. Dirty, energetic, scavenging children. His heart was close to breaking, his stomach was dry-retching.

When he arrived at Bing's neatly kept home he was given a warm welcome. Bing saw that Jim was hot and bothered by his new surrounds and offered him a drink of water. Nothing prepared him for this dilemma: how far was he prepared to share in the

life of the poor? All Jim could think of were the diseases he could catch from drinking water from the pump. As thirsty as he was he declined the offer, knowing that later he would privately gulp down one of the bottles of water in his backpack. Jim watched as the glasses of water were served on a tray. As he chatted to the family about Smoky Mountain he felt a fraud. Bing's daughter emerged with a sealed bottle of water and proceeded to fill up all the glasses. On seeing the bottle Jim had a change of mind and accepted the water. Bing then produced a plastic glass in a sealed package for Jim's use. Flushed with embarrassment, all he could think of was Jesus and the Woman at the Well.

At that famous well Jesus enters the world of a poor Samaritan woman who has been dumped five times by the men who married her. By asking for a drink, by engaging her in conversation, by understanding her situation and offering her a way out of the cycle of emotional abuse in which she was caught, Jesus gives her the greatest gift of all: personal dignity. This changes her life and turns her into one of the earliest missionaries in John's Gospel.

Although separated by time and space, a drink of water helped a Samaritan woman and Fr Jim face up to the embarrassment of their worlds, their quick and inaccurate judgements and reassess the choices that could lead them to life. Both of them recognised that no matter how good the gift of



water was that day, the unknown and unexpected Giver of the gift was so much greater.

May this Eucharist help us do the same.

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Liturgy Help

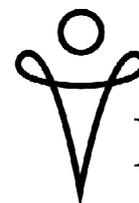
**OUR VISION**

"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.



Nourished by  
**FAITH**



## Lenten Reflection Evenings

Will continue on Wednesday, 22 March beginning with 5.15pm Mass and ending with Benediction at 6.15pm. All are invited to come together to pray before the blessed sacrament, reflect upon scripture and have confession available to us.

## Lenten Program Books

There are still a number of the Lenten Program books available. The theme is 'Up from the Waters'. So if you are interested in purchasing a copy for your own reflections they are available from the Presbytery Office for \$10.00.

## Help ... Please

### • Crosses for Palm Sunday

It is that time of the year when we are seeking volunteers to make our special palm crosses for Palm Sunday on 9 April.



### • Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet

We are once again seeking volunteers for the traditional Washing of the Feet ceremony at Holy Thursday Mass on 13 April.

If you are able to assist with either of the above, please contact the Presbytery Office.

## Bishop Homeming

- The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Homeming is continuing to be streamed on the Lismore website. The streaming button is on the right hand side of the home page.
- Bishop Homeming is presenting a series of talks in the St Mary's Chapel, Lismore. To view these talks visit the Lismore website. The talks will be streamed in sequence. Click on the yellow box on the right hand side 'Bishop's Lenten Message & Talks'

The Lismore website is: [www.lismorediocese.org](http://www.lismorediocese.org).

## Baptism Information Night

The next Baptism Information night will be held on Thursday, 23 March at 6.00pm in St Agnes' Church. If you are planning on having your child baptised in the near future it is important for you to attend this evening.

### Pope Francis' Tweet

'The road from love to hate is easy. The one from hate to love is more difficult, but brings peace'.

*please join us*

## A Journey into the Catholic Faith

Will continue on Wednesday, 22 March at 6.00pm in the Parish boardroom. This week's discussion is ... What is Grace?

Grace is the free gift God gives us to make us sharers in his life and able to act by his love. Grace depends entirely on God's initiative and surpasses the abilities of the intellect and the powers of human beings. The grace that makes a person holy is called *sanctifying grace*. Aside from sanctifying grace, there are *actual graces* (gifts for specific circumstances), *sacramental graces* (gifts proper to each sacrament) and *charismatic gifts* (gifts that are intended for the common good of the Church). Grace precedes, prepares and elicits our free response to God's offer of friendship and salvation. "It responds to the deep yearnings of human freedom and calls for its cooperation and leads freedom to its perfection."

## Thoughts on the Gospel

Mother Teresa - now canonised by the Church as St Teresa of Calcutta - felt that our greatest suffering is not our need or weakness itself, but the feeling of uselessness, of being worthless, unappreciated and unloved. She felt there is a voice in our culture that insists only the beautiful and 'successful' are loveable. She loved the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, feeling that the Samaritan woman symbolises our human poverty and yet the possibility of salvation. As a Samaritan the woman was an outcast and she was also a public sinner, losing her dignity as a person, and yet she had a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

In a letter to her Missionaries of Charity at Easter 1993, referring to the story of the Samaritan woman, Mother Teresa wrote:

"Jesus wants me to tell you again how much is the love he has for each one of you - beyond all you can imagine. Not only that he loves you, even more - he longs for you. he misses you when you don't come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don't feel worthy. Why does Jesus say, 'I thirst'? What does it mean? It is something so hard to explain in words. 'I thirst' is something much deeper than just Jesus saying, 'I love you'. Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you, you can't begin to know who he wants to be for you. Or who he wants you to be for him."



The Living Word



Last year, Project Compassion raised the sum of \$11.1 million. This amount is testament to your enormous generosity and compassion. Again this year you can make a difference to thousands of our neighbours. Your support for Project Compassion will help us to continue partnering with our neighbours from whom we have so much to learn, the members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants. Thank you for showing your love and compassion for our neighbours.

## HARMONY DAY 21 MARCH



[www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au)

Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

Held every year on 21 March. The day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs', the day aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster a sense of belonging for everyone. Since 1999, more than 70,000 Harmony Day events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

### Why orange?

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange on 21 March to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia.

### menALIVE

When was the last time you felt fully alive? Find out what is 'authentic manhood' and discover the true meaning of your role, the way God meant it to be! A Retreat Day for single and married men will be held at The Francis Retreat, Bonny Hills on Saturday, 29 April from 9.00am to 3.00pm. For more details contact Peter O'Driscoll on 6584 9970, Mike Hawtin on 0481 795 986 or the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024. The menALIVE website is [www.menalive.org.au](http://www.menalive.org.au).

## Remember in Prayer



**Recently Deceased:** Dorothy Hanrahan, Brian North, Shirly Hancock, Leonie Cleary.

**Anniversaries:** Michael Smith, Edward-Antoni Czaplinski, Cyril & Katherine O'Neill, Tim & Madeline O'Neill, Arthur & Grace Wenman, Neville Cannen, George Hollington, Joan Bruce, Hilton Roach, Fr Daniel Lawton.

**Other Mass Intentions:** Darren Trethewy, Marcia Blacklock, Ken McGee, Jenny Jamour, William Cavanagh, Hilton Dodds, Phyllis Dunn, Edward Dunn, Julia & Edward O'Brien, Eileen Monahan, Phil Moore, Trixie Davidson, Florence Shergold, Florence Turner, deceased members of Dunn, O'Brien & Reilly families, Brother Michael O'Connor, Beryl Thomas, Betty Rennie, Marjorie Carnie, Marija Miller, donor intentions and Masses of thanksgiving.

## What's Happening This Week?

- **Franciscan Prayer Group** will be held on Sunday, 19 March at the Tenison Woods Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am. For more information contact Charlie on 0413 848 476.
- **Christian Meditation, St Francis Chapel** Will continue on Wednesday, 22 March from 6.00pm - 7.00pm at St Francis of Assisi Chapel. For more information contact Simon on 0412 236 977.
- **Rugrats** will be held on Friday, 24 March from 4.00pm to 7.00pm at the Youth Hub. All school aged children are welcome. For more information contact Peter on 6584 9970.
- **Parish Cuppa** will be hosted by St Joseph's Primary school after 5.00pm Mass on Sunday, 26 March. All are invited to stay after Mass.

## Catholic Leader

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

## Australian Catholic Super Retirement Fund

Recent government changes to super could affect your retirement plans. A seminar will be held at the Port City Bowling Club on Tuesday, 28 March from 4.30pm-5.30pm. Book now: call 1300 658 776 or email: [catholicssuper.com.au/seminars](http://catholicssuper.com.au/seminars).

## 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 between Parish Administration building and KFC, off Hayward Street. The phone number is 6584 9779.

**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**

**St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Monday, 20 March

**St Turibius of Mogrovejo**

Thursday, 23 March

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

Saturday, 25 March



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

**5.00pm:** Krysten Jones  
Claire Michell  
Hannah O'Brien

**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 March 2017

**READERS AND COMMENTATORS**

**6pm Vigil:** Alan Wheatland  
Margaret Donnelly

**7.30am:** Kym Condon  
Anne O'Brien  
Cathy Murphy  
Jim O'Brien

**9.00am:** Josephine Mockford  
Genevieve Postlewait  
Mary Bennett

**5.00pm:** Lani Gobius  
Kate Field  
Ellen Hales

**9.00am:** Nigel Toole  
Judy Brady  
Peta Rourke  
Cathy Stevenson

**5.00pm:** Natalie Jennings  
Fran Liddy  
Thomas Inately  
Lisa Sleeman

**GIFT BEARERS ROSTER**

**6pm Vigil:** W VanKerckhof & B Kenny

**7.30am:** B & W Arthur-Pfeil

**9.00am:** K Cooper & Family

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**6pm Vigil:** Jason Gill  
Charlie Peoples  
Bill Skane  
Sue Skane

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

**THE STATUE OF OUR LADY**

John & Joy Lovegrove  
2 Jindabyne Place  
Port Macquarie  
Phone: 6583 3121

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**4th Sunday of Lent, Year A**  
I Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13;  
Psalm 22; Ephesians 5:8-14;  
John 9:1-41.

**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