



FINDING OUR WAY

In today's gospel reading Jesus explains to his disciples the meaning of his earthly departure; that is his death, resurrection and return to the Father.

Jesus begins with words of consolation, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

The disciples had reason to be troubled. They had been told of Jesus' approaching death, a death that would also be a departure from them. The disciples would have shared the Jewish expectation that god who had created the world, would intervene "on the last day" to renew the world and vindicate his people.

When Jesus says, "Have faith in God," he is appealing to this faith in God who is acting on their behalf. Although the disciples would have believed in God's intervention, they would not have anticipated that this would be enacted through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus tells them that his departure is a saving act for them; his is not abandoning them. Rather, he is going to prepare a place for them; he promises to come back and take them with him.

No doubt the believers who heard this gospel would have found consolation in these words. However, they still hesitated to believe. Thomas, whom we know as "doubting Thomas" is a spokesperson for those who struggle with faith.

He pleads, "Master, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus answers, "I am the way." He then appeals to his intimate relationship with the Father." The God

whom the Jewish people believed would come to renew the world, is active in the person of Jesus. "The Father who dwells in me is doing his works."

We hear Jesus' promise as addressed to us also: he goes to prepare a place for us. However, if we are honest with ourselves we may well admit that we at times also struggle to believe. We have read of the testimonies of the first witnesses who recount the apparitions of the risen Christ. But for us 'moderns' perhaps the most convincing proof that Jesus is risen and is still with us are the "works" of God.

These works were manifest in the astounding energy shown by the members of the early Church. As we heard in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles: "The word of God continued to spread and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly." They ere also active, as we read elsewhere in the Acts in healing the sick and feeding the hungry.

This powerful witness to the power of the risen Christ is still manifest in the social engagement of Christians today on behalf of justice for the poor and the environment, Jesus says: "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will



do greater ones than these." They can do these greater works because the power of the risen Lord is active in them.

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



Nourished by
FAITH



Mother's Day Prayer

Gracious God,
We thank you for adopting us into your family through the miracle of your grace, and for calling us to be brothers and sisters to each other. Today, loving God, we pray for our mothers:

- who cared for us when we were helpless,
- who comforted us when we were hurt,
- whose love and care we often took for granted.

Today we pray for:

- those who are grieving the loss of their mother,
- those who never knew their biological mother,
- those who have experienced the wonder of an adopted mother's love,
- the families separated by war or conflict.
- Lord, give them special blessings.

Keep us united with you and with each other, so that we can be and become all that we are meant to be. Amen.

Clergy Retreat

This week the annual Diocese Clergy Retreat will be held from 16-19 May in Lismore. Fr Donnelly and Fr Peter will be both attending. Fr Roland will stay and be the duty priest for the southern deanery. So next week there will be changes to weekday Masses in St Agnes' Church.

- Monday and Thursday - Communion Service.
- Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - weekday Mass.
- There will be no Mass at Telegraph Point on Thursday.

A Journey into the Catholic Faith

There will be no Journey into the Catholic Faith on Wednesday, 17 May. Should you have any questions please call the Presbytery Office.

Gospel Thoughts



When a seed grows it doesn't need to be taught how to grow: the new shoot 'knows' how to find the light and the roots 'know' where to go for moisture. This kind of knowing is somehow built into the genetic structure of the plant. Our

relationship with God is like that too, it is part of the fabric of our being. Built into our human structure is the knowledge of God, but in the coming and going of life we lose the ability to access that knowledge easily. In the Gospel, Jesus names himself 'the Way, the Truth and the Life'. To us he says 'you know the way' and this is our challenge, to rediscover our organic knowledge of God by looking at Jesus.

Liturgy Help

Volunteers' Week Message

As part of Volunteers' Week St Agnes' Parish held a special Mass for all our volunteers. Below is a message Fr Donnelly wrote on a card for our volunteers

'Dear Volunteers,

Each morning I open the curtains of my unit and the first thing that catches my eye is the lemon tree - a sight to behold with each branch supporting beautiful lemons - so many I lost count when I tried to count them. Then I started to think that the lemon tree is a sort of paradigm of our Parish. What is visible are the fruits of the labours of many people, schools, aged care facilities, family services, and so on. What is not visible is the trunk of the tree which gives life to the fruit bearing branches and represents the core of our Parish, our faith community. But what is the source that gives life to the trunk of the tree? Its roots of course, and this tree trunk has many such roots: the Eucharist and other sacraments, prayer, evangelization, many unseen, and one very special one - volunteers. All of the wonderful volunteers in our Parish give life and vitality to the trunk of the tree - our worshipping community. They are an essential part of the life giving source that enriches our Parish. Thank for your great work.'

Franciscan Prayer Group

Is held on the third Sunday of each month, Sunday 21 May from 10.30am -11.30am in the Tenison Wood Centre. It offers an hour spiritual reflection and prayer centred around the Gospel and based on Franciscan spirituality. For more details contact Charlie on 0413 848 476 or Joan on 6583 6549.

Franciscan Retreat

This is an early notice, to inform you of a retreat that will be conducted by the Franciscan Order over the weekend of 23-24 September at the Francis Retreat located at Bonny Hills. There is overnight accommodation available. Fr John Cooper will be the spiritual leader. For more information contact Joan on 6583 6549.

Sacramental Program

Any children in our parish in Year 2 or over, who attend schools other than Parish schools, wishing to enrol in the Parish Confirmation Sacramental Program please contact Stacey on 0438 287 898 or the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024. Or by email sacramentalprogram@gmail.com.

Need help with your parish giving?

Call Trudi
(02) 6588 7444



Parish Giving Programme

St Peter's Maytime Markets

Saturday, 21 May 9.00am - 1.00pm

Come and join the fun at St Peter's Primary School, Ocean Drive! Fantastic raffle prizes and stores such as - cakes and slices, toys, games and puzzles, pre loved fashion, chook lotto, mystery bags and lots more! For more information contact the school on 6584 1962.

The Beginning Experience

A personal encounter weekend for those who are grieving the loss of a spouse/partner through separation, divorce or death will be held from 23-25 June at Arabella Garden Inn Motel in Wollongbar. The weekend offers participants the opportunity to turn the pain of loss into growth. For further details and an application form call Judy 6624 1549, Jeanette 6687 7284 or 0403 293734 or visit our website: www.belismore.org.au Applications close on 9 June.

Men of the Parish Social Get-together

Every third Thursday of the month we hold a very informal meeting at the Westport Bowling Club in the Aqua Restaurant. We buy our own meals and drinks and discuss items of interest about every conceivable thing you can think of ranging from our schooling years ago, the activities going on in and around our area, we also discuss sport, and other matters that may come up from time to time. We sometimes even discuss politics ... but not very often ... and we have come up with some very good ideas to save the world - but nobody in the political arena listens to them. We meet at 12 noon, the meetings usually go until 2.00pm, sometimes shorter, sometimes longer depending on the topics we are discussing. There is no cost to you except for your meal and drinks. Come along on Thursday, 18 May and then every third Thursday of the month. We would like to see you there. Contact John Swinsburg on 0411 118 986 for any additional information.

MacKillop Gift Shop Can you volunteer?

The gift shop is in urgent need of more volunteers. The shop is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 2.00pm and is located at the rear of the Parish Administration building. For more information please contact Peter on 6584 9970.

Flood Disaster Appeal

Donations can still be made to Bishop Greg Homeming's Flood Disaster Appeal. Donations are tax deductible. For more information visit the website www.dioceseoflismorefloodappeal.org or contact the Presbytery office on 6583 1024.

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Claire Cain, Patricia Batterham, Hope Crouch, Walter Crossing, Maureen Ward, Ann Cain, Diane Styles, Marie Cain, Donald Ford, Vevencia Magno, Shirley Billington, Rita De la Motte.

Anniversaries: Francoise Cassegrain, Thersio Pagunuran, Juanito Yap, Totshie Farrales, Kathleen Lucas, Noeline White, Laurie Gaffney, Bernadette Farrugia, Ossie Lulham, Fr Thomas O'Byrne.

Other Mass Intentions: Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Hilton Dodds, deceased members of Lynch family, Mary Walklate, Beryl Thomas, Hazel Stephens, Clare Cotter, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.

Mothers' Day Intentions: Pat Chuck, Kathleen Woods, Susan Brooks, Beth Pavey, Anna Woods, Bertha Secomb, Joanne Farrugia, Audrey Carroll, all mothers living and deceased, Doreen English, Margaret Booth, Eileen Spencer, Marija Miller.

Catholic Women's League

The CWL will be holding its next meeting on Friday, 19 May commencing at 1.30pm in the John Worner Centre. For more information contact Monica on 6582 5770. New faces most welcome.

Parish Cuppa

The Family Groups will be hosting the next Parish cuppa on Sunday, 21 May after 9.00am Mass. All parishioners are invited for a cuppa and chat.



menALIVE Feedback

The feedback from the recent menALIVE retreat day has been extremely inspiring and positive! Here are some comments from men who attended:

Tom Scollon: 'I saw the menALIVE post in the parish bulletin. Had my doubts but went. First couple of hours I was a sceptic but soon everything came together. Us guys tend to be lone wolves, keeping much inside, locking away our fears and emotions. So it's good to chat with other guys in a supportive environment about what's going on. As the day drew to a close the sceptic wanted more. We can all do with a bit of growing up! My main takeaway was 'Never too late to ...'

Victor Patrzala: 'The menALIVE retreat was an experience of deepening my understanding of me as a man and as a father to my family. I learnt in being an authentic man, it is possible to be a true husband and father. If Jesus asks you to do something, do it, trusting in Jesus.'

Darrell Groth: 'menALIVE is an inspirational experience and a real way of renewing and developing a personal relationship with God. The tools give a good grounding for further personal spiritual development.'

Visit the Website: www.menalive.org.au.

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 John I

Thursday, 18 May



St Bernadine of Siena

Saturday, 20 May

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF
THE WORD ROSTER FOR
21 May 2017**

5.00pm: Lani Gobius
Leisa Nardella

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

21 May 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Robert Green

George Searson

Kym Condon

7.30am: Sandy Luschwitz

Jennifer Crossing

Greg Grace

9.00am: Julie Preston

Beth Flynn

Betty Hodgson

5.00pm: Daniel Ward

Students of St Agnes'

Primary

Elise Smith

Lani Gobius

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Jodie Rich

Barry Johnson

Thelma McFarlane

Gae Green

7.30am: Kevin Lewis

Beverly Arthur-Pfeil

Wendy Pfeil

Kay Farrowell

9.00am: Nigel Toole

Peta Rourke

Cathy Stevenson

Peter O'Driscoll

5.00pm: Casey Whitehouse

Leisa Fisher

Natalie Jennings

Thomas Inatey

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: P & F Shaw

7.30am: B & W Arthur-Pfeil

9.00am: N & B Moore

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Grace Ryan

2/16 Munster Street

Port Macquarie

Phone: 6584 0609

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

6th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 65;

I Peter 3:15-18;

John 14:15-21

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