



6th Sunday of Easter

Year A

21 May 2017

AFTER JESUS

What keeps the disciples going after the death and resurrection of Jesus? Initially, the disciples experience the risen Jesus appearing to them. Certainly this is the same Jesus who, in his risen state, walks, talks and eats with his disciples; he invites them to see and touch him. Yet, the risen Jesus does not seem bound by time and space in the manner of ordinary beings. Mark tells us he appears in another form (16:12); sometimes, as in the Emmaus story, Jesus is not immediately recognisable.

However, what is recognisable is the manner in which the disciples themselves are empowered by these appearances of the risen Jesus. Their lives are changed from despair and cowardice to faith and courage. Jesus who was crucified is now somehow present to them in a new way. They begin to understand that his death is the source of life, peace and forgiveness for all.

Nonetheless, these heady days in which the risen Jesus appears to his disciples, leading them from despair to hope are coming to an end. Jesus tells them he is returning to the Father but, he adds, "I will not leave you orphans" (Jn 14:18). In particular, he promises them he will send "another Advocate" who is "the Spirit of truth" (Jn 14:16). More than an advocate who may plead our cause, this is the Holy Spirit, counsellor, comforter, enabler, divine lover, who comes from God and leads us to God.

Moreover, it is this Spirit who keeps us in relationship with the risen Jesus – and keeps us faithful to the mission he began. Even before Pentecost, we hear of Philip's mission to the people of Samaria: he not only proclaims Christ and heals the sick but, with the assistance of Peter and John, prays for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit. The apostles soon find that "the world" which rejected Jesus will be equally hostile to the Spirit. Stephen had already been stoned to death; in time, the apostles would suffer a similar fate.



The work and mission of Jesus continue in the life of the church and the lives of Christians everywhere. Jesus' words in his "farewell discourse" focus on the power of love and the promise of the Holy Spirit. However, there is nothing here that assures success in worldly terms. Still, like the apostles and first disciples, we are called in the manner of Jesus: "As the Father sent me, so I am sending you" (Jn 20:21).

According to Pope Francis, our call is to be "missionary disciples" whose concern is the transformation of the world rather than the church's own preservation. Moreover, he made clear the missionary vocation is the responsibility of every Christian. This will involve significant changes in the way the church operates but, most importantly, it demands that Christians, inspired by the Spirit, are filled with "the joy of the Gospel" through their personal encounter with the risen Christ.

Gerard Hall SM
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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

Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day 24 May

Almighty God deepen in our hearts our love for Mary, Help of Christians. Through her prayers and under her protection may the light of Christ shine over our land and may your blessings remain with us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.



The Rosary will be offered prior to Wednesday's Mass from 4.45pm. All are invited to join with us on this special feast day for 5.15pm Mass with music and singing.

A Journey into the Catholic Faith

A Journey into the Catholic Faith continues on Wednesday, 24 May. The topic for this week will be Grace and Beatitudes ...

Grace is sharing in the life of God. This life of grace far exceeds the mere forgiveness of our sins and our worldly improvement as human beings. In this new and supernatural life we become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). Just as natural human life develops towards maturity, so too does the life of grace. As grace matures, building on our human nature, it also brings this nature to its own perfection. Grace is fulfilled in the sharing of God's own happiness in the glory of heaven. But even now we can have a foretaste of this heavenly joy amidst earthly suffering as indicated in Jesus' Gospel of Beatitudes. In this topic, we will discuss the means to grow in the life of God in us and how we can experience a foretaste of the joy of heaven even while still on a journey of life on earth.

Baptism Information Night



Holy Baptism

The next Baptism Information night will be held on Thursday, 25 May at 6.00pm in St Agnes' Church. If you are planning on having your child baptised it is important for you to attend an information session. If you have any questions please contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024.

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 email: sacramentalprogram@gmail.com.

CONFIRMATION



2016 St Agnes' Parish Annual Report

Would you like to know what wonderful work is being done for our community, by our Parish? The 2016 St Agnes' Parish Annual Report has just been released and captures all our services. The report is available to all parishioners and copies are available from the Presbytery or an electronic copy can be found on the Parish website: www.stagnesparish.org.au.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Sydney 7 - 9 December

The Diocese of Lismore, through the Catholic Schools Office, will be co-ordinating and subsidising the participation of up to 400 parishioners from across the Diocese to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Sydney from 7 - 9 December. The ACYF is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. The first ACYF was held in Melbourne in December 2013 and the second in Adelaide in 2015. In 2017 young people are invited to attend the ACYF hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney. Young people from Year 9 (in 2017) to young adults 30 years of age are invited to attend the event. The schools group from Lismore will consist of students from Years 9-12. Participants will be asked to make a co-contribution of \$200.00. This cost will help subsidise transport, registration, accommodation and breakfast. To secure a place on the trip parishioners will need to collect a form from the parish office or Youth Hub and return it by 17 July. Please include the \$200.00 co-contribution payment with the permission note and return to the parish office. Further details can be found on the website:

www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au/

For enquiries or assistance please contact Vanessa Denham, Youth Ministry Coordinator, St Agnes' Parish on mobile 0447 992 986.

E vdenham@pac.stagnesparish.org.au



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.

Franciscan Prayer Group

Join us on Sunday, 21 May from 10.30 -11.30am in the Tenison Wood Centre for an hour of 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.

Kindergarten Enrolments

Enrolments are now being accepted for the 3 primary schools for Kindergarten 2018. Enrolments are based on a zoning system with all the schools having the same uniform and are equally resourced and offer very similar curriculum and extra curricular activities. Applications close on 31 May. For more information contact the Parish Administration Centre on 6588 7444 or email enrol@pac.stagnesparish.org.au.

menALIVE Feedback

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

Arthur Carney: A fabulous and inspired menALIVE event. I felt welcome, the presentations and the heart felt discussions that followed truly engaged me. My batteries were recharged.

Bill Skane: The menALIVE day was very thoughtful and full. The openness of the participants was good to hear. The speakers were good and knowledgeable. I have a lot I need to review in the coming weeks (with excellent hand outs to assist me). I would recommend to others a menALIVE session.

menALIVE (MAX)

Brisbane 14-16 July

menALIVE for Christ (MAX) is an annual gathering of men from across Australia and New Zealand who seek to be encouraged by one another in their faith journey as real men of God. MAX invites men to come together and explore issues that impact their lives through talks, multimedia, workshops, small groups, fellowships and rituals. The experience of men gathering at a MAX weekend can be dynamic and powerful. Each man is challenged to explore how he will respond to God who calls us to ask the questions within our own spiritual lives, as well as within the life of the Church. For more information visit the website: www.menalive.org.au.

Lake Cathie Morning Tea

Parishioners are invited to stay for a cuppa and a chat after 8.00am Mass on Sunday, 28 May at Star of the Sea, Lake Cathie.



Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Kitty Gow, Maree Gregg, Helen Chapman, Mary Zammett, Claire Cain, Patricia Batterham, Hope Crouch, Shirley Billington.

Anniversaries: Vince Rinkin, Mavis Carlon, Romarico Odrunia, Raymond Edward Horton, Wal Dick, Roy Graham, Atilana Amigable, Mary Peoples, James & Kathleen Peoples, John & Kathleen Daly, Patricia Peoples, Clare Cotter, Fr Robert Kennedy, Fr John Walsh, Fr Charles O'Gallagher, Bishop Patrick Farrelly, Third Bishop of Lismore.

Other Mass Intentions: Elmer Cheng, Patricia (Pat) Chuck, deceased members of Graham, Macklin & Blake families, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Hilton Dodds, deceased members of Lynch family, Mary Walklate, Beryl Thomas, Francoise Cassegrain, Hazel Stephens, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.

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 call Judy 6624 1549, Jeanette on 0403 293734 or visit our website: www.belismore.org.au. Applications close 9 June.

Franciscan Retreat

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

Kathleen Briscoe Tuition Scholarship

To continue Kathleen's legacy and fund this scholarship into the future the St Agnes' Foundation gratefully accepts donations from those who are financially able to assist and support this part of our Parish Mission 'The service of all, particularly those in need.' You are invited to an information evening on Wednesday, 14 June from 5.00pm at Newman College Cafe. Please RSVP by 30 May to Kelsey on 6588 7444 or email communications@pac.stagnesparish.org.au. If you are unable to attend and would like more information, or to make a donation, contact Trudi on 6588 7444. Brochures with further details are available after mass.

Catholic Leader

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



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 Rita of Cascia

Monday 22 May

Our Lady, Help of Christians

Wednesday 24 May

**St Bede the Venerable,
St Gregory VII,
St Mary Magdalene
de Pazzi**

Thursday 25 May

St Philip Neri

Friday 26 May

**St Augustine of
Canterbury**

Saturday, 27 May

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

5.00pm: Lucy Brown
Lisa James
Trish Todd

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

27-28 May 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Thelma McFarlane

Wayne Evens

Bill Skane

7.30am: Damien Bennie

Cathy Murphy

Jim O'Brien

9.00am: Genevieve Postlewait

Josephine Mockford

Anne Thurgate

5.00pm: Marraki Kilpatrick

Students of St Peter's

Primary

Kate Field

Vanessa Denham

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Jason Gill

Charlie Peoples

Des Grissell

Joy Amos

7.30am: Anne O'Brien

Jennifer Crossing

Greg Grace

John McQueen

9.00am: Phoebe Morris

Jacob Soerensen

Jenny Soerensen

Judy Brady

5.00pm: Fran Liddy

Lisa Sleeman

Vanessa Denham

Bronwyn Shipton

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: L English & Family

7.30am: S Wilson & S Bale

9.00am: K Cooper & Family

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Grace Ryan

2/16 Munster Street

Port Macquarie

Phone: 6584 0609

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Ascension of the Lord, Yr A

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 46;

Ephesians 1:17-23;

Matthew 28:16-20.

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