



Some years ago, Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru. There he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped forward to the microphone. Their names were Irene and Viktor Charo. As the huge crowd went quiet, they begin to speak to the Pope.

'Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet we believe, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life. And we hunger for bread.' Before a hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish. 'You tell me you hunger for bread.' 'Yes, yes', the millions yelled in reply. 'You tell me you hunger for God', said the Pope and again the crowd swelled with an emphatic 'Yes! Yes!' 'I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied.' The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there – many of them devout Catholics – and said very starkly, 'I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back. Give it back – it belongs to the poor.'

As extraordinary as the Pope's words were that day, Jesus' words about the Eucharist in today's Gospel are even more so. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel many people were so horrified by the claims Jesus makes for the reality of his presence in the Eucharist, they stopped following him. John clearly links Jesus giving himself for the sake of God's kingdom and our redemption, with the communion we share with Him in every Mass.

When we receive the Risen Christ in communion it's not a symbol of his presence or a sign of his life to which we say 'Amen'. It is Christ who hosts us, who gives us himself so that we might be transformed into His image and likeness. In modern language Christ says to us at every Mass, 'Here I am, broken and poured out in love for you. Take me. I'm here for you.'

The danger with all gifts, and most especially with this gift, is that we can think it's just for us, an intimate moment between each of us and Christ. It is that, but it's also much more. St Augustine in a sermon on the

Eucharist on 9th August 413 wrote that the Mass was about three things: goodness, unity and charity. Augustine taught that if we were not better people, working for unity and loving each other away from the Eucharist, it fails to achieve its purpose.

Hence, like the Pope in Peru, many people have linked the reception of the Bread of Life here with the giving of bread which sustains life away from here. On average in our world 26,000 die every day of starvation. John F Kennedy observed in 1961, 'The only thing standing between us and the elimination of hunger is our desire to see it.' We could feed all the world's poor. We choose not to.

In a talk on the Eucharist, the then Jesuit General, Fr Pedro Arrupe said, 'while there is hunger in the world then our Eucharists are incomplete'. By this he didn't mean that when we gather for Mass anything is wrong. Rather he meant that when we gather around this holy table for this sacred meal while people still starve in the world, then something vital is lacking. There's an emptiness.

Yet it's an emptiness that invites us in. The God who comes to us at every Eucharist as real food is the same God that asks, 'When I was hungry, did you feed me?' This question says that just as God feeds us, so we too should and can feed each other.



May this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ give us the strength of our convictions. May the real food and drink we provide away from this sacred table prove to the world the power of the Eucharist to change us into a people that are good, unifying and loving. And may we not just share with the poor from our excesses, but give them back the food that is rightly theirs.

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



Nourished by
FAITH

Father Bernie Kenny - RIP

Father Bernard 'Bernie' Kenny died peacefully on 10 June. A Requiem Mass for the repose of his soul will be held in St Agnes' Church, on Friday 23 June at 10.00am.

Parish Planned Giving

As the end of the 2016/2017 planned giving year approaches, if you have changed address over the past year please contact Trudi on 6588 7444 or email on thosking@pac.stagnesparish.org.au. This will ensure receipts are mailed to the correct address.



Envelopes for the coming financial year are available this weekend for collection after weekend Masses.

You're Invited

Dear Parishioners,

It is with great pleasure that I warmly invite you to morning tea and a walk through tour of our newly completed Donnelly House.

For months, we have been exploring how Catholic Care of the Aged can best meet the current needs of our community, particularly in the context of significant industry reforms.

It is our hope that Donnelly House will provide a much needed service and become a place of hope in what can be a challenging landscape. Our aim is to ensure that each person who visits leaves feeling empowered to live the life they desire - and to live life to the full.

We look forward to you joining us on Sunday 18 June after the 7.30am Mass in St Agnes' Church for a tour of Donnelly House. Alternatively please join us for morning tea after the 9.00am Mass, followed by a tour of Donnelly House.

Yours Sincerely,

Joy Walsh
Director of Care
Catholic Care of the Aged



Parish Mass Times

Weekend Masses will return to the usual times at the Chapels from 24 - 25 June as Fr Roland will be back from leave.

St Bernard's, Telegraph Point: No Mass until Thursday, 29 June.

Weekday Masses: Communion services will be held in St Agnes' Church at 5.15pm on Monday, 19 June and Wednesday, 21 June.

Sausage Sizzle

St Joseph's Regional College will be hosting our Parish supper on Sunday, 25 June after 5.00pm Mass. They extend an invitation to all parishioners and families attending this Mass to join them for a sausage sizzle following Mass.



MacKillop Gift Shop Sale

As the gift shop prepares to relocate to Horton Street it is having a 'moving sale' with 25% off everything in the store. Call in Monday-Friday 10.00am-2.00pm or if you have an enquiry phone the shop on 6584 9779. The existing shop will close on Wednesday, 28 June and the new 'MacKillop Centre', located in Horton

Street, at the bottom of the stairs, it is anticipated will re-open on Monday, 3 July. There will be more details next week.



Baptism Information Night

The next Information Night will be held on Thursday, 22 June at 6.00pm in St Agnes' Church. If you have any questions in relation to this sacrament please contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024.



Corpus Christi

The feast of Corpus Christi is the feast of life's fullness. The presence of the Lord among us, the gift of himself in the holy sacrament, and the joy of being part of his company, the Church, is what we celebrate today: gathered together, fed by his word and sent out into the world ... the Church is no empty building. Here the Lord lives among us. The Living Word.



Pope Francis - Official Tweet

'The Church shines forth when she is missionary, welcoming, free, faithful, poor in means and rich in love.'

Vinnies Winter Appeal
envelopes are available
and donations will be
accepted until the
end of June.



Youth & Family Mass Volunteers

The roster for readers & commentators at the Sunday 5.00pm Youth & Family Mass is about to be updated. We would like to invite any young people who regularly attend this Mass to join our eager group of volunteers in participating in this ministry. If you would like to be included on the roster please contact Vanessa Denham by Monday, 19 June on mobile number 0447 992 986 or email vdenham@pac.stagnesparish.org.au.

Franciscan Prayer Group

A one hour spiritual reflection and prayer centred on the gospels and Franciscan spirituality will be held on Sunday, 18 June at 10.30am in the Tenison Wood Centre. For more information contact Charlie on 0413 848 476 or Joan on 6583 6549.

Franciscan Retreat

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

Christian Meditation

Christian Meditation will be held on Wednesday, 21 June at 6.00pm in St Francis of Assisi Chapel. Everyone is welcome.

Taize Worship

Taize Worship will then be held on Wednesday, 28 June at 6.00pm in St Francis of Assisi Chapel. Everyone is welcome.

Catholic Men's Dinner Club

Attention Catholic men of our parish ... and your friends ... you are invited to gather and socialise at the licensed premises of the Catholic Men's Dinner Club, located in Horton Street, behind Fusion 7 restaurant, each Tuesday from 4.00pm-8.00pm. Share a light supper at 5.30pm with raffles and members' draws. For more information contact Damian Bennie on 6582 1581.



Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Fr Bernie Kenny, Dorothy Ryan, Yvonne Stephens, Aileen Leary, Betty Hicks, Noel Barnes, Scott Josiah.

Anniversaries: Joseph Borg, Elsie Griffin, Tony Starr, Martin Kelly, Therese Kelly, Petrus van de Pas, Marcelino Dela Merced, Ethel O'Loughlin, Margaret Wirth, Eileen Christie, Edith Connolly, Ross & Nancy Francis, John Hayward, Pauline McLaren, Fr Patrick Duggan, Fr Patrick Ahern, Fr Edward Galavan.

Other Mass Intentions: Sr Anne Marie Quinn RSM, Dan Quinn, Pat Quinn, Therese Kelly, Kath Connors, Pamela White, Shirley Billington, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Beryl Thomas, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.



St Francis of Assisi Chapel - Cuppa

Parishioners who attend Sunday Mass at St Francis Chapel are invited to stay after 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 25 June for a cuppa. Note the change of date due to Mass time changes in June.

Lake Cathie Morning Tea

If you are attending Mass at Lake Cathie on Sunday, 25 June you're invited to stay after Mass for a cuppa and a chat.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival Sydney 7 - 9 December

All young people from Year 9 (in 2017) to young adults 30 years of age are invited to join the St Agnes' Parish group heading off to the ACYF in December. Participants are asked to make a co-contribution of \$200 to help subsidise transport, accommodation, registration and breakfast. To secure a place on the trip you will need to collect a package from school offices, the Presbytery Office or the Youth Hub and return the completed forms with payment by Monday 17 July. For enquiries please contact Vanessa Denham on 0447 992 986 or email vdenham@pac.stagnesparish.org.au

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 is available and outlines all our services. Copies are available from the Presbytery or visit the Parish website: www.stagnesparish.org.au.

Need help with your parish giving?

Call Trudi
(02) 6588 7444



Parish Giving Programme



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 pas-
toraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au
www.stagnesparish.org.au

Office Hours:
8.30am - 4.30pm

FEAST DAYS

St Romuald
Monday 19 June

St Aloysius Gonzaga
Wednesday 21 June

**St John Fisher &
St Thomas More**
Thursday 22 June

**The Most Sacred Heart
of Jesus**
Friday 23 June

**The Nativity of St John
The Baptist**
Saturday 24 June

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ROSTER FOR 25 June 2017

5.00pm: Julie Preston
Emma Francis

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. **(Next Mass will be held on Thursday June 29)**

STAR OF THE SEA, LAKE CATHIE | Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie

Sunday: 8.00am.

ROSTERS

24-25 June 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Robert Green
George Searson
Bill Skane

7.30am: Peter Swan
Sonia West
Greg Grace

9.00am: Julie Preston
Beth Flynn
Judy Brady

5.00pm: Lani Gobius
St Joseph's Primary
Kate Field
Daniel Ward

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Barry Johnson
Thelma McFarlane
Gae Green
Jason Gill

7.30am: Jennifer Crossing
John McQueen
David Hogan
Dianne Gander

9.00am: Phoebe Morris
Jacob Soerensen
Jenny Soerensen
Hebin Kallikkadan

5.00pm: Angela Sullivan
Chris McCarron
Jacky McCarron
Diane Hughes

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: B Crozier &
S Williams

7.30am: S Wilson & S Bale

9.00am: L Fuller & J Howle

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Pat & Marie Mullens
23 The Sanctuary Close
Port Macquarie
Phone: 6584 1626

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

12th Sunday in OT - Yr A
Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 68;
Romans 5:12-15;
Matthew 16:13-19

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