



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

25 June 2017

A few years ago there was an English film entitled, *Secrets and Lies*. It charted the story of a dysfunctional family who sat on terrible secrets and told many lies for decades.

Like many successful dramatic films, audiences flocked to see it, not only because of its compelling story, but also because it tapped into an important truth about family life as many of us live it.

When I was a boy I was often told that 'What's said and done in the home, stays in the home.' And to a degree, this is a good and loyal principle.

There are, however, family secrets and lies that cause untold damage for generations because no one is allowed to speak about them. Sexual abuse, domestic violence, suicide, incest, drug-taking, alcoholism, theft, adoption and abortion are only some of the secrets and lies that many families sit on.

Jesus, however, tells us in today's Gospel that what you 'say in the dark, tell in the light. What you whisper in darkness, shout from the housetops.'

This doesn't mean that Christians tell everyone their personal business, but it does cut to the heart of what stunts spiritual and personal growth.

To the degree that something shameful remains buried, hidden and unhealed, then its power over us is increased. It remains the thing about which we can never speak. The bad spirit has a field day with this sort of stuff, feeding our fears and lowering our self-esteem.

In this regard some Christians make a false distinction between their spiritual and psychological lives. They hold that the exploration of one's personal history or emotional problems is self-indulgent or unimportant to how we live.

We all know people who, in the pursuit of emotional health, become obsessed by their own story, feelings,

reactions and psychology. We also know others who never deal with the heavy hurts they seem to carry through the years, even though the pain of them seem to be as powerfully felt now as they were when they were inflicted upon them. Today's Gospel reminds us that there is a middle road between denying what should be acknowledged and dealt with, and being absorbed by it.

The Church, rightly, holds that the best psychological tools can bring out into the open memories and experiences that can be seen for what they are and dealt with. We just have to be sure that we don't get conned into believing that psychology and therapy is anything but a pit-stop in life, so that we can attend to the working order of our mental machinery, and, importantly, get back on the road with everyone else, calling in later if needs be.

Long before the therapist's office Christ enabled the Church to develop the Sacrament of Penance where we admit our most destructive behaviour and hear that we are forgiven and healed.

That's why, when I am hearing a confession, I can't tell you how happy I am to hear the penitent say, 'Father I have never told anyone this before.'

At that moment I know the love of God is active in the person, drawing out what Christ wants in the light, spoken of and healed.

This Sunday Jesus invites all of us to find a person we respect and trust, and to end the tyranny of the power of secrets and lies. I promise you when you take this risk with the appropriate person, the presence of God won't be very far away either.

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



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.stagneparish.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.

Feast of St Peter & St Paul

Thursday 29 June

... Peter and Paul symbolise two facets of our Christian community: mission and maintenance. Paul was the great missionary and Peter was the great leader who held



together the earliest disciples. Both were crucial to the Christian community's expansion and survival. The image of the missionary venturing out boldly to proclaim Christ to the world is so much more engaging than being a maintainer. But every organisation or institution needs someone to provide a clear focus and vision, and to establish structures that will see the group survive past the first generation. To this day we need our Peters and our Pauls.

Peter and Paul did not always have an easy relationship. We know from the Acts of the Apostles that they disagreed about a fundamental issue in the earliest Christian mission: for whom was the good news of Jesus intended? Peter thought it was just for Jews. Paul argued it was for the Gentiles as well. What makes Peter's leadership so outstanding is that he not only listened carefully to what Paul said, but saw what Christ was doing among the Gentiles. He trusted that the working of the Spirit was bigger than he was, and that it included a man who never met Jesus and yet seemed to have a richer insight into where and how Christ was to be preached. That takes courage and humility. Today we need to be careful that in Christ's name we do not bind things up so tightly that we leave no room for the Holy Spirit to challenge or surprise us. Having the courage and humility to 'hang a bit loose' is not weakness. It can be about trusting that Christ's saving love is still at work in unexpected ways with all people everywhere.

Peter and Paul show what can happen when we cooperate with Christ in living out his love. Things we never dreamt of become possible. But their lives also show us the cost. Both of them died as martyrs. We may not be asked to embrace martyrdom in our lives, but in the way we run our race we are challenged to keep the faith and proclaim Christ by how we live. By doing so we are assured that when we come to heaven we will be greeted by Peter and Paul and with them we will behold the fullness of love, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for eternity.

Fr Richard Leonard SJ, Liturgy Help.

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 from 10.00am-2.00pm. If you have an enquiry phone the shop on 6584 9779. The shop will close on Wednesday, 28 June. It is anticipated the new 'MacKillop Centre', located in Horton Street, at the bottom of the stairs, will re-open on Monday, 3 July. Watch this space for more updates!



St Agnes' Rosary Makers

Members of our St Agnes' Rosary Makers Group visit schools in our Parish, as well as, schools as far north as Coffs Harbour and south to Laurieton. During their visits each class is given a rosary bag, or Our Lady's Peace Bag, containing a statue of Our Lady and rosary beads. The students are encouraged to take the bag home for a night. Here are some of their comments:

- 'This bag was enjoyed by all of my family. Everyone loved the glow in the dark Mary. We all sat on my bed and said lots of prayers together, after that we sat and counted the rosary beads. My mum had never heard the prayers, so she loved them.'

- 'I really liked the Mary statue glowing. I liked it when we got to make rosary beads and I like saying the rosary with my family. The peace bag was a good thing and its good to be able to pray the rosary. My nanna's going to get me wooden rosary beads ... I think.'

If you are interested in volunteering for this rewarding Ministry please contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024.



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 soup and sausage sizzle following Mass.



Pope Francis - Official Tweet

'None of us is an island, autonomous and independent from others. We can only build the future by standing together, including everyone.'

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



Taize Worship

Taize Worship will 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.

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.

Lake Cathie Morning Tea

If you are attending 8.00am Mass at Lake Cathie on Sunday, 25 June you're invited to stay after Mass for a cuppa and a chat.



MAX17

National Catholic Event for Men

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. It will be held at St Leos Catholic College, University of Queensland 14 -16 July. For more information visit the menALIVE website: www.menalive.org.au or phone Peter Carrigan on 0404 496 405 or Mike Hardy on 0459 992 228.

Catholic Leader

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

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Elizabeth Ingram, Alan Kuhn, Fr Bernard Kenny, Paddy Fitzpatrick, Yvonne Stephens.

Anniversaries: Harry Robertson, Dorothea Carney, John Doyle, Peter & Mary Quinn, Tom & Nancy Mockford, Colin Chapman, Margarita Martin, Keyna Campbell, Fr Anthony Hoade, Fr Rex Brown.

Other Mass Intentions: Gordon Dick, Shirley Billington, Therese Kelly, members of the White family, Edna Gallagher, deceased relatives and friends of Osmond family, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Pauline McLaren, Beryl Thomas, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.



Franciscan Retreat

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

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

St Agnes' Rugrats

Rugrats is an open youth group centred around social activities held at the Youth Hub in Horton Street. It is held on Friday from 3.30pm - 7.00pm during school terms. The cost is \$3.00 per person or \$6.00 per family, with two or more children and includes afternoon tea and dinner. For more information contact Peter on 6584 9970.

Holy Hour

Holy Hour will be held on Saturday, 1 July after 8.00am Mass in St Agnes' Church. All are welcome to stay after Mass.

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 Cyril of Alexandria
Tuesday 27 June

St Irenaeus
Wednesday 28 June

**St Peter & St Paul
Apostles**
Thursday 29 June

**The First Martyrs of the
Holy Roman Church**
Friday 30 June

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF
THE WORD ROSTER FOR
2 July 2017**

5.00pm: Daniel Blackman
Geoff Leary

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

1-2 July 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Thelma McFarlane
Wayne Evans
Sue Williams

7.30am: Sandy Luschwitz
Jennifer Crossing
Jim O'Brien

9.00am: Genevieve Postlewait
Josephine Mockford
Betty Hodgson

5.00pm: Mary Shelley
Daniel Ward
Emily Shelley

9.00am: Judy Brady
Michelle Baird
Albert Jacobs
Hank Brinkman
5.00pm: Sean Jennings
Hannah O'Brien
Sofie Priddis
Debbie Rennes

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER
6pm Vigil: W VanKerckhof
& B Kenny
7.30am: S & K Panes
9.00am: N & B Moore

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Charlie Peoples
Des Grissell
Joy Amos
Rudolf Szibrowski

7.30am: Greg Grace
Sandra Wilson
Pat McLoughlin
Denise McLoughlin

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY
John & Joy Lovegrove
2 Jindabyne Place
Port Macquarie
Phone: 6583 3121

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
13th Sunday in OT - Yr A
2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16;
Psalm 88; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11;
Matthew 10:37-42.

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