



The good seed

Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. (Pope Francis)

Rob wished that his injuries would heal faster so that he could get back to work. The enforced idleness was getting to him. But he also found that, in spite of himself, he welcomed the opportunity to think about his life and where it was heading.

He'd always been a searcher, looking for answers to life's big questions. There was something deep within, it had been there all along, like a tiny seed planted in the soil of his life. He thought about a few key moments when he'd felt God's personal touch, and known what it was like to be in tune with the Divine. It gave him the confidence to keep searching, to create the space to allow that little seed to grow.

His wife Kathy was not full of herself, and he believed that allowed her to make room for God. She reminded him of the little plant in their window box, sometimes struggling to keep going, but always ready to embrace life and growth. Kathy never claimed to know all the answers, but she understood the way we choose to live is the secret to the quiet growth of God's seed within us.

Over the years, things in Rob's life had changed, like moving, starting a new job, leaving people he'd cared

about and things that had made him feel vulnerable. Yet beneath the changing surface, he'd never lost the call to a deeper sense of belonging. At work, everything around him demanded his attention and time. But Rob had always tried to get a few minutes' silence in the midst of a busy day. He really needed that still point in his life, where he could be grounded and the seed could be watered with a little reflection.

Sorrows, tears, and storms had come his way, the hardest, stoniest parts of his life. Those hard places had taken him to the brink, but in the end he had to admit they'd often yielded the greatest wisdom.

When everything was upturned Rob had found the space within himself to see reality with fresh eyes. The sharp blade of plough could lead to new growth.

Rob understood that we can't always know what God has planted within us, or what will call it forth. He was helped by an image used by Brother Roger of the Taizé Community in France. This described our faith as 'a wellspring in the desert'.

From this wellspring of Christ's presence, Rob knew he would always receive the water to nourish his growth,

and give life and meaning to everything he did. Thus the seed would have a chance to grow to fulfilment and bear fruits of blessing, the slow-growing fruits of a lifetime's searching.



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Redemptorists 2017

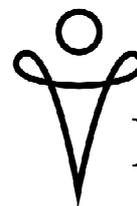
OUR VISION

"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

Sacrament of Confirmation Presentation Weekend

The weekend of 22 - 23 July we will be welcoming this year's 138 Confirmation candidates and their families to our Masses. The families will be asked to sit together down the front of the church and the candidates will receive a blessing from the priest and be welcomed by our congregation. During their preparation, the children have made very special "Pray for me" cards that they would love for you to take home and pray for them during and after their Confirmation journey. Prayer is such a powerful gift. These cards will be offered in baskets during Communion next to the Communion Ministers or after Mass at the altar. Please take one.

We thank you very much for your prayers and blessings for our little ones and your warm welcome of our new families to our church.



Mackillop Centre

The new MacKillop Centre located at 106 Horton Street is fully stocked with beautiful and affordable gifts, cards and books for all sacraments and is currently well stocked with Confirmation gifts! Opening hours are 10am – 2pm

Monday to Friday, however it will also open on Saturday, 29 July from 9.30am to 12.30pm to assist those parents with children making their Confirmation. The MacKillop Centre will continue to be staffed by volunteers. The phone number is 6584 9779.

The Centre has also incorporated a new welfare assistance service with the proceeds of sales of donated second-hand books within the Centre going directly towards assisting those within the community in need. Clients are able to meet with Peter O'Driscoll to discuss their needs. For further information on the new Centre contact the Pastoral Assistant, Peter on 6584 9970.



Parish Planned Giving

If you have not received your 2017/2018 parish planned giving envelopes please contact the Parish Administration Centre on 6588 7444. Or if you are interested in contributing please call Trudi on the same number.



NEWMAN
Senior Technical College

Will be holding its 2018 Year 11 enrolment open night on Tuesday, 25 July at 6.00pm at the College. You can register for the open night at www.newman.nsw.edu.au, email to newman@lism.catholic.edu.au or phone 6580 3800. Don't forget to register!

Franciscan Prayer Group

A one hour spiritual reflection and prayer centred around the Gospels and based on Franciscan Spirituality will be held on Sunday, 16 July in the Tenison Wood Centre, Lochinvar Place from 10.30am to 11.30am. For more information contact Charlie on 0413 848 476 or Joan on 6583 6549. All are welcome.

Franciscan Retreat

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

Liturgy of the Word for Children

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this roster please contact Amanda Howle at ahowle@lism.catholic.edu.au. Children's liturgy will resume at the 5.00pm Family and Youth Mass on Sunday, 23 July. The volunteers for this Mass are Lani Gobius, Amanda Howle and Krysten Jones.

Christian Meditation at

St Francis' Chapel

We meet every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of the month, when Taize services are held in the Chapel. On 19 July we will begin at 6.00pm (music, a short reflection and time of silence) and conclude at 6:30pm. Any questions contact Simon Mervyn-Jones on 0412 236 977.

Pope Francis - Official Tweet

'A Christian's mission in the world is splendid, it is a mission intended for everyone, it is a mission of service, excluding no one!'

Gift Bearers' Roster

It is time to update this roster. If you would like to be part of this Ministry, or would like to be taken off the roster please contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024 by 6 August.

Catholic Women's League

Will be holding its next meeting on Friday, 21 July at 1.30pm in the John Worner Centre. For more information please contact Helen on 6583 5391.

Men of the Parish Social

Get-together

The third Thursday of the month is upon us again, so we will be holding our monthly informal meeting at the Aqua Restaurant, Westport Bowling Club. We buy our own meals and drinks and discuss a wide variety of topics. Last meeting we enjoyed talks and discussions about all things Irish, we had an ex Irish Diplomat who is a member of our group with us. We meet from 12 noon until around 2.00 pm, depending on the topics we chat about. There is no cost to you except for your meal and drinks. Come along on Thursday, 20 July and then every third Thursday of the month. We would like to see you there. If you are interested and would like more information contact John on 0411 118 986.

Black & White Charity Concert

The annual Black & White Charity Concert will be held at Panthers Auditorium on Sunday, 6 August from 2.00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 with all proceeds going to Rotary Lodge at the Base Hospital. Performances by Hastings Koalas, Sing Australia, Port Macquarie Public School and ExtravDance.

Reflection by Jenny Close

Jesus tells the parable of the sower whose grain fell on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns and finally on good soil where it thrived. It was only the last lot of seeds that survived, but they were all part of the one sowing. Jesus was alluding to the success (or not) of his message; but we can read it as a metaphor for our faith journey, which goes through all the experiences mentioned above – bad times and good. Sometimes our spiritual experience gets swallowed up by our consuming worldly interests, sometimes it can feel shallow and dry, at other times it gets choked by all the negativity in life and then there are the times when it thrives. All these experiences are a real part of our faith life and the fertile moments help us to weather the rest. **Liturgy Help**

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Pat Edmiston, Eileen Lynch, Kathy Graham, John Ginman, Margaret Hawes.

Anniversaries: Veronica Clifton, Ned Kundicevic, Dorothea Carney, Brian Castles, Patrick and Mary Croke, Fr Vincent Ryan, Fr Patrick McCambridge, Fr Felix Schurr, Fr James Prendergast.

Other Mass Intentions: Shirley Billington, Anthony & Stella Dahdah, Hilton Dodds, Madge Lindsay, Daphne Gabrielle DeZilva, Jack Lindsay, Beryl Thomas, Molly & Robert Friggens, John Cain, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.

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## Australian Catholic Youth Festival

### Sydney 7 - 9 December

This is the final week to sign up for this special event. Completed application forms and payment must be returned to school offices, the parish office or the Youth Hub by Monday 17 July. For enquiries or assistance please contact: Vanessa Denham on 0447 992 986 or email:

[vdenam@pac.stagneparish.org.au](mailto:vdenam@pac.stagneparish.org.au)



## Marriage Encounter Weekend

Is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. Couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage!

Date & Location: 18 - 20 August.

Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW.

Bookings: [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or phone Adrian and Janet Sullivan on 0490 774 419, email address [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com).



## Catholic Leader

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



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 [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 Apollinaris**

Thursday 20 July

**St Lawrence of Brindisi**

Friday 21 July

**St Mary Magdalene**

Saturday 22 July



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF  
THE WORD ROSTER**

**Will recommence on Sunday  
23 July 2017.**

**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**

22-23 July 2017

**READERS AND COMMENTATORS**

**6pm Vigil:** Margaret Swan

Maureen Dick

Bill Skane

**7.30am:** Darren Smith

Damien Bennie

Brian Tierney

**9.00am:** Adelle Groenveld

Matthew Field

Betty Hodgson

**5.00pm:** Chris Clark

Newman College

Ellen Hales

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**6pm Vigil:** Jodie Rich

Barry Johnson

Thelma McFarlane

Gae Green

**7.30am:** John McQueen

David Hogan

Dianne Gander

Sandy Luschwitz

**9.00am:** Jacob Soerensen

Jenny Soerensen

Hebin Kallikkadan

Judy Brady

**5.00pm:** Vanessa Denham

Bronwyn Shipton

Marg Gobius

Timo Gobius

**GIFT BEARERS ROSTER**

**6pm Vigil:** L English & Family

**7.30am:** S Wilson & S Bale

**9.00am:** N & B Moore

**THE STATUE OF OUR LADY**

Bill & Marse Coghlan

Villa 1, 10 Braemar Drive

Port Macquarie

Phone: 6584 2470

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

**16th Sunday in OT - Year A**

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 85;

Romans 8:26-27;

Matthew 13:24-43.

**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