



Transfiguration of the Lord

Year A

5-6 August 2017

Three key people of the Old Testament are given to us in today's readings: Abram, Moses and Elijah. Unfortunately, most of what we know about these men is fairly sketchy. Who can blame the young children, then, who wrote the following answers in an exam on the Old Testament?

'Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth was to always humour thy father and mother.'

The Jews of Matthew's community, however, would have been able to remember by heart every detail about Abram, Moses and Elijah. These men remain the Jews' greatest heroes. The first hearers of the Transfiguration story would have immediately made all the connections between Jesus' story and Abram, Moses and Elijah's experience of God on a mountaintop, where each has a life-changing encounter with the presence of God and is illuminated in every way. Each of them is called by God to fulfil a special task and so descend from the mountain with the strength to see it through.

Matthew is especially interested in the story of Moses. One of the refrains of the entire Gospel is that Jesus is the New Moses, the fulfilment of the law and the light that illuminates the darkest night. As interesting as the similarities are between Moses on Sinai and Jesus on

Tabor, the differences are even more revealing for us.

Moses goes up the mountain alone, Jesus takes companions with him who share in the experience and witness to it. The face of God is hidden from Moses whereas on Tabor Jesus is given to us as the face of God for the world. On Sinai Moses receives a code of law and is told to make sure the people obey it. On Tabor Jesus receives a proclamation of God's love and we're told to listen to him. While Moses' face shines, Jesus' whole body is transfigured with light. Moses descends to enforce the law; Jesus comes down to die that we might live.

On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world.



The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives.

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



Nourished by
FAITH

Sacrament of Confirmation

Congratulations to the children who were confirmed by Bishop Gregory Homering, Bishop of Lismore this week. It was a very special time for them and their families and we thank all our parishioners for your support and prayers.



First Holy Communion

On the following dates narrated Masses will be offered in St Agnes' Church in preparation for the sacrament of Communion.

- Sunday, 20 August at 5.00pm.
- Monday, 21 August at 5.15pm.
- Tuesday, 22 August at 5.15pm.



These Masses will have a commentator who will be explaining each part as it unfolds. This is a wonderful opportunity for our First Holy Communion candidates and their families to join us. In past years, the narrated Masses have been very well attended and received by parishioners. The First Holy Communion candidates and their families will be celebrating the Sacrament at 6.00pm on the 4, 5 & 6 September. We are very fortunate to be sharing in the wonderful journey of these children and we appreciate the ongoing support, once again, of our parishioners. Thank you.

Special Prayer to St Mary of the Cross

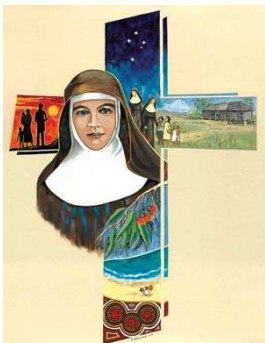
Feast Day - 8 August

God of all blessings you revealed
in Mary MacKillop a sensitivity
to the rights and dignity of every person,
regardless of race or creed.

May we learn from her to overcome
the obstacles of prejudice and fear.

Help us to value the goodness of each
person and all the blessings
of unity in diversity.

We ask this through the depth and unity
of you, our bountiful God, who
holds all things in being. Amen.



Mary MacKillop has a special significance for us in Port Macquarie as it was the Sisters of St Joseph who established the first Catholic school here in July 1913. Thirty-one students were enrolled. The Sisters laid the foundation for the wonderful schools in our Parish today.

PLEASE join us

'A Journey into the Catholic Faith'

Starting Wednesday 30 August

This is a course on the Catholic Faith for anyone aged 18 years and over.

The course aims at systematically proposing 'the Christian faith in its entirety and in its authenticity', in accordance with the Catholic Church's understanding. It begins with the proclamation of the 'core message of the Christian faith'. The program ends with the formation of a small group that facilitates growth in discipleship and equips members for ministry and mission.

It is for anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith from an adult perspective.

So, this course is open to:

- Non-baptised adults, who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or simply inquiring about the Catholic faith;
 - Non-Catholic baptised adults, who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or simply inquiring about the Catholic faith;
 - Catholic adults, those baptised but feel insufficiently instructed in the Catholic faith, or those who have fallen away from the faith at some stage in their journey, and now want to rediscover the Catholic faith;
 - Adult Catholics, those who consistently live their faith and sincerely desire to deepen it.
- The program will be offered weekly and endeavours to meet your needs in your faith journey and support you in your growth.

Information about the programme will be explained further on Wednesday 30 August at 6.00pm in the parish hall. For more information contact Fr Roland Agrisola on 6583 1024.

Journey into the Catholic Faith 4Teens

We have started a fresh series of 'Journey into the Catholic Faith 4Teens'. If you want to know more about the Catholic Faith, or if you would like to receive the sacraments, come along to the weekly gatherings held on a Monday afternoon from 3.45pm to 5.15pm in the Youth Hub, Horton Street. This gathering will be an opportunity for you to mingle and speak out about the topics you want to know more about. If you have any questions please contact me, or come and see me in the Youth Ministry Office. My email is ehales@lism.catholic.edu.au. Or come visit me!

Ellen Hales, St Agnes' Parish, Youth Minister

Memorial Service at Emmaus

Parishioners are invited to a memorial service to be held in St Teresa of Kolkata Chapel, Emmaus on Wednesday, 9 August at 2.00pm. This memorial service is to remember those who were residents of Emmaus and died between 1 April - 30 June this year. If you have any questions please call Beth on 6589 9814.

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. We are in need of more volunteers for the 9.00am Mass. Please call the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024 by Monday, 6 August.

ALPHA Course for Primary School Parents

St Agnes' Parish is providing an opportunity for parents of our primary school students to come together, ask questions about the Christian faith and discuss them in a supporting, open and loving environment. The program is called ALPHA.

"Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith...Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome."

[\(http://australia.alpha.org/about/\)](http://australia.alpha.org/about/)

It will be facilitated by a small group of parishioners in each of the schools. Each session starts with a morning tea and 'meet and mingle' and then a video on a particular topic will be played for about 20 minutes. Then, follows an opportunity to share points of view, ask questions, and listen to others. The course will commence this week on the following days.

St Joseph's Primary – Fridays, 8:45am-9:45am
St Peter's Primary – Mondays, 8:45am-9:45am
St Agnes' Primary – Fridays, 8:45am-9:45am

For more information, see newsletter of the primary schools.

Parish Hospitality

- MacKillop College will be hosting our parish 'cuppa' after 5.00pm Sunday Mass next week. All are invited to stay and enjoy a chat.
- A very special thank you to our Youth United who hosted our parish hospitality supper after 5.00pm Mass last weekend. Parishioners were given the opportunity to meet Bishop Gregory and enjoy a cuppa.



Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Arthur Carnie, Diane Cumming, Rip Kirby, Dulcie Oldfield, Joan Tomkinson, Pat Gillan.

Anniversaries: Lillian Landrigan, Jane Borg, Marcy Borg, John Patrick Woods, Allen & Kathleen Woods, William & Susan Brooks, John Woods, Edna & Jack Lyness, Phonce Hollis, Aidan Smith, Margaret Monnox, Garry Tassell, Marie O'Reilly, Ellen Everson, Stella Reynolds, Frank McGinity, Fr Thomas Walsh, Fr Brian Scott, Fr William Quinn, Fr William O'Hare.

Other Mass Intentions: Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Patricia Bennett, Phyllis Dunn, Edward Dunn, Julia O'Brien, Edward O'Brien, Eileen Monahan, Phil Moore, Trixie Davidson, Florence Shergood, Florence Turner, Mary Shiela Moon, Francis Sweeney, Beryl Thomas, deceased members of Dunn, O'Brien & Reilly family, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.



Franciscan Retreat

Will be conducted over the weekend of 23 - 24 September by the Franciscan Order at the Francis Retreat, Bonny Hills. Fr John Cooper will be the spiritual leader. Overnight accommodation is available at the venue. The cost will be \$95.00 for meals and accommodation, or \$35.00 per day with no accommodation. The retreat will commence at 10.00am on Saturday morning and conclude at approximately 3.00pm on the Sunday. For more information contact Joan on 6583 6549.

Christian Meditation at St Francis' Chapel

We meet every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of the month, when Taize services are held. Join us for Christian meditation on 9 August. We will begin at 6.00pm and conclude at 6:30pm. Any questions contact Simon Mervyn-Jones on 0412 236 977.

Catholic Leader

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



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 ExtravaDance.



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 Sixtus II & Companions, St Cajetan
Monday 7 August

St Mary of the Cross
Tuesday 8 August

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Wednesday 9 August

St Lawrence
Thursday 10 August

St Clare
Friday 11 August

St Jane Frances de Chantal
Saturday 12 August

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ROSTER
13 August 2017
Phoebe Morris
Donna Sprague
Rachel Somers

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

12-13 August 2017

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: Jodie Rich
Margaret Donnelly
Barry Johnson
7.30am: Cath Murphy
Sandra Wilson
Denise McLoughlin
9.00am: Richard O'Brien
Peta Rourke
Anne Thurgate
5.00pm: Elise Smith
St Peter's Primary
Kate Field
Daniel Ward

9.00am: Cathy Stevenson
Phoebe Morris
Peter O'Driscoll
Michelle Baird
5.00pm: Pauline Murphy
Ellen Hales
Ginaya Yarnold
Angela Sullivan

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: B & S Skane
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

19th Sunday of OT - Year A
Kings 19:9,11-13;
Psalm 84;
Romans 9:1-5;
Matthew 14:22-33.

MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Lisa Toomey
Jan O'Sullivan
Bill Skane
Sue Skane
7.30am: Greg Grace
Jennifer Crossing
John McQueen
David Hogan

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