



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

12-13 August 2017

Calming Seas

In the last few weeks I have relaxed at the beach. On certain winter mornings, the ocean is a beautiful sapphire colour and calm. Just perfect for swimming, if but a tad cold. In the afternoons, the wind picks up and the water loses its sapphire colour. The water becomes choppy and swimming is hard work.

When a storm develops, the sea becomes wild and the waves smash against the rocks with great intensity and frightening power. In today's world, where fortunately there are sophisticated search and rescue facilities, the sea can still be a place that causes much fear and consternation. And if the sea itself doesn't frighten people, what lurks beneath causes trepidation among many.



For people living in Jesus' time, the combination of sea and storms was considered destructive and chaotic, which threatened human existence while in some ancient cultures, people actually believed storms were gods.

But today's gospel says that Jesus walked on stormy seas and calmed them. So, the story is not really about some spectacular miracle that Jesus performed. Rather, it is about someone who has the power of the destructive forces of our world, shown symbolically by Jesus walking on the water. Instead of being consumed and lost to the raging sea, he calms the water upon which he walks.

Jesus has power over mother nature and its destructive forces. By inviting Peter to come to him over the water, Jesus is calling us to believe that if we have faith we will also be preserved and protected from the things that will destroy us as human beings.

What could this mean for us? The most destructive force we face is death. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus overcame the power of death. Instead of being the end of everything, thanks to Jesus and his death and resurrection, death is now the pathway to eternal life.

Life throws up all sorts of trials and tribulations. There are situations and events that we find difficult to cope with, and fear they might destroy us. Marriage breakups, death of a loved one, being jobless or a seriously ill child can be a traumatic event for anyone.

Whatever it is that challenges and fills us with fear, today's gospel is calling on people to believe these things will not destroy us. Faith in Jesus means we will not only be able to face calamities in our lives, but get through them and find a new way of 'being and living'.

Jesus says the same thing to us as he did to the disciples in the boat: "Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid". And if we feel we are sinking under the burdens of life, his hand is there for us to take. Always!

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



Nourished by
FAITH

First Holy Communion

On the following dates narrated Masses will be offered 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 so very fortunate to be sharing in the wonderful journey of these children and we really appreciate the ongoing support of the other parishioners. Thank you.



Feast of the Assumption 15 August



This special feast day, the Feast of the Assumption, will be celebrated on Tuesday, 15 August. There will be additional Masses offered,
St Agnes' Church
7.30am, 12.05pm & 5.15pm
St Francis of Assisi Chapel
9.30am.

The Rosary will also be offered at 4.45pm in St Agnes' Church, prior to the 5.15pm Mass. Throughout her life Mary united herself with Jesus, in his mission and in his suffering and death. Her surrender to God's will at the time of the annunciation continued through faithfully pondering in her heart all that was happening, until she stood beneath the cross in Calvary. United with Jesus in his life and death, she is united with him in his resurrection and ascension into glory. This, then, is the pattern for all of us to follow. The assumption of Mary is our sign of hope. It is a reminder that if we are faithful to Jesus, like Mary, heaven is our destiny. Whatever turmoil we experience in the world today is merely the dying spasm of a defeated enemy. Christ has risen from the dead; he has conquered sin and death; he now reigns in heaven with Mary as his queen. Let us continue to live our lives in the hope and expectation of sharing in this glory for ever.

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 program will be explained further on Wednesday 30 August at 5.30pm in the parish hall. For more information contact Fr Roland Agrisola on 6583 1024.

St Agnes' Parish School Sacramental Program

If you know of any children in Year 3 or over who do not attend one of the parish Catholic schools and would like to prepare for their First Holy Communion please contact Stacey on 0438 287898 or email : sacramentalprogram@gmail.com for further information.

Pope Francis - Official Tweet

'How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage so essential for each and every society!'

Gift Bearers' Roster

The new roster is available for collection from the Church entrance, or from the Presbytery Office. If you would like a copy emailed to you please contact the Presbytery on 6583 1024.

Wraps with Love

Thank You Morning Tea

The Catholic Women's League will be hosting a thank you morning tea for all who have participated, or contributed in any way, to Wraps with Love. The knitters, sewers, crocheters, donators of wool or money are all invited to come along. Morning tea will be held on Wednesday, 6 September at the Tenison Wood Centre, Lochinvar Place at 10.00am. For more information contact Monica on 6582 5770.

Franciscan Prayer Group

A one hour spiritual reflection and prayer centred around the Gospels and based on Franciscan Spirituality will be held on Sunday, 20 August in the Tenison Woods Centre 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. 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 Wednesday, 16 August. We will begin at 6.00pm and conclude at 6:30pm. Any questions contact Simon Mervyn-Jones on 0412 236 977.

Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their next meeting on Friday, 18 August 2017 at the John Worner Centre at 1.30pm. BYO lunch and cuppa before meeting. For more information call Monica on 6582 5770.

Remember in Prayer



Recently Deceased: Brendon Tudhope, Eileen Ford, Colin Doherty, Rosario Relucio, Josefina Corsanes, Noli Gona and Arthur Carnie.

Anniversaries: John Hayward, Bill Farrell, Reg & Jess Moylan, Emora Pagunuran, Joan Peake, Margaret Whitney, Margaret Monnox, Garry Tassell, Edna & Jack Lyness, John Landrigan, Frances Duff, Mary Duff, Raquel Familiar, Geoffrey Williams, Fr Martin J Battle, Fr William Sullivan, Fr Charles E Maguire, Fr William O'Brien and Fr Claude Bradley.

Other Mass Intentions: Pat Horvath, Jose Ngao, Josefina Azurin, 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, Brother Michael O'Connor, Francis Sweeney, Beryl Thomas, Marija Miller, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.

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## Men of the Parish Social Get-together

The third Thursday of the month is upon us again, so as usual we will be holding our monthly informal meeting at the Westport Bowling Club in the Aqua Restaurant.

We buy our own meals and drinks and discuss items of interest about every conceivable thing you can think of. We meet at 12 noon and the meetings go till around 2.00 pm, sometimes shorter, sometimes longer depending on the topics that are bought up during our get-together. There is no cost to you except for your meal and drinks. Come along on the 17th August and then every 3rd Thursday of the month. We would like to see you there. Contact John Swinsburg on 0411 118986 for any additional information.

## Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Relationship enrichment for married couples. 18th to 20th August at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774419 or email: [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com) for more information.

## Our Lady Star of the Sea

Lake Cathie Conference of St Vincent de Paul are requesting donations of toiletries and surplus towels for the homeless and needy. Lake Cathie has been given a painting to be raffled in support of St Vincent de Paul's work with the needy. Tickets will be on sale during August and September after Mass.

**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 Maximilian Mary Kolbe**

Monday 14 August

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Tuesday 15 August



**St Stephen of Hungary**

Wednesday 16 August

**St John Eudes**

Saturday 19 August

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

Sunday, 20 August 2017

Lani Gobius  
Leisa Nardella

**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**

19-20 August 2017

**READERS AND COMMENTATORS**

**6pm Vigil:** Alan Wheatland  
Charlie Peoples  
Kym Condon

**7.30am:** David Hogan  
Joanne Hogan  
Pat McLoughlin

**9.00am:** Peter O'Driscoll  
Adelle Groenveld  
Judy Brady

**5.00pm:** St Joseph's Regional  
College  
Christa Morrow

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**6pm Vigil:** Jodie Rich  
Paul Jones  
Thelma McFarlane

**7.30am:** Gae Green  
Geoff Leary  
Dianne Gander  
Sandy Luschwitz  
Kevin Lewis

**9.00am:** Jacob Soerensen  
Jenny Soerensen  
Cathy Hawtin  
Mike Hawtin

**5.00pm:** Dianne Hughes  
Sean Jennings  
Hannah O'Brien  
Sofie Priddis

**GIFT BEARERS ROSTER**

**6pm Vigil:** B Crozier &  
S Williams

**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**

**20th Sunday in OT - Year A**

**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