

Gospel Reflection—Matthew 14:22-33

I don't know that we've ever properly understood the significance of the disciples in the gospels; our attention is always focused on Jesus. The disciples certainly got the inside running on all of Jesus' teachings; they witnessed the miracles; and were themselves empowered to carry on the work of Jesus. They can be seen as the prototypes for all the followers of Jesus that have come since. When we read the gospel stories we can perhaps place ourselves in the position of James or John or Peter or Andrew.

To be a disciple to a rabbi was not just to be a supporter or an interested bystander. To be a disciple was to hungrily learn from your rabbi. The fact that all of Jesus' disciples were called from other walks of life means that no other rabbi had already chosen them. They had been passed over as not good enough to study with a rabbi. When they were called by Jesus it was an opportunity they would never have dreamed possible; of course they left everything and followed him.

To be a disciple was effectively an apprenticeship to becoming a rabbi. To be discipled to a rabbi was to believe that you could do what your rabbi did. It is this belief that makes Peter get out of the boat. His rabbi is walking on the water and Peter believes that he can do what his rabbi does. And extraordinarily, Peter begins to walk on the water just like Jesus. It is only when he starts to think about what he's doing that he sinks. When Jesus asks Peter, 'Why did you doubt?' he is asking Peter why he doubted himself. It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus; he doubted his own ability to be the equal of his rabbi!

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Our new Parish website is now live

We're delighted to share that the new St Agnes' Catholic Parish website is now live.

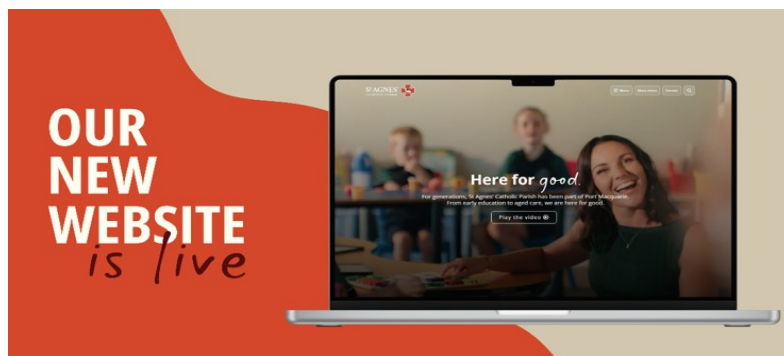
For the first time, our Parish ministries and services have come together under one website, making it easier to find Mass times, Parish news, our history, and information about the many ways the Parish serves our community.

Whether you're at home or on the go, the new website has been designed to work seamlessly across computers, tablets and mobile phones, making it easier for people to stay connected with the Parish.

As you explore the website, you'll notice that the St Agnes' Care & Lifestyle name is gradually disappearing. Our aged care, family, and community services are now proudly presented as part of St Agnes' Catholic Parish.

While the website looks different, the people, services and commitment to caring for our community remain the same.

We invite you to have a look around by visiting stagnesparish.org.au or scanning the QR code.



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.



UNCOMPROMISING
INTEGRITY



Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Saturday 15 August

A mother carries her child in her womb, giving that child a share in her own life. What if a child were able to share its life with its mother? This is what we believe happened between our Risen Lord and his mother, Mary. It is our faith that our Lord

nourishes Mary with His Resurrection life, meaning that her bodysoul, her total humanity, is suffused with His Divine glory.

She grace-fully made the transition from earthly to heavenly existence without the wrenching apart of body and soul which we may expect. This is what we mean by 'The Assumption'.

This has been believed and celebrated since the early centuries of the church. Why was it only proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1950? I think because in the first half of the 20th century tens of millions were killed in wars, death camps and in the Russian and China Communist dictatorships.

The Holy Spirit needed to remind the world that human beings are body souls made for transfiguration, not disfiguration by starvation, torture, massacre and disposal like animal carcasses. We could pause for a moment to pray that we may share in the gift of transfigured bodies at the end of history.

Liturgy Help—Fr Michael Tate

Mass times for Feast of the Assumption

There will be two masses offered in St Agnes' Church.

Vigil Mass Friday 14 August at 5.30pm and
Saturday 15 August at 9.00am.

9.00am mass will be followed by Adoration

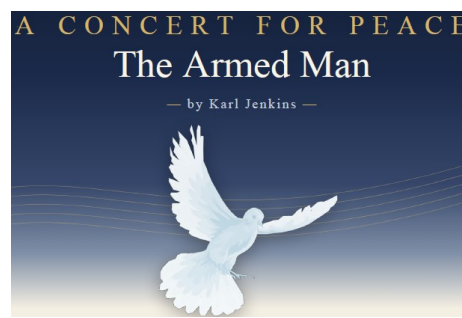
Sacrament of Initiation

This Sunday, we celebrate with the young people from our Journey into the Catholic Faith for Teens program as they receive their Sacraments of Initiation. Please join us in congratulating Carson, Ciana, Cassandra, Harrison, Ella, Tayla, Chad, Tahlia and Jesse and keeping them in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and their relationship with Jesus.

Thank you from Bishop Greg

Bishop Greg wishes to thank clergy and parishioners for their prayers and good wishes following his recent surgery. The bishop continues to recover in hospital and his condition has improved. The overwhelming support across the diocese has been a source of great comfort to him. Please continue to keep our bishop in your prayers as he recovers.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET YOUR TICKETS



SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2026 2:00 PM

St Agnes' Catholic Church

Musical Director — Robyn Ryan OAM

Don't miss this opportunity to be uplifted by a concert performance of

The Armed Man, by Karl Jenkins.

Tickets (\$20) available at the door or purchase prior at the Pastoral Office or online via the QR code

(Please show your ticket for entry)

All proceeds donated to the St Agnes' Foundation.



Extra parking will be available in the grounds of St Thomas' Anglican Church.

Adoration

Every Wednesday during the School term in St Francis of Assisi Chapel, 3.30pm – 4.00pm.

Cenacle

Cenacle including Adoration and the Rosary occurs on the following days. Contact Rose for more information on 0415 435 135.

1. Wednesday at St Francis of Assisi Chapel, Lochinvar Place at 11.00am.
2. Thursday at St Mary Star of the Sea Church, Lake Cathie at 2.00pm.

The Australia National Census is coming up



Just a reminder that the Census is due on Tuesday 11 August.

If anyone needs help completing the Census,

please contact the Pastoral Office on 6483 1024 and we will endeavour to assist you in any aspect of the Census.

All baptised Catholics whether you attend Mass every week or only occasionally, are strongly encouraged to tick 'Catholic' on the religion question.

Government funding for Catholic Schools, aged care, and social welfare agencies relies directly on this data.

If you belong to an Eastern Rite community (eg Maronite, Syro-Malabar, Ukrainian) please select 'Other' and write your specific rite. Stand up and be counted to help us plan for the future of our faith community.

Our faith teaches us the importance of compassion, dignity, and love for all God's children. The St Agnes' Foundation supports many different areas, such as education, student tuition, and disaster relief. This current fundraising appeal has a particular focus on support of the vulnerable. Our Parish has deepened its support for those experiencing homelessness through our prayers, actions, and provision of non-perishable foods. This weekend we launch the winter appeal. Envelopes are available from the church and chapels. Donations, via the envelopes, are tax deductible. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support.

Did you know.....

There are approximately 116 people in Port Macquarie who are experiencing homelessness, a challenge that affects our local community every day. Our St Agnes' Community Centre offers free breakfast for those in need on weekdays from 7.00am (Tuesdays 8.30am—11.00am).

Peter's Pence Collection



Peter's Pence collection is the annual global offering to our Holy Father for the works of charity supported by the Holy See. This year's collection raised \$1052.00.

2026 Diocesan Art Prize

This year's theme is 'The Face of Compassion'. You are invited to use your artistic talents to help recognise the face of compassion in our world today. **Categories:** 0-7 years, 8-12years, 13-17 years, 18+ years, Group, People's Choice. [See the Diocesan website for more information](#). Entries close 24 August 2026.

Do You have spare space?

The Hastings Koala Orchestra are looking for a storage space for their equipment (drums, music stands, uniforms, etc) and are hoping someone in our community may have a space available free-of-charge for this volunteer group. The size required is approximately half of a single garage. If you have a space, or know of a space, please contact Karen Kovac at karen.kovac@stagnesparish.org.au or 6588 7444. Thank you!

Ladies Coffee Morning

A ladies coffee morning is held the second Thursday of the month at 10.30am at Caramels - Lake Cathie near Woolworths. The next morning tea is this coming Thursday 13 August and all are very welcome. Any enquiries please contact Jenny on 0402 814 240.

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Christine Jenkins, Kathleen Sawyer, Terry Jamieson, John Layden, Bert Graham, Thelma McFarlane, Eileen Taylor.

Anniversaries: Alan Henshaw, Josip Ceh, Pat Gillan, Albert Jacobs, Errol Levy, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Phyllis Dunn Edward Dunn, Julia O'Brien, Edward

Other Intentions: Joan Abel, Nora Fortune, Marie & Patrick Mullens, Mary Clark, Margaret Gallagher, Barbara Riordan, Win Rohan, Peggy Collins, and masses of thanksgiving and donor intentions.



ENCOUNTER

Encounter Youth & Kids

Join us this week at the St Agnes' Community Centre from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. The theme is "ON FIRE for Jesus". Young people in years 3-6 are invited to Encounter Kids and those in Highschool are welcome for Encounter Youth.

Encounter Young Adults

All young adults aged 18 to 35 are welcome to join us at the St Agnes Community Centre from 6pm. Don't forget to bring your bible. If you are a new young adult and would like to get connected, please contact Christa to join our WhatsApp group to stay up to date.

For Youth Ministry enquiries, please contact:

christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au

Adult Formation

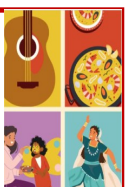
Faith: 1. Creating an LGBTIQA+ Inclusive Faith Community webinar presented by the Council of Australasian Catholics (CAC) and Garratt Publishing. Wednesday, 12 August, 7.00 pm with panelists. Angela Han, Stef Rozitis, and Tim Smyth who will consider questions such as identity, faith, and belonging – and what it means for the Church to be a place where all are truly welcome. [Register here](#).

Liturgy: 1. Pope Leo on Vatican II and the liturgy webinar presented by the Australian Cardijn Institute (ACI). Wednesday 19 August, 7:00 pm with Fiona Dyball, Musician and liturgist. [Register here](#).

Contact tony.worner@stagnesparish.org for further information regarding both or to be emailed the links.

Save the Date....

**St Agnes' Community Day,
Sunday 22 November, 2026
The Solemnity of Christ the King**





Parish Priest

Father Paul Gooley

Assistant Priest

Father Proencio Bognay

Pastoral Office

47 Hay Street: PO Box 23

Port Macquarie 2444

T (02) 6583 1024

E pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au

Web: www.stagnesparish.org.au

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.30pm Mon,

Tues, Thurs, Friday.

9.00am-4.30pm Wednesday

Parish Pastoral Council

PPC@stagnesparish.org.au

c/o St Agnes' Pastoral Office

PO Box 23 Port Macquarie 2444

Feedback to Parish

Complaints, concerns and feedback (both positive and negative)

can be made by emailing:

parish.feedback@stagnesparish.org.au

c/o St Agnes' Parish Administration

Feedback: PO Box 1736 Port Macquarie

Liturgical Celebrations

19th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Monday 10 August

[St Lawrence](#)

Feast

Tuesday 11 August

[St Clare](#)

Memorial

Wednesday 12 August

[St Jane Frances de Chantal](#)

Optional

Thursday 13 August

[Sts Pontian and Hippolytus](#)

Optional

Friday 14 August

[St Maximilian Mary Kolbe](#)

Memorial

Saturday 15 August

[The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED](#)

[VIRGIN MARY](#)

SOLEMNITY

General Mass Times in St Agnes' Catholic Parish

(Please note: There are occasions when these Mass times may change.

Please ensure you read the inside of the newsletter for changes).

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 9.30am or 11.00am Residential aged care only

12.05pm St Agnes' Catholic Church

Wednesday: 9.30am St Francis of Assisi Chapel

6.00pm St Bernard's Church

Thursday: 12.05pm St Agnes' Catholic Church

4.30pm Christ the King Chapel

Friday: 12.05pm St Agnes' Catholic Church

Saturday: 5.00pm St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Lake Cathie

Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am, 5.00pm St Agnes' Catholic Church

Reconciliation: Friday: 11.30am - 12 noon; Saturday: 11.30am - 12.30pm

COVID Awareness

Please continue to be mindful and respectful of each other and do not attend if you are unwell or have any cold/flu-like symptoms.

Suggested Streaming of Masses

Sunday 9.00am - Bishop Greg Homeming OCD, Lismore. [YouTube Channel](#);

Daily Mass on Demand

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjiVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

Mass for you at Home: Sunday 6.00am streamed on Channel 10.

Reflections: Lismore Diocese [YouTube Channel](#); [Fr Paul Daily Reflections](#)

Roster 16 August 2026

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Densie Smith

R1: Joan Lancaster

R2: Rebecca Cameron

C: Jim O'Brien

EMHC: Michael O'Brien
Vanessa Denham

Welcomer: Wendy Welsh

MO: Wendy Welsh

5.00pm

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R1: Timo Gobius

R2: Katrin Opaty

C: Marg Gobius

EMHC: Debbie Rennes
Brigitte Reiger

Welcomer: Jan O'Sullivan

CLW: Naomi White
Volunteer

9.00am:

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R1: Wayne Evans

R2: Anne Hayek

C: Barry Johnson

EMHC: Rita Koenig
Sue Williams

Welcomer: Gavin Smith (W)
Paul Barron (S)

CLW: SPPS
SPPS

Tuesday 12.05pm, 18 August

SAC: Sue Williams

R: Sue Williams

Thursday 12.05pm, 20 August

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Anne Flinter

Friday 12.05pm, 21 August

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Anne Flinter

Psalm: MacKillop College



4.15%

effective 1/8/2026

The Port Mac-

quarie office of the DIF

is open Monday to Friday

9.00am - 1.00pm. Phone Veronica or Mary for any enquiries on 6583 7439.

All enquiries outside these hours

phone 1800 802 516.

St Agnes' Catholic Parish Library

Library opening times

Thursday 10am - 12pm

Friday 10am - 2pm

Safeguarding Office



The Safeguarding Office is available to;

listen to your concerns respectfully and to offer support, to provide guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Safeguarding Office:

P: 02 6621 9444 (Chancery)

E: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au