

16 August 2026

Year A

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners and friends of St Agnes,

Last weekend was a huge weekend in our church....



Firstly, there was the concert – The Armed Man by Sir Karl Jenkins. A choir of about 80 singers and a talented orchestra were ably led by our very own Robyn Ryan OAM, for an hour and a half of beautiful singing that was enjoyed by a packed church.

I take this opportunity on behalf of St Agnes' Catholic Parish, to thank Robyn for her brilliant direction. Under Robyn's skilled and generous leadership, our highly talented singers and musicians came together to deliver a truly moving performance. The concert was a wonderful parish event, bringing our community together in friendship and shared celebration, all while raising valuable funds for the St Agnes' Foundation.

We are also deeply grateful to every singer and musician who gave so generously of their time and talent. Thank you for creating an afternoon our community will long remember.

Secondly, it was the weekend that the St Agnes Foundation launched its appeal. This appeal is to help the vulnerable in our community. Envelopes are available at the entrances of the church and chapels and all donations are tax deductible. Please give generously to help those in need.



Thirdly, on Sunday evening Ciana, Ella, Jesse, Cassandra, Tayla, Carson, Harrison, Tahlia and Chad all became full members of the church by receiving the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. All nine of these teenagers have been part of our yearly Journey into the Christian Faith for teens program. A big thank you to all those of our parish community who have helped these young adults during their Journey over the last year.

God bless,
Fr Paul



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

Gospel Reflection - Matthew 4:23

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

© Dianne Bergent CSA Liturgy Help

Baptism



We pray for Aliyah Dann, Norah Preston and Kolt Walters who will be gifted with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism.

May the Lord look lovingly on these children and their families.

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.

Catholic Women's League

Our monthly meeting for CWL members will be held on Friday the 21st August at 1.30pm in the John Worner Centre, Lourdes village. New members are most welcome. At this meeting we will have a paramedic as our guest speaker. For further information please contact Veronica on 0413386686 or Helen on 65835391.



Defibrillator (AED)



Please be aware that the church does have a defibrillator. It was previously near the organ but now it is located on the back wall of the church under the photos of the Pope and the Bishop. A defibrillator is a medical device that sends an electric shock to the heart to fix a dangerous rhythm or restart a stopped heart during a sudden cardiac arrest.

Please also be aware that we also have a first aid kit in the sacristy and that the sacristan is in the sacristy during mass if needed to call an ambulance or provide water or a cold compress.

Adult Formation

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.

Spirituality: 1. Weekend Retreat on Prayer. All adults are warmly invited to a weekend retreat on Friendship with God through the Wisdom of St Teresa of Avila, from Friday 27 November to Sunday 29 November 2026 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Facilitated by Fr Aloysius Rego OCD, and supported by Sr Dedith, Deacon Shane and Leanne Hyland, the retreat will offer time for prayer, silence, reflection, the Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Eucharist, and spiritual direction by request. The weekend will explore St Teresa's teaching on prayer and invite participants to rediscover prayer as friendship with God.

Dates: Friday 27 November – Sunday 29 November 2026

Time: 3:00pm Friday to 1:30pm Sunday

Location: Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW .

Register: <https://app.tickets.org.au/Hyland/silentvarrovillev2026>

For more information on this Retreat, please contact Leanne Hyland on 0421 927 435.

Prayer Campaign

A simple rhythm of prayer. We believe nothing of lasting fruit happens in the Church without prayer, so we are asking for prayers for the Divine Renovation Summit (1-3 October), and the renewal of parish life across Australia, before the Lord. You don't need to be at the Summit to be part of it. You only need to pray. [More information here](#) or contact tony.worner@stagnesparish.org.au.

Adoration

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

2026 Diocesan Art Prize

There is still time to submit your entry.



This year's theme is 'The Face of Compassion'. Compassion is seen in Christ's encounters with the vulnerable, outcast, and broken, and it continues to be lived out in the Church today. You are invited to



use your artistic talents to help recognise the face of compassion in our world today.

Categories: 0-7 years, 8-12 years, 13-17 years, 18+ years, Group and People's Choice. Entries close 24 August 2026. Scan the QR to learn more.

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.

Planned Giving Envelopes

Please check your Planned Giving envelopes. Some one has envelope number **112** for the 2026-2027 year and we need you to contact the Pastoral Office on 6583 1024 as we do not have your personal details recorded, and will be unable to issue you with a tax receipt without these details. Thank you.

Man with a Pram

Man With A Pram brings fathers and families together on Father's Day for a walk and community event to combat isolation and raise funds for perinatal mental health. 10% of dads will experience perinatal anxiety or depression in the first six months of a child's life. That's around 83 dads every day. No dad should have to walk alone.

Join in this **Father's Day, Sunday 6 September** for Man With A Pram – a community walk to raise awareness and support for dads' mental health. More details next week.

A bit of History - Anniversary of Dedication of St Carthage's Cathedral

Our 'Mother Church' is named after the Cathedral in Lismore, County Waterford, Dublin, Ireland. It was designed in the Gothic Revival style of the nineteenth century, a church style that remained popular well into the twentieth century. The architect was Herbert Wardell, who also designed Hillingdon House at Ascham School in Sydney, and whose father William Wilkinson Wardell, had designed the major Catholic cathedrals in Hobart, Melbourne and Sydney. The anniversary (1919) is on Sunday, 16 August. St Carthage and St Patrick, pray for us.

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Bob Ryan, Sullivan Waterman, Christine Jenkins, Kathleen Sawyer, Terry Jamieson, John Layden, Bert Graham.

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Stephen, John Stephen, Maureen Hanrahan.

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



ENCOUNTER

Encounter Youth & Kids

Encounter Youth & Kids is taking a break next week and will return on Friday 28 August with a social night themed: Wake Up.

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

Parish Pastoral Council

The Council met on Tuesday, 11 August for its monthly meeting. For the 'formation' we took a break from our book, *Practicing the Way* and concentrated on the three reflection questions regarding the Eucharist: ***What does it mean to me personally that Christ gives himself in the Eucharist? When have I experienced the Eucharist as genuinely transforming?*** and ***What is one thing I sense God is inviting me to change or deepen in my Eucharistic life?*** Then the four pillars were looked at as a focus for parish preparation for 2028. ***1. What can we do as a parish to strengthen Eucharistic formation before 2028?*** ***2. How can we as a parish strengthen liturgical life? (Worship).*** ***3. Which Corporal Work(s) of Mercy most need renewal in living out the Eucharist? (Living).*** and ***4. How can we reach out to share the Eucharist with others? (Evangelisation).***

A reminder that the Council meets every second Tuesday of the month and can be contacted by email ppc@stagnesparish.org.au. (See details on the back of the Parish News.)

**St Agnes' Community Day,
Sunday 22 November, 2026**





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

20th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Anniversary of the dedication of St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore 1919.

Wednesday 19 August

[St John Eudes](#)

Optional

Thursday 20 August

[St Bernard](#)

Optional

Friday 21 August

[St Pius X](#)

Memorial

Saturday 22 August

[The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin](#)

[Mary](#)

Memorial

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 23 August 2026

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R1: Pauline Day

R2: Sandy Luschwitz

C: Kevin Lewis

EMHC: Dianne Gander

Geoff Leary

Welcomer: Geoff Leary

5.00pm

SAC: Sue Williams

R1: SJRC

R2: SJRC

C: SJRC

EMHC: SJRC

SJRC

Welcomer: SJRC

CLW: Volunteers

9.00am:

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R1: Peter Johnson

R2: David Johnson

C: Bob Green

EMHC: Rita Koenig

Gae Green

Welcomer: Elizabeth Johnson (S)

Paul Barron (W)

CLW: Donna Sprague

Laura Hatherly

Tuesday 12.05pm, 25 August

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R: Tony Worner

Thursday 12.05pm, 27 August

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Trish McCann

Friday 12.05pm, 28 August

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R: Anne Hayek

Psalm: MacKillop College



Diocesan Investment Fund

4.15%

effective 1/8/2026

St Agnes' Catholic Parish Library

Library opening times

Thursday 10am - 12pm

Friday 10am - 2pm

The Port Macquarie 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

Safeguarding Office. If you have any Safeguarding concerns contact the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you.

To contact the Safeguarding Office, please phone (02) 6621 9444 or email:

safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au.

A copy of the Safeguarding Newsletter is available from the St Agnes' Church foyer or the Pastoral Office.