

30 August 2026

Year A

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners and friends of St Agnes,

First Holy Communion

In the coming weeks, upwards of 85 children in our parish are going to receive their first Holy Communion. This sacrament is the third sacrament of Initiation into the church. They have been baptised, they have been confirmed and now for the very first time they will have a special encounter with our Lord, who gives himself to us as spiritual food and helps us grow in faith and love. From this moment on they will be full members of the Catholic Church. The children will be presented to our faith community at various masses and I encourage you to please keep the children in your prayers at this very special time.



Weekday Masses

I want to alert parishioners to changes that will be necessary from the beginning of October. These changes will affect the liturgical life of the parish, the schools and aged care. These changes may affect the weekday day mass times and the availability of a priest.

As you are aware, at the beginning of July, Fr Alejo returned home to the Philippines, leaving two priests to serve the parish. In October and then in November both Fr Prodeacio and I will be taking our annual leave. This, then, means only one priest is left to serve the parish over these two months.

Currently, there are 2 masses each day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is the one mass on the Friday and 4 masses for the weekend. This does not take into account funerals or school liturgies that also occur during any week.

Over the coming month, the pastoral team and I, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, will look at what options/changes may need to be put in place for our weekday liturgies so that the parish's liturgical life can continue without too much inconvenience while one priest is away. This may include:

- Weekday mass time changes
- Liturgies of the Word led by lay people
- Liturgies of the Word with Holy Communion led by lay people



Please keep our parish in your prayers as we discern what changes need to be made.

Parish Administration Centre

Some time ago the roof of the church was replaced and then the presbytery was also done and Parishioners may have noticed that the roof of O'Reilly House (the old convent) has also been replaced. All this was due to severe storm damage (mini tornado) that Port Macquarie experienced some time ago. It is now the Parish Administration Centre's turn hence all the scaffolding that has been erected around it. All these works have been able to be completed by using funds from insurance claims that were made at the time.

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.

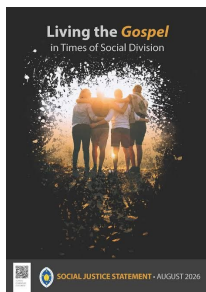


UNCOMPROMISING
INTEGRITY

Social Justice Sunday

The universal Catholic Church has been issuing formal social justice statements for over 135 years, starting with the landmark 1891 papal encyclical Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum Novarum*. Nationally in Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has maintained a continuous tradition of releasing annual social justice statements since 1940. This weekend we mark Social Justice Sunday – a time to pause, reflect and consider how we can respond to the social, economic and ecological issues facing our communities. Previously Social Justice Sunday was celebrated on the last Sunday in September. Since 2020, Social Justice Sunday has been celebrated in Australia on the last Sunday in August. Each year, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference releases a social justice statement inviting us to stand with people who are vulnerable, marginalised or in need. Two statements have been issued this year, one in February and the other just recently in time for this weekend, focusing on cost-of-living pressures, food insecurity, support for vulnerable Australians, social cohesion and community solidarity.

Read the statements and join us in reflection and action. [The Cost of Our Living \(February 2026\)](#) | [Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division \(August 2026\)](#)



EUCCHARIST28

An invitation is extended to all parishioners and those who are new to the Parish to complete a short survey on the Eucharist as part of our preparation for the congress in 2028. While the Congress itself shouldn't be the reason for talking about and discussing the Eucharist, it has given us the impetus to ask if we can/could be doing something more to what already is being done. To this end we are asking that four questions be looked at. These relate to the four pillars that parishes have been asked to reflect on:

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).**
 4. **How can we reach out to share the Eucharist with others? (Evangelisation).**
- These can be answered online through the QR code or via the [link available here](#).

A hard copy is available from the Pastoral Office should this be a better option. Contact tony.worner@stagnesparish.org.au (0436941280) for further information.



Father's Day Breakfast

You are warmly invited to come and be part of our parish Father's Day breakfast.

When: Sunday 6 September from 8.15am

Where: St Agnes' Church grounds.

This special event to celebrate our wonderful fathers and father figures and their families will take place between the 7.30am and 9.00am Masses. Come along and meet other families and enjoy a delicious bacon and egg roll together.

RSVP to the Pastoral Office by Thursday 3 September
Email: pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au or phone 6583 1024 and let us know if you will be attending; or if you would like to volunteer to assist on the morning.



The World Day of Prayer for Creation and the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation begins each year on September 1 with the World Day of Prayer for Creation. This year Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme for this day to be "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks", taken from Isaiah 2:4. The Pope highlights the links between armed conflict, environmental destruction, and human suffering. War, he argues, creates "a vicious cycle, which destroys ecosystems, contaminates essential resources, such as air and water, and undermines food security. This fuels poverty, inequality, and new social tensions that can contribute to the emergence of further conflicts. To break this cycle, Pope Leo suggests that authentic ecological conversion and a peaceful world demand that we "renew our hearts." This inner transformation allows new possibilities to be opened. "What has been used for destruction," he reflects, "can be redirected toward life, toward the care of the poor, the nourishment of the hungry, and the safeguarding of creation."

The Season of Creation runs from this World Day of Prayer, September 1 to October 4 each year. A relatively 'new' season in the Catholic Church, it began in 1989 with an initial day of prayer designated on September 1 by the Orthodox Church. In the early 2000s, the observance expanded into a month-long season (running through to October 4, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the saint traditionally attributed as the patron of creation) with leadership from ecumenical groups and theologians. In 2015, Pope Francis officially endorsed the season for the Roman Catholic Church, cementing its global ecumenical status. The theme this year is "Living Water" with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water", inspired by Ezekiel 47:1-12. It's a time where Christians worldwide unite during this period of prayer, reflection, and ecological action to protect the earth.



Adult Formation

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. 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/silentvarroville2026>

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

Spirituality: 2. Spirituality on the Sofa (SOS) Spirituality, Wednesday 2 September 7.30 – 9.00 pm via Zoom. Free. Not recorded. **Theme: Peace – Just War Theory** with conversation leaders Sr Patricia Fox and Robert Fitzgerald AM. Contact Marea Donovan for further information (0414 873 910) mareadonovan@gmail.com or for the link to be sent.

Baptism

We pray for Charlie and Georgie Hore and Celestine Tejero as they are gifted with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism. May the Lord look lovingly on these children and their families.



St Agnes' Gift Shop

The St Agnes' gift shop, located in the Pastoral Office, beside the church, will open on Sunday 30 August and next Sunday 6 September following the 9.00am Mass. The shop has a wide range of gifts, come and have a browse. We now accept EFTPOS transactions.

The Gathering

The Gathering will be held at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Sawtell on 12 September at 11.30am. This is an opportunity for young people from across the Diocese of Lismore to come together and celebrate the launch of Catholic Youth Lismore.

Adoration



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

Every second Saturday of the month in St Agnes' Church after the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 11am. The next opportunity is 12 September.

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Janice Minogue, Margaret MacBean, Alwyn Shaw, Bradley Alexanderson.

Anniversaries: Mary Clark, Ellis & Ruby Levy, Frances Sweeney, Patricia Bennett, Eileen Monahan, Phil Moore, Mary Moon, Beryl Thomas, Trixie Davidson, Florence Shergold, Florence Turner.

Other Intentions: Sang's Family, Rev Fr Andrew Rooney, Gan & Field Families, 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 invites all primary and high school students to our Brotherhood & Sisterhood Night on Friday 4 September. Join us as we explore what it means to be young men and women of God through fun, friendship, and faith. 5:30pm - 7:30pm in the St Agnes Community Centre.

Encounter Young Adults

Young adults aged 18-35 are welcome to join us at the St Agnes Community Centre from 6pm on Thursday evenings each week. Bring your Bible and come along for an evening of prayer, scripture and fellowship. New? Contact Christa to join our WhatsApp group and Stay connected.

For Youth Ministry enquiries, please contact:

christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au

Man with a Pram

Man With A Pram brings fathers and families together to celebrate Father's Day with 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 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Australia's Father's Day walk, **here in Port Macquarie** next **Saturday 5 September** for Man With A Pram – a community walk to raise awareness and support for dads' mental health. Rendezvous at Town Green at 9am sharp for a group photo before walking the break wall to Salty Crew for a brew. From there it's choose your own adventure splash, head to town beach playground, or home for nap time! Register at <https://manwithapram.com/2026-man-with-a-pram-walks/>





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

22nd Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Sunday 30 August

[SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY](#)

Tuesday 1 September

[WORLD DAY of PRAYER for CREATION](#)

Thursday 3 September

[St Gregory the Great](#) Memorial

Friday 4 September

[SPRING EMBER DAY](#)

Saturday 5 September

[St Teresa of Calcutta](#) Optional

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 6 September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R1: Saidee Talty

R2: Shane Talty

C: Jim O'Brien

EMHC: Gae Green

Dianne Gander

Welcomer: Leisa Nardella

Mary O'Brien

MO: Joan Lancaster

5.00pm

SAC: Sue Williams

R1: Marg Gobius

R2: Cody Lee

C: Timo Gobius

EMHC: Naomi White

Jan O'Sullivan

Welcomer: Jen Furney

CLW: Volunteers

9.00am:

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R1: Evelyn Geh

R2: Trish McCann

C: Barry Johnson

EMHC: Maria Barros

Margaret Donnelly

Welcomer: Rita Credaro (S)

Gavin Smith (W)

CLW: Volunteers

Tuesday 12.05pm, 8 September

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R: Rene Barros

Thursday 12.05pm, 10 September

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Gae Green

Friday 12.05pm, 11 September

SAC: Paula Forster

R: Christa Pereira

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.