



13 September 2026

Year A

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING

MEDIA RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 4, 2026



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC
BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Safeguarding Sunday 2026: 'Love Protects'

Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on September 13.

The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

'Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet.

"Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence.

"Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities.

Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person.

The Church is showing national leadership in safeguarding through:

- Professional development that strengthens the capacity of Catholic organisations
- Reviews, audits and assessments of Catholic organisations
- Management of the Australian Catholic Ministry Register Media Contact: Paul Osborne
- Safeguarding awareness, education and communications initiatives

As faith communities gather to mark Safeguarding Sunday, they are encouraged to reflect on the example of Jesus, who welcomed and protected the vulnerable and marginalised. His ministry inspires the Church's commitment to care, respect, and justice.

"Love protects when we listen. Love protects when we act. Love protects when we place the wellbeing of others at the centre of our decisions and our ministry," Bishop Bennet said.

"Together, we can build communities where every person is valued, respected and safe."

Media Contact: Paul Osborne • Australian Catholic Bishops Conference • media@catholic.org.au



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

Safeguarding Sunday: Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

This Safeguarding Sunday, we pause to recommit to one of the most sacred responsibilities we share as a Parish community: the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable people in our care.

Every person who volunteers with us — whether at Mass, in our schools, at parish events, in pastoral ministry or our many services — plays a role in keeping our community safe. Safeguarding isn't paperwork or box-ticking; it's a direct expression of our faith. As Jesus reminds us, *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40). Protecting the vulnerable among us is protecting Christ himself. This Safeguarding Sunday is a timely reminder that **all volunteers need to complete (or refresh) their Safeguarding Training by 15th December 2026**. This includes both volunteers completing initial training for the first time, and those due for their 3-year cyclical refresher. If this is not completed, we are putting ourselves at risk and as a Parish we can not do this, therefore no volunteer can continue their work unless this mandatory training is done. If you're unsure whether your training is up to date, or need help accessing the training, please make contact with Katie Hayward 65887444 or Katie.Hayward@stagnesparish.org.au this week.

Thank you for taking this responsibility seriously — it's how we ensure St Agnes' Parish remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone, especially our children and most vulnerable community members.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Council met on Tuesday, 8 September for its monthly meeting. For the 'formation', How? A Rule of Life from John Mark Comer's book was reflected upon and discussed. Christa Pereira presented an overview of what is happening in the 'Youth' space and an updated draft of the four 'pillars' regarding preparation for Eucharist²⁸ was presented, 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 emailing ppc@stagnesparish.org.au.

St Agnes' Community Day

St Agnes' Community Day, Sunday 22 November, the Solemnity of Christ the King is on for the third year at St Joseph's Regional College from 11.00am to 2.00pm. The focus this year will be on **Mass, hospitality and children's activities**.

Beginning the journey towards a Reconciliation Action Plan

St Agnes' Catholic Parish has taken an important first step in developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), commencing the Reflect phase of the framework.

A RAP is a nationally recognised framework that helps organisations take meaningful action towards reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we begin this work, our focus is on listening, learning and reflecting on how we can strengthen relationships, deepen cultural understanding, and create opportunities to work together in more meaningful ways. Our RAP Working Group is chaired by Director Tony McAlister and brings together CEO Tony Leahy, Aboriginal St Agnes' team members, representatives of the worshipping community, and staff from across the Parish. Over the coming months, we will engage with Aboriginal leaders, community members, Aboriginal organisations and Interagencies to listen, learn and better understand how we can make a positive and lasting contribution. These conversations will help shape our RAP and ensure it is informed by local perspectives, knowledge and lived experience.

Developing a RAP is an ongoing commitment, not a one-time project. As our work progresses, we will continue to share updates, opportunities for involvement, and ways for our Parish community to contribute.

We look forward to walking this path together, building stronger relationships, and learning from one another along the way.

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.



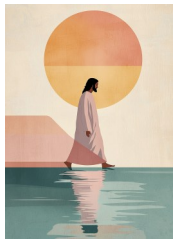
Catholic Women's League

The monthly meeting for the Catholic Women's league members will be held on Friday the 18 September at 1.30pm in the John Worner Centre, Lourdes Village. New members are most welcome. We have Father Anselm as our guest speaker this month. He will be giving a talk on Nigeria our country of study this year.

Wrap with Love

The Catholic Women's League members will also be hosting a thank you morning tea for all those who have contributed in any way to Wrap with Love. So please come along and join us at the Tension Woods Centre, Lochinvar Place, on Friday the 2 October at 10.00am. For further information please contact Veronica on 0413386686 or Helen on 65855391.

Journey into the Catholic Faith



If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming Catholic or completing the sacraments come and join our weekly Journey into the Catholic Faith for Adults sessions commencing at 5.45pm on Tuesday 22 September. Participants are required to register an expression of

interest by completing the online form at

[Journey into the Catholic Faith 2026-2027 \(18 years and over\) – Fill out form](#)

(or scan the QR code).

For enquiries, please email

Vanessa.Denham@stagnesparish.org.au



Baptism

We pray for Zeke De Leon as he is gifted with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism. May the Lord look lovingly on Zeke and his family.



Adult Formations

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short online presentations from the Catholic Theological College which invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world.



Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics such as spirituality and secularism, synodality, science and faith issues, canon law, the Gospels of Matthew and John, clergy

wellbeing, Eucharist, Magnifica Humanitas and AI.

The cost is \$25.00 per session for general audience.

To register, scan the QR code or visit the website

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith

for further details.



Father's Day Breakfast THANK YOU

We would like to thank those who helped cater for the Father's Day gathering last Sunday after the 7:30am Mass. A huge note of gratitude to Ethan Snow and David Abasa for cooking the BBQ, the serving ladies Naomi White and Leisa Nardella and also Vanessa Denham, Anne O'Brien and Deb Ward for their assistance.

Filipino Mass

The Filipino community will be dedicating the Sunday Mass at 11.30am on 20 September to celebrate the first Filipino martyr San Lorenzo Ruiz. Together with other Christians, San Lorenzo was martyred in Japan on 28 September 1637 for refusing to recant his Catholic faith.

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Paul Woodhouse, Bryan Longhurst, Jan Taylor, David Landers, Kim Osborne, Janice Minogue, Margaret MacBean.

Anniversaries: Anne Gaul, Tom Velten, Danny Sarks

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



ENCOUNTER

Encounter Fundraising: Our Youth and Young Adults will be holding a bake sale after each Mass on the weekend of 19-20 September. Please purchase some of our yummy treats. All proceeds go towards supporting youth ministry in our parish.

Encounter Youth & Kids

Encounter Youth & Kids invites all primary and high school students to join us on Friday 18 September for our final gathering of the term. Come along for a Movie Night! We look forward to welcoming both new and returning young people. from 5:30pm - 7:30pm at the St Agnes' Community Centre.

Encounter Young Adults

Young Adults is taking a break for a few weeks and will return on Thursday October 1. If you're a young person aged 18-35 and looking to get connected with other young adults in our parish, please get in touch with Christa.

For Youth Ministry enquiries, please contact:

christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au

Sick and Retired Priests Annual Collection

Donation envelope are available from our churches and chapels. These can be placed in the collection bags at Masses or returned to the Pastoral Office.

ABIDE

Slow down, draw near, and be with Jesus at ABIDE, an evening of praise, worship and Eucharistic Adoration. Enjoy a light supper, beautiful music, prayer and time in the presence of Jesus. Anointing of the Sick will also be available.

All are warmly welcome. Come and ABIDE with Him.



St AGNES' CATHOLIC PARISH



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

24th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Monday 14 September

[The Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#) *Feast*

Tuesday 15 September

[Our Lady of Sorrows](#) *Memorial*

Wednesday 16 September

[Sts Cornelius and Cyprian](#) *Memorial*

Thursday 17 September

[St Hildegard](#) *Optional*

[St Robert Bellarmine](#) *Optional*

Saturday 19 September

[St Januarius](#) *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 20 September 2026

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R1: Gai Arnold

R2: Pauline Day

C: Greg Grace

EMHC: Rebecca Cameron

Volunteer

Welcomer: Emma Kelly

MO: Rebecca Cameron

5.00pm

SAC: Sue Williams

R1: Tess Koning

R2: Laura Hatherly

C: Katrin Opay

EMHC: Cath Freeman

Lynne Rangel

Welcomer: Cath Freeman

CLW: Christa Pereira

Youth Leader

9.00am:

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R1: Wayne Evans

R2: Terry Timbs

C: Denise Puzas

EMHC: Donna Sprague

Peter Briscoe

Welcomer: Debbie Ward (S)

Gavin Smith

CLW: Volunteers

Filipino Mass (11.30am)

SAC: Sandra Hartas

Tuesday 12.05pm, 22 September

SAC: Tony Worner

R: Rene Barros

Thursday 12.05pm, 24 September

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Anne Flinter

Friday 12.05pm, 25 September

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R: Anne Hayek

Psalm: MacKillop College



Diocesan Investment Fund

4.15%

effective 1/8/2026

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 phone 1800 802 516.

St Agnes' Catholic Parish Library

Library opening times

Thursday 10am - 12pm

Friday 10am - 2pm

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.