



Wedding Garments at Baptisms! (Reflection by Fr Michael Tate)

The servants of the king went out and gathered in 'all whom they found, good and evil alike'. They respond, drawn by the attractive prospect of sharing in the life of the Lord of the Feast, and they are welcomed, whether good or evil. What about the king's (God's) question to the wedding guest? 'My friend, how come you are here without a wedding garment?' The guest might have replied: 'Because of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time', but the story goes on, 'But the guest was silent'. The guest was tongue-tied because he was caught out having decided not to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we look for a signal of commitment to respond to the spirit of the occasion, by the wearing of a white garment. This anticipates the later receiving of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the Feast of Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at this Mass to enter into the Spirit of the occasion wearing the garment of our baptismal commitment.

Rev Prof Michael Tate © Liturgy Help

Understanding Faith

Do you know what Understanding Faith is?

Understanding Faith is an online educational platform providing comprehensive religious education content and activities tailored to both primary and secondary school curricula.

It offers a rich multimedia approach to learning, including interactive activities, videos, slideshows, and podcasts, all designed to foster the Catholic faith and spirituality in young people.

The content is checked for doctrinal accuracy and aligns with religious educational curricula, making it a valuable tool for teachers in religious education in schools across Australia.

Understanding Faith Resource Inclusions:

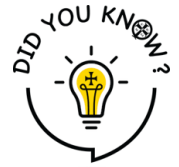
- 9000+ content pages
- 3,500+ scripture passages
- 14,000+ images
- Interactive activities in a variety of styles
- Slideshows to enrich multiple learning styles
- Printable worksheets for the more traditional learner
- YouTube video extracts
- Broadcasted video extracts
- Newspaper articles and documents to enhance the relevance of RE
- Podcasts and music
- Podcast transcripts for students who are hearing impaired

New scripture passage exegetical analysis is currently under development.

Understanding Faith is something wonderful built in our parish community. A small team has dedicated their time, faith, and expertise into building *Understanding Faith*, which is being used by educators in Catholic schools right across Australia.

What began as a labour of love within our own parish has become a genuine gift to Catholic education nationally. Teachers rely on it and students benefit from it. Understanding Faith carries the mark of real professionalism in everything it offers, a testament to what can be achieved when people give generously of their skills.

To the team who built and continue to shape this resource, Jacob Soerensen, Janita Proud, Kim Lonergan and Chloe Nash: **THANK YOU!**



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

HSC Prayer Sponsors



As our Year 12 students begin their final preparation for the HSC exams. We ask all parishioners to consider being a prayer sponsor for our students. Exams start on Tuesday 13 October with the last exam on Thursday 5 November.

What is a prayer sponsor?

A prayer sponsor is someone who prays for another person with a specific intention in mind and at specific times. Knowing that someone is praying for you at a difficult time is a source of great strength and consolation.

Parishioners are invited to be prayer sponsors.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Sponsor for a Year 12 student from a St Agnes' Parish Secondary School, please phone the Pastoral Office on 6583 1024. Details (student name, exams times and prayers to be offered) will be sent to you before the HSC exams commence on Thursday 13 October.

Baptism

We pray for Lucinda Dimond, Skylah and Oly Thompson and Charlotte Scott 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.



Adoration

Adoration in St Francis of Assisi Chapel, each Wednesday from 3.30 – 4.00 pm begins again on **14 October**.

Catholic Women's League

The monthly meeting for the Catholic Women's League will be held on Friday 16 October at 1.30 pm in the John Worner Centre, Lourdes Village. New members most welcome. For further information please contact Veronica on 0413 386 686 or Helen on 6585 5391

November Mass Intentions

November is dedicated to the Month of Holy Souls. When submitting Mass Intentions, please ensure all names are clearly printed and the envelope is clearly labelled NOVEMBER MASSES. Envelopes can be placed in the Sunday Mass collections or dropped into the Pastoral Office.

St Agnes' Community Day

Now is the time to volunteer! Register your interest using the QR code here or [click this link](#)

Reminder: Only one Mass will be celebrated in the Parish on this weekend, 11am at St Joseph's Regional College.



St Agnes' Parish Christmas Hamper Appeal

It is that time of the year when we see Christmas fast approaching. Please see the insert included in this Parish News in relation to Christmas Hampers.

54th International Eucharistic Congress

(Eucharist28) 24 September—1 October 2028



Want to volunteer at this once in a lifetime event? Check out the website <https://www.eucharist28.org/volunteer>. Want to learn more about the Eucharist? Watch the series of clips podcasts. Now up to No.9. <https://www.eucharist28.org/resources>. Want to be kept updated? <https://www.eucharist28.org/join-us>

World Mission Sunday Appeal

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in the work of Catholic Mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children, like Yamikani, a young boy in rural Malawi. Getting to school for Yamikani means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice. But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

Next Sunday, 18 October, on the 100th anniversary of World Mission Day, the annual Catholic Mission appeal will take place. Monetary donations can be made using the envelopes provided at church entrances or by visiting the [Catholic Mission Australia](#) website.



Public Rosary

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Lake Cathie: A public Rosary held in the church grounds, on Saturday 17 October commencing at 10.00am. All are welcome to join in this beautiful prayer. For further information please contact Rose on 0415 435 135.



Celebrating Seniority!

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering for a special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications and time of life. Scan below to register or see palms.org.au/events

Date: Monday 19 October 2026
Time: 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au



Adult Formation

Faith: 1. Online Courses for Cycle 7 with the **Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation** are now open. Closing on 22 October to begin on 26 October. Use the following link to see what is available <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/calendar/> or contact tony.worner@stagnesparish.org.au for further information.

Liturgical: 2. An opportunity for everyone to learn more about the liturgy. Why we do what we do? Liturgy Formation is for the entire assembly – and not for a few experts. Pope Leo XIV, speaking about formation for liturgy in 2026, chose to quote from his predecessor, the late Pope Francis, echoing some key points on this topic. “In his Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, 2022, which described the beauty of the liturgy’s theological and spiritual depth, Pope Francis emphasized the need for an attentive and ongoing formation of clergy and laity alike in revitalising the liturgical life of the universal Church (cf. no. 38). He later reminded us that this kind of formation “is not a specialisation for a few experts, but rather an inner disposition of all the People of God”.

Saturday 24 October at All Saints Kempsey, 9am-3pm. See flyers in the Church. Register via the QR code or click [Registration](#). (Please contact tony.worner@stagnesparish.org.au (0436941280) for further information or if transport is required.)



Spiritual: 3. A weekend Retreat on Prayer, **Friendship with God with St Teresa of Avila**. 27-29 November, Mt Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville NSW. Facilitated by Fr Aloysius Rego OCD. For more information, see flyers at the Church Entrance or contact Leanne Hyland on 0421927435.

Cursillo Movement Invitation

A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal

The Lismore Diocesan Cursillo Movement warmly invites men and women across the Diocese to their 3-day live-in weekend.

When: 15-18 October 2026

Where: Marian Valley Retreat Centre, 2541 Beechmont Rd, Witheren QLD

This short, intensive course in Christian living offers a powerful space for personal spiritual renewal, prayer, and fellowship. For more information, please contact Joan (President) on 0413 99 360 or email

joanboyle0@gmail.com or Maxine (Secretary) on 0429 669 029 or email scole945@gmail.com



Advent

Yes, we’re talking about Advent already!

The Advent Prayer resource from Archdiocesan Ministries in Brisbane, *The Way of the Heart* will soon be available. \$5 each. Please contact the Pastoral Office at pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au or 6583 1024 for a copy or to express interest in running or being part of a group.

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Eileen Perry, Jose Basilio, Blake Rogers, Jo Rangel,

Anniversaries: Randall Gawne, Rachael Power, Fernanda Odrunia, Horst Koppel, Amal Hayek, Kathleen Woods, William Brooks.

Other Intentions: Julie Munro, Peter Hogan, Libby Hartley, Allen Woods, Susan Brooks, John A, & John P Woods, John Brooks, Gary Brooks, David Woods, Sandra Turner, Marie & Patrick Mullens, Mary Clark, Margaret Gallagher, Barbara Riordan, Win Rohan, Peggy Collins, and masses of thanksgiving and donor intentions.



ENCOUNTER

Youth & Kids

We hope our youth and families are enjoying their school holidays! Encounter Youth & Kids will return on 23 October.

Young Adults

Our Young Adults gather each Thursday from 6pm at the St Agnes’ Community Centre. If you’re a young person aged 18-35 and are looking to get connected with other young adults in our parish, please get in touch with Christa.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Adam Jennings** and **Alannah Steele**, who have committed to serve with NET Ministries in 2027. Adam will begin his first year of mission, while Alannah returns for a second year. Please keep them in your prayers as they share the Good News and serve the Church. May the Holy Spirit guide and bless them throughout their mission year.



NET
AUS & NZ

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who generously supported our Youth Ministry Bake Sale Fundraiser. Together, we raised **\$2679.10!** These funds will help young people continue to find a home in the Church, access upcoming Catholic events, and support the missionaries featured above. We are sincerely grateful for your support.

For all youth ministry enquires please contact christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au

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

28th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Wednesday 14 October

[St Callistus I](#)

Optional

Thursday 15 October

[St Teresa of Jesus \(of Avila\)](#)

Memorial

Friday 16 October

[St Hedwig](#)

Optional

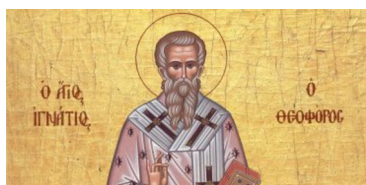
[St Margaret Mary Alacoque](#)

Optional

Saturday 17 October

[St Ignatius of Antioch](#)

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

1st Tuesday

11.00am

Emmaus Chapel, Colonel Barney Drive

2nd Tuesday

9.30am

Mt Carmel House, Lochinvar Place

3rd Tuesday

9.30am

Maryknoll House, Lochinvar Place

4th Tuesday

9.30am

St Agnes House, Lochinvar Place

Wednesday

9.30am

St Francis of Assisi Chapel

6.00pm St Bernard's Church, Telegraph Point

Thursday

9.30am

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 - 12noon;

Saturday 11.30am - 12.30pm

Adoration

The first Saturday of the month, St Agnes' Church, following the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 11am, until midday.

Wednesday, 3.30pm at St Francis of Assisi Chapel

Cenacle:

Wednesday 11.00am, St Francis of Assisi Chapel

Adoration &

Thursday 2.00pm, St Mary Star of the Sea Church, Lake

Rosary

Cathie

Mass Online [YouTube Channel](#) Bishop Greg Homeming OCD,.

Daily Reflections [Fr Paul Daily Reflections](#)

Health 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.

7.30am:

SAC:

Leone Flanagan

R1:

Gai Arnold

R2:

Pauline Day

C:

Kevin Lewis

EMHC:

Michael O'Brien

Dianne Gander

Welcomer: Leisa Nardella

5.00pm:

SAC:

Vanessa Denham

R1:

Christa Pereira

R2:

Brigitte Rieger

C:

Laura Hatherly

EMHC:

Lynne Rangel

Laura Hatherly

Vanessa Denham

Welcomer: Volunteers

CLOw

Naomi White + volunteer

9.00am:

SAC:

Alan Wheatland

R1:

David Johnson

R2:

Peter Johnson

C:

Sandra Hartas

EMHC:

Alan Wheatland

Jenny Hayek

Sandra Hartas

Welcomer:

Cathy Hawtin

Elizabeth Johnson

CLOw:

Donna Sprague

Geoff Leary

Friday 12.05pm 23 October

SAC:

Sandra Hartas

R:

Anne Hayek



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.