



**St AGNES'**  
CATHOLIC  
PARISH

# *Living Hope*

*Many Parts, One Body*



*Parish Visioning Day*  
*Sunday 28 May 2023*  
*Pentecost Sunday*

# Our Time Together

**12.00pm**

**BBQ Lunch**

**1.00pm**

**Official Welcome**

Acknowledgment of Country  
Opening Prayer  
Welcome from Fr Paul

**Session One – Seeing the Good**

Our Vision  
Our Story  
How we are living our Mission

**Session Two – Weighing the Need**

What do we need to strengthen?  
What else do we need to bring to life?  
What is no longer needed?

**2.30pm**

**Afternoon Tea**

**2.45pm**

**Session Three – Committing to Action**

What is most important going forward?  
How might we go about actioning our priorities?

What is the role of our Parish Pastoral Council?  
How will we discern the membership of our Parish Pastoral Council?  
Nominating for our Parish Pastoral Council

Closing Words  
Commissioning

**4.00pm**

**Close**

**5.00pm**

**Mass (Hay St)**

# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the land on which we gather. We do so with a sense of the importance of the country upon which we are meeting, where learning and ceremony has taken place over many thousands of years. Let us sense the land beneath our feet, acknowledge to whom it belongs - the Biripi people - acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing spiritual relationship with this land, and pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging, committing ourselves, with them, to the ongoing journey towards reconciliation and justice, for we are one in land, one in Spirit, united in God's love.

## Opening Prayer

**Scripture** – *Spiritual Gifts – One Body Many Members*

*1 Corinthians 12: 4-7, 12-13*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**Reflection** – A House United (instrumental)



## A Prayer for Courageous Stewardship



**All:** God,  
source of all creation  
inspire in us a sense of wonder and awe  
and appreciation for all we have been given.

Help us to use our time, talents, and resources  
in responsible and sustainable ways  
to ensure we protect the environment  
and are being the best stewards of your gifts.

May we also be courageous  
in our pursuit of equality, freedom, fairness, and justice for all people.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## A House United

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There are many gifts but the same Spirit  
There are many hands but the same Lord  
There are many works but the same God  
Who empowers them all (repeat)

We won't be divided we are a house united  
We won't be divided we are a house united

We are many parts but the same body  
We have many songs but one voice  
We have many hearts but the same love  
Uniting them all

We won't be divided we are a house united  
We won't be divided we are a house united (repeat)

Your people are my people  
Your church will be my church  
Your children are my brothers and my sisters (repeat)

We won't be divided we are a house united  
We won't be divided we are a house united (repeat twice)

## Blessing

*This blessing is a gift of wisdom from the late Burnum Burnum, Australian Aboriginal Elder, given to Helen Summers on January 26, 1995 (Australia Day).*

**Person A:** May the fire be in our thoughts,

**All:** Making them good and just,  
May it protect us from all harm.

**Person B:** May the fire be in our eyes,

**All:** May it open our eyes to see what is good in life,

**Person C:** May the fire be on our lips,

**All:** So that we may speak the truth in kindness,  
that we may serve and encourage others.  
May it protect us from speaking against another.

**Person D:** May the fire be in our ears,

**All:** That we may hear with deep listening,  
So that we may hear the flow of water, and of all Creation and the Dreaming.  
May we be protected from gossip  
And from those things that harm and breakdown our family.

**Person E:** May the fire be in our arms and hands,

**All:** So that we may be of service and build up love.  
May the fire protect us from all violence.

**Person F:** May the fire be in our whole being - in our legs and feet,

**All:** Enabling us to walk the earth with reverence and care,  
So that we may journey in the ways of goodness and trust  
And be protected from walking away from what is truth.

**Fr Paul:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen



Image sourced from:  
<https://godspacelight.com/2015/05/23/lets-get-creative-with-pentecost/>

# Our Vision, Mission and Values

## Our Vision

"Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God."

## Our Mission

Holiness in the image of Christ  
Proclaim the good news of salvation  
Minister within the faith community  
The service of all, particularly those in need

## Our Values

Nourished by Faith  
Uncompromising Integrity  
Empowered to Excellence  
Service before self  
Courageous Stewardship  
United as 'One Body'

## Our Season of Renewal



- Opportunities for people to encounter and experience Jesus Christ more deeply
- Pathways to connect with and belong within our pastoral community (centered in the Eucharist as a local expression of our Catholic Church)
- Outreach and support to those beyond our pastoral community, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in both word and deed

# Honouring our Story

## **Pre 1800's    The Spirit is with our First Peoples**

### **1821 – 1888    Our Catholic Beginnings in Region**

Early Catholic migration into the region  
First worshipping community in former guard's room outside the convict gaol  
First St Agnes' Church built

### **1888 – 1969    Our Foundational Period**

Port Macquarie established as a parish  
Sisters of St Joseph offer ministry of education, and education mission expands  
Worship and sacramental life strengthened through new church building

### **1969 – 1991    Expanding our Loving Service**

Fr Leo Donnelly Appointed  
Parish Finance Committee, Pastoral Council and Parish Planned Giving  
New centres for worship, pre-schools, education and residential aged care  
Family support services, vocational college and occasional care support

### **1991 – 2018    Strengthening our Vision and Mission**

The Vision and Mission of Parish first shaped  
Education services expand and many other services developed  
First Strategic Plan developed to ensure good planning and compliance  
Fr Leo Donnelly retires

### **2018 – 2023    Responding to our Present Context**

- Fr Paul Gooley appointed
- Parish Communications strengthened; services strengthened and expanded
- Fr Leo Donnelly passes away
- Second Strategic Plan Developed
- Our Season of Renewal commences

## Themes of our Strategic Plan

**Mission & Culture:** We are authentic to our Mission and nurture a culture reflective of this Mission

**People:** We are inclusive and empower our people, all of whom are fundamental to our Mission.

**Stewardship:** We have a long and distinguished history of serving and caring for our community. As the current stewards of this legacy, we will continue to grow our services to serve the Parish community.

**Communication & Collaboration:** We encourage and nurture a collaborative and inclusive community.

**Connectedness & Identity:** We foster and promote a Parish community that is engaged and connected.



# Some of What is Happening in our Parish

Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God

## Liturgical Services

Masses, Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Reconciliation, Confirmation, clergy, musicians, welcomers, acolytes, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, lectors, collectors, cleaners, sacristans, children's Liturgy of the Word, Welcome Packs, The Assembly



## Community Engagement & Support

Family Groups, Filipino Community, Indian Community, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Youth & Community Hub, Playgroups, Community Groups, NDIS, Residential Care, Home Care, Village Living, Supported Living, Dementia Living, Community Events

## Education

Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary, Vocational Education and Training, Understanding Faith (online education program for students)



## Faith Formation

Advent & Lenten Programs, Ongoing small faith sharing groups, prayer & devotional groups, Journey into Catholic Faith, Sacramental Preparation, Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation, weekly emailed faith resources, ministry formation, retreats, online Gospel reflections

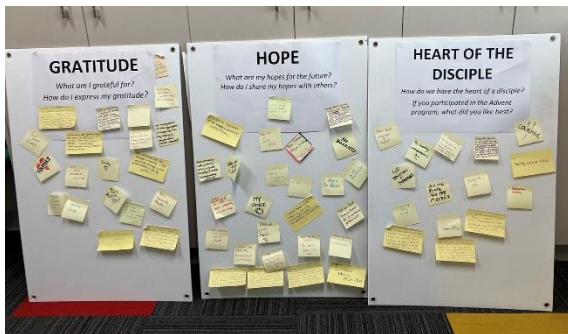


# Some of What is Happening in our Parish

Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God

## Community Care

Employment Support, Support Coordination, Occupational Therapy, Community Housing, Care & Concern Group, Christmas Hampers, Parenting Programs, Home Visitations, Food Services, Uniform Support



## Communications, Administration & Property Support

Parish Bulletin, E-News, Website, Social Media, Marketing & Recruitment campaigns, planning, Information & Comms Technology, finance support, risk management, WH&S, Human Resources Support, Property and Vehicle support.

## Pastoral & Spiritual Care

Holy Communion to the Sick, Anointing of the Sick, Pastoral & Spiritual Care in Aged Care settings



## Broader Outreach

SVDP, Disaster Relief, Engagement with Refugee Support Group, Foundation supporting those in financial need, crisis support, homelessness and vulnerable. Parish supports broader initiatives – regional and national.

# Some Needs Identified by Our Parish

Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God

## Community & Connection

Opportunities to gather as Community  
Greater Connection with  
young people and families  
Parish dinners  
Stronger engagement with cultural groups  
Stronger safeguarding support

## Formation and Enriching Lives

Nourishment in faith and spirituality for all  
people of St Agnes' Catholic Parish  
Connecting Life and Faith  
Ministry Training and Formation  
More retreats, faith groups, short courses

## Community Outreach

More homelessness support  
Social Justice Committee  
Running a refuge  
Inclusive of all people

## Leadership and Governance

Clear & Accountable Processes and  
Responsibilities  
Perceived Corporatisation of Parish  
Awareness and understanding of all the  
services and groups as one Parish  
Reinstitute strong parish pastoral council  
Stronger lay engagement in leadership

# **The Role of our Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) promotes and supports the evangelising mission of the Parish, working in collaboration with the Parish Priest to foster the spiritual and pastoral life of all the Christian faithful. The Parish Pastoral Council enables the members of the Parish community to fulfil their baptismal calling to share in Christ's mission and to connect their needs and their strengths with the Parish's plans for the future.

The previous Parish Pastoral Council concluded its term in June last year and gratitude was expressed by Fr Paul on behalf of the parish community for their commitment.

A review of the Parish Pastoral Council was conducted by Daniel Ang, Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, in August 2021.

The re-establishment of a Parish Pastoral Council is one of the key goals of the season of renewal the Parish is currently undertaking. The Pastoral Renewal Team will revise the recommendations of Daniel Ang's review as needed in preparation for the re-establishment of the Parish Pastoral Council mid-2023.

The newly formed Parish Pastoral Council will have a key role in developing the Parish Pastoral Plan in consultation with the parish community. This plan will help guide the continuation of the work of renewal in our parish in the service of God's mission.

## **How will we Discern Membership?**

To discern means to come to knowledge. A process of prayerful discernment is one in which we come to knowledge of the God's desire for our parish. The process involves calling upon the Holy Spirit to be present, being open to input from the community, and providing the opportunity for prayer and reflection in the process. Discernment of parish pastoral council membership is a process of prayer, formation, and the deepening of people's relationship with the Holy Spirit as individuals and as a community of believers.

In the final phase of the selection of Council membership, a discernment process will be used. The actual discernment of new parish pastoral council members involves prayer, the naming of the gifts that an individual brings to the parish community that resonate with the context of the issues facing the parish. At the end of the process each nominee, along with the group that has been gathered, will discern who should come on to the council at this time.



# St AGNES' CATHOLIC PARISH

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