



Dear Parishioners,

Welcome

Bishop Greg Homeming advised us this week that the first Indian Discalced Carmelite Priest from the Karnataka-Goa Province will arrive in the Diocese next week. His name is Fr Joe Dsouza. He will initially spend some time in Lismore and then he will take up an appointment as Assistant Priest in Coffs Harbour. Fr Joe is the first of a number of Indian priests who will be coming to the Diocese to serve you, 'the church', in this part of the world.

Fr Donnelly

Fr Donnelly is still in hospital and recovering well. He has had the infection in his knee cleaned out twice and is still on antibiotics. It is hoped that he will be out of hospital soon and spend some time in rehab to get him back up on his feet. Please keep him in your prayers.

The Truth

Recently an article was published in the Sydney Morning Herald regarding Not-for-Profit and/or Charities making political donations to the Liberal/National and Labour Parties. It was claimed that St Agnes' Parish was among a variety of Not-for-Profit and Charities to make 'major contributions' to political parties.

This is simply not true. To the best of my knowledge, the facts are as follows:

On the eve of the release of the 2018 Budget two of our staff were invited to attend a dinner that various ministers would be at. We decided to accept the invitation. As per normal and regardless of which political party is involved, attending these sort of things comes at a cost. We chose to see the Minister in this way as it was cheaper for tickets to the dinner than what it was to fly the two staff to Canberra/Sydney with overnight stay, meals etc. Due to a change of government rules these dinner costs now have to be declared by the political parties as 'political donations'. Hence why we were named by the Herald. Due to these changes, we no longer accept these dinner invitations as it could affect our Not for Profit/Charity status.

In short, be assured that we do not make 'political donations' with parishioners/parish monies. But in reality, given our involvement in a variety of ministries like Aged Care, Education, Welfare, Disability and so much more we still have to speak with and deal with political parties and we will continue to do so on behalf of and for the benefit of all those in our community who we support and care for.

Paul

Fr Paul Gooley,
Parish Priest



From the Catacombs.....

Sadly, after a short illness, Episcopuss, who features in the Parish News each week, otherwise known as Hylton, left us during week.

May he meow and purr in peace.

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.



THE FEAST OF THE EPHIPHANY



Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science. Reported by Hippolytus as early

as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

© Richard Leonard SJ. Liturgy Help

Pastoral Services in our Parish

If you are interested in joining/volunteering for any of our pastoral teams below please contact the Parish Office on 6583 1024.

Care & Concern Group

Description: This group visits bereaved families and relatives. It meets the first Tuesday of every month. Training of members is provided yearly.

Hospitals Pastoral Care Team

Description: The team visits both hospitals three days each week. Team members will assist individuals, family members, or loved ones during their stay in hospital with aspects of life that can best be described as personal or spiritual. They will listen, speak and pray with the patient and give Holy Communion. On admission to hospital please remember to register as "Catholic" and tick the 'yes' section to ensure a visit.

Music Ministry

Co ordinator: Jenni Searson - 6583 1024 or mobile 0438 522 854.

Description: Instrumentalists and vocalists provide the music for Masses, liturgies, weddings and funerals that are celebrated in the Parish. Regular rehearsals are held each month. If you would like to be involved in this beautiful ministry or liturgical music you are invited to contact the coordinator.

Journey into the Catholic Faith

Description: This is a course on the Catholic Faith for anyone aged 18 years old and above. The course aims at systematically proposing 'the Christian faith in its entirety and in its authenticity' in accordance with the Catholic Church's understanding.

Home Rosary Crusade

Description: Parishioners are invited to place their name on a roster to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in their home for a week.

Catholic Women's League

Description: This is a voluntary, caring group concerned with Christian living, in particular, the protection and support of the Christian family. This organisation unites at Parish, Diocesan, State and National levels women of all ages, to meet the challenges of the present and future. Members are active in the social and spiritual life of the Parish. Monthly meetings are held.

**Independent Living Village Opportunity -
St Agnes Village & Lourdes Village**

Catholic Care of the Aged has a long and proud history of supporting residents of Port Macquarie through all stages of life to achieve their individual lifestyle goals. Independent living villas at Lourdes Village and St Agnes Village are a wonderful example of one such lifestyle choice in the full continuum of care the Parish offers. If you or someone you know is considering a move into an independent living villa we currently have a limited number available in Lourdes Village and St Agnes Villages for your consideration. If you have any questions or would like an information package, please contact Sue Reid, Client Relationship Officer Village Sales on: Phone: 5525 3600; Mobile: 0407 843 515
Email: villagesales@cca.stagnesparish.org.au
Office: Donnelly House, 150-152 Horton Street.

Offertory Roster

It is time to update the Offertory gifts roster. Should you wish to be added to the weekend Mass roster, or taken off the roster, please contact the parish office on 6583 1024 by Monday, 14 January.



A Journey into the Catholic Faith

Will resume on Wednesday, 30 January 2019.

Blood Donations

Donating blood is an important community service. New donors are required to ensure there is sufficient blood for patients in need, especially at this time of the year. To find out how to become a donor, or for more information, call 131 495 or visit the website: www.donateblood.com.au.

From the Catacombs ...

Episcop^us Wisdom...

From the Catechism...



'In God have I put my trust:
I will not be afraid what man
can do unto me.'



'The resolution we all
should make is to
forget the past.'

Recently Deceased: Margaret Blake, Carl Konig, Frank Dowd.

Anniversaries: Kevin McDonnell, Aida Gregg, Kevin Freeman, Stan Condon.

Other Mass Intentions: Mons Kerry Bayada, Mary & Patrick McDonnell, Albert Jacobs, Kathleen Connors, Marija Miller, Hilton Dodds, Minnie Downes, Nora Downes Roberts, Ern O'Reilly, Beryl Thomas, Molly & Robert Friggens, donor intentions & masses of thanksgiving.

The Catholic Leader

The next edition of the Catholic Leader will be available the weekend of 13 January.

**Affordable Accommodation
at Westmead, Sydney**

Sisters of Charity Outreach operates a great service for regional NSW residents who need to attend medical appointments and hospital in Sydney. Chisholm Cottage is a renovated four bedroom affordable shared accommodation house.

For more information call Sonia on 9633 4228 or email: chisholmcottage@outreach.net.au

Coeliac Hosts

Coeliac hosts are available for parishioners. Prior to Mass commencing please go to the Sacristy and speak with the Sacristan. Then sit towards the front of the Church. Coeliac hosts are also available at the Chapels.

MacKillop Gift Shop

For any visitors to our Parish the MacKillop gift shop located at 106 Horton Street has for sale a wide range of religious items, gifts and cards. It is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 2.00pm. It also has for sale a wide range of second hand books to raise money for welfare. The phone number is 6584 9779.

Prayer for the Plenary Council

As we come together as a parish community to respond, Jesus, give us more profound faith, greater courage, deeper spirituality and the ability to discern. Lord hear us.

Need help with your parish giving?

Call Trudi
(02) 6588 7444



Parish Giving Programme

Parish Priest
Father Paul Gooley

Assistant Priest
Father Peter Wood

Parish Office
47 Hay Street Port Macquarie
PO Box 23

T (02) 6583 1024
E pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au
www.stagnesparish.org.au

Office Hours:
8.30am - 4.30pm

FEAST DAYS

Monday 7 January
St Raymond of Penyafort



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE
WORD ROSTER
5.00PM SUNDAY
13 January 2019**

There will be no Children's
Liturgy during school holidays

PARISH MASSES

ST AGNES' CHURCH | Hay Street, Port Macquarie
Tuesday & Wednesday: 5.15pm
Friday: 12.05pm
Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil
Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am, 5.00pm
Please note: Weekday Masses at 9.00am on Public Holidays
Reconciliation: Friday 11.30am -12 noon, Saturday 11.30am - 12.30pm

ST FRANCIS CHAPEL | Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie
Contact: Sr Anne Hannigan
Ph 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259.
Communion Service or Mass: 9.30am Monday - Thursday
Sunday Mass: 9.30am

CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL | Boronia St, Port Macquarie
Contact: Sr Anne Hannigan
Ph: 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259
Communion Service or Mass: 8.00am Thursday
Mass: Saturday Vigil - 4.30pm
Rosary: 1st Saturday of the month 4.00pm.

ST BERNARD'S, TELEGRAPH POINT | Rollands Plain Rd, Telegraph Point
Thursday: 6.00pm.

STAR OF THE SEA, LAKE CATHIE | Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie
Sunday: 8.00am.

ROSTERS

12-13 January 2019

READERS AND COMMENTATORS

6pm Vigil: George Searson
Robert Green
Barry Johnson
7.30am: Kevin Lewis
Sandy Luschwitz
Brian Tierney
9.00am: Sandra Hartas
Richard O'Brien
Beth Flynn
5.00pm: Suzanne Savage
Volunteer please
Vanessa Denham

GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

6pm Vigil: P & F Shaw
7.30am: S Bale
9.00am: E Gardiner & Family

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY

Pat & Marie Mullens
23 The Sanctuary Close,
Port Macquarie
Ph 6584 1626

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

6pm Vigil: Jason Gill
Maureen Dick
Lisa Toomey
Des Grissell
7.30am: Pat McLoughlin
Denise McLoughlin
Greg Grace
Elise Gardiner
9.00am: Sue Williams
Pat Daley
Betty Hodgson
Hank Brinkman
5.00pm: Tim McCosker
Leisa Fisher
Chris Kalchbauer
Kylie Kipreotis

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

The Baptism of The Lord Year C
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm 103
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND PAYS 2.15%

There are no fees or charges on your account. AGENTS: Mrs Veronica Rinkin & Mrs Mary O'Brien
DIF Office, Parish Administration Centre, Phone: (02) 6583 7439 9am – 1pm Monday - Friday