

A harvest full of good desires and deeds

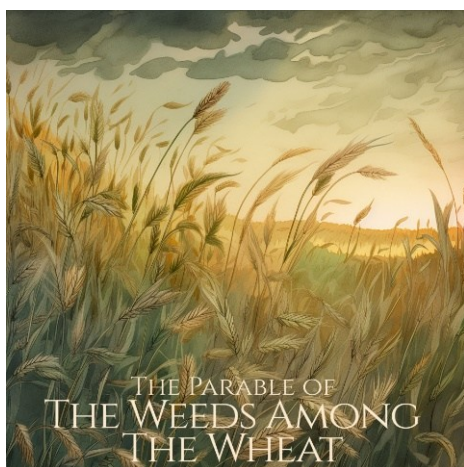
Matthew 13:24-43

The gospel of today continues last week's beginning of the section on parables in Matthew. The same problem of some Jews not accepting Jesus's word of the kingdom is at the heart of the structure and selection for the text. On one level, in the context of the Matthean community, the parable of the darnel conveys Matthew's message to the Jewish Christians: to be tolerant and not to worry about those who do not choose to follow Jesus's word. This message has echoes in the first reading.

However, on a personal level, for us hearing this text today, and in light of the other readings, we take on this message of tolerance and also take note of the assurance of a loving and compassionate God. A God who knows our very thoughts before we utter them, and even when we are unable to utter them. This is what the kingdom of God is like – a God who, because of this knowledge, does not need to spend time weeding out the weakness or ill deeds, before the harvest. God knows our efforts, our failings, and our desires for good. Dom Henry Wansbrough suggests that leaving the darnel with the wheat, in terms of the Matthean community reality, allows time for those who have not accepted the word of the kingdom to change their minds.

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed – the sower sowing with good intention, a seed that grows into a tree that offers shade and shelter to birds and humans alike. Wansbrough wonders how realistic the image of shade and shelter a mustard tree offers, given its sparse foliage. However, it is a large bush that grows from a seed as small as a grain of sand. The human sower does not always see the fruits of the sowing – so too our good desires and actions for God are sometimes lost in our human frailties, and yet, God gathers them up in the final harvest.

If we could spend less time focusing on our failings, certainly acknowledging them, but move on to doing better, then the harvest will be full of good desires and deeds worth harvesting. The third parable in the gospel encourages us to allow our desires for good to be the active yeast in our lives, which will bring about growth in faith, hope and love, as big as a mustard tree, to say nothing of the actions that flow from such confidence and faith.



This kind of sifting of emotions is something St Ignatius of Loyola helps us with. Sometimes the worry, or continual focus on the "weeds" in our lives, actually draws our attention away from the "wheat" – God's love and presence in our lives. If we leave the weeds to God's merciful love and care, we can attend more to actions that are, in fact, in line with God's desires for the flourishing of our lives.

Reflection by Ann-Maree O'Beirne (Pastoral Liturgy/vol56/iss3/1)

OUR VISION

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

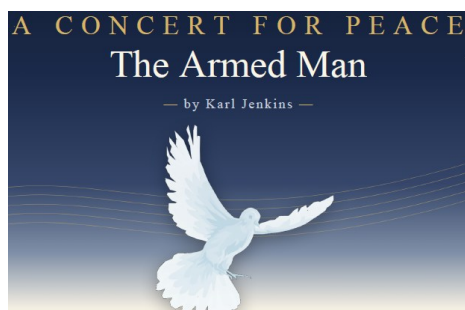
OUR MISSION

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



SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2026 2:00 PM

St Agnes' Catholic Church

Musical Director — Robyn Ryan OAM

Don't miss this opportunity to be uplifted by a concert performance of

The Armed Man, by Karl Jenkins.

Tickets at the Door \$20 or purchase prior at the Pastoral Office, or online via the QR code (please show your ticket for entry)

All proceeds donated to the St Agnes' Foundation



Adoration

Wednesday Adoration begins again this week on 22

July in St Francis of Assisi Chapel,

3.30 – 4.00 pm. There will not be the usual Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion or Adoration on Saturday 8 August. Instead, Adoration will follow the 9 am Mass on Saturday 15 August, the Solemnity of the Assumption.

These opportunities align with *providing ... prayer celebrations in different and varied contexts* (3.1.8 of the Parish Pastoral Plan) and with *Year One, Call to Prayer* in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress 2028.



The Cenacle

The Cenacle including Adoration and the Rosary is held weekly on Wednesdays at St Francis of Assisi Chapel at 11am. This Cenacle is also held with adoration and the Rosary at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church Lake Cathie weekly on Thursdays at 2pm. For further information please contact Rose Camilleri on 0415 435 135.

Baptism Information Session

Parents who are considering having their child baptised, are invited to attend an information session on Wednesday 22 July at 5.30pm in St Agnes' Church. Please contact the Pastoral Office on 6583 1024 to register.

Adult Formation

Spiritual: 1. Women's Prayer & Reflection Day.

All women are warmly invited to a prayer day on Saturday, 8 August 2026 at Emmaus Village Chapel, 16 Colonel Barney Drive, Port Macquarie.

The day will offer a sacred pause from the busyness of life, with time for prayer, reflection, scripture, and meaningful conversation. Registration begins at 9:30am, with the program running from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Please bring a small plate of food to share for lunch.

A \$30 donation to the Church is invited.

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

2. 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, from Friday 27 November to Sunday 29 November 2026 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. 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: livingspirituality.com.au

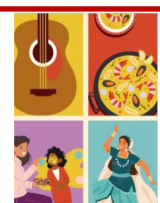
Family Groups - 'A Family for All'

Family Groups operate under the guidelines of the Passionist Family Group movement. Members are single, couples and families with no age range. Groups promote community spirit with social outings enabling members to gradually get to know each other. This leads to building bonds and caring and supporting each other in times of need and celebration. Family Groups add a new dimension to parish life. If you are interested in joining or finding out more contact the Pastoral Office on 6583 1024.

Baptism

We pray for Raphael Michael Royson who was gifted with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism. May the Lord look lovingly on Raphael and his family.

Save the Date....
St Agnes' Community Day,
Sunday 22 November, 2026
the Solemnity of Christ the King



SVDP Renewal of Commitment

We ask you to keep members of the St Vincent de Paul Society in your prayers as they renew their commitment to service at the 9.00am Mass this weekend. May they continue to grow in their spiritual life, ministering to the marginalised and all those in need.

SVDP Recognition of twenty years service

The St Agnes' Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society



recently recognised the outstanding and generous contribution of parishioner Noeline Abi-Saab for her twenty years of dedication to the mission and vision of the Society.

Noeline's commitment to living the gospel message of serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy is a beautiful example of faith in action. Vinnies members thanked Noeline for her work to-

wards achieving the aspiration of the Society for an Australia transformed by compassion and built on justice.

Connecting with Our Small Parish Groups

Over recent weeks, representatives of the Pastoral Services Team have engaged with some of the small groups in the Parish. Under the Goal of *Foster Intentional Discipleship (1.1)* and this aligns with wanting to "support small groups already happening (1.1.3)". These groups are at the heart of our parish community and what a delight it has been! The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and as a result we have taken a number of steps to strengthen connections between these groups and the wider parish with regular features in the Parish News, new resources for groups as requested, and a dedicated staff contact to provide ongoing support.

This is just the beginning. We are committed to deepening these relationships and building even more connections across our parish family.

The team still has a few groups to connect with, this notice is just providing an update.

Together, we are stronger.

Parish Pastoral Council

The Council met on Tuesday, 14 July for its monthly meeting. Anne O'Brien gave an update on the latest at the St Agnes Community Centre along with the 'Projects on a Page' submitted to the Parish Leadership team. (See elsewhere the 'Support to Small Groups in the Parish' (1.1.3). It continued its formation through the reading and discussion of *Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus, Become like him, Do as he did*, by John Mark Comer focusing on 'the Practices' necessary to "do as Jesus did". A reminder that the Council meets every second Tuesday of the month and can be contacted by email ppc@stagnesparish.org.au. (See details on the back of the Parish News.)

Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Betty Waterer, Patricia Parsons, Sieglinde Davar, John Paul, Janette Paris, Janice Brennan, Frank Hannigan, Margaret Kirby, Maureen Day, and Christopher Randall.

Anniversaries: Veronica Clifton, Maree Velton, Judy Tyson and Joseph McNamara

Other Intentions: Nicole and Alan Bridges, Manuela Lister, Libby Harpley, Jill Brooks, Kathleen Woods, Susan & William Brooks, John A & John P Woods, John Brooks, David Woods, L. Jose, Raymond Conway, Marie and Patrick Mullens, Mary Clark, Margaret Gallagher, Barbara Riordan, Win Rohan, Peggy Collins, masses of thanksgiving and donor intentions.



ENCOUNTER

Encounter Youth & Kids

Please note that there has been a change to the return date for Encounter Youth & Kids in Term 3. We will now resume on **Friday 7 August**, from 5.30pm–7.30pm at the St Agnes' Community Centre. We look forward to welcoming back our familiar faces and meeting some new ones!

Ignite Conference Brisbane 2026

24–27 September | St Laurence's College, Brisbane

A national Catholic youth conference for high school students, young adults, and leaders.

Registration: \$320. Accommodation: \$250 (optional for young adults). Free transport available (limited places). Subsidies available for Yr 9–10 students.

Expressions of Interest close Friday 7 August.

For Youth Ministry enquiries, please contact:

christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au

Volunteers Needed

Did you know that there are currently around 45 people in non-Catholic aged care residences in Port Macquarie who are visited weekly by one of our very generous and committed volunteers? As this ministry grows, we are seeking more volunteers to assist with these visitations which involving taking communion to the residents and spending some time in prayer with them. Formation and training will be provided before commencement. If you would like to know more or express your interest in joining this special ministry, please contact the Pastoral Office.

Planned Giving Receipts

Planned giving receipts for 2025/2026 financial year were posted on Wednesday 8 July. If you are new to our Parish and would like to become a contributor to the Parish Planned Giving program, please contact Denise Smith at Parish Administration on 6588 7444.



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

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/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

Mass for you at Home: Sunday 6.00am streamed on Channel 10.

Reflections: Lismore Diocese [YouTube Channel](#); [Fr Paul Daily Reflections](#)

Roster 26 July 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R1: Gai Arnold

R2: Rebecca Cameron

C: Jim O'Brien

EMHC: Michael O'Brien

May Hayek

Welcomer: Leisa Nardella

5.00pm

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R1: Tanya Daley

R2: Marg Gobius

C: Timo Gobius

EMHC: Naomi White

Trish Todd

Welcomer: Jennifer Furney

9.00am:

SAC: Alan Wheatland

R1: Anne Hayek

R2: Rene Barros

C: Denise Puzas

EMHC: Donna Sprague

Wendy Schumann

Welcomer: Paul Baron (S)

Gavin Smith (W)

CLW: Volunteer

Volunteer

Tuesday 12.05pm, 28 July

SAC: Sue Williams

R: Sue Williams

Thursday 12.05pm, 30 July

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Judy Brady

Friday 12.05pm, 31 July

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R: Sandra Hartas

Liturgical Celebrations 16th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Monday 20 July

[St Apollinaris](#) *Optional*

Tuesday 21 July

[St Lawrence of Brindisi](#) *Optional*

Wednesday 22 July

[St Mary Magdalene](#) *Feast*

Thursday 23 July

[St Bridget](#) *Optional*

Friday 24 July

[St Sharbel Makhluf](#) *Optional*

Saturday 25 July

[St James](#) *Feast*



**PAYS
3.90%**

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



The Safeguarding Office is available to;

listen to your concerns respectfully and to offer support, to provide guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Safeguarding Office:

P: 02 6621 9444 (Chancery)

E: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au