



26 July 2026

Year A

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

Though Australia's National Grandparents Day is observed separately on Sunday, October 25, the Universal Church's World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, instituted by Pope Francis in 2021, is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year it lands on the 26th July the actual Memorial of Joachim and Anne. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for our grandparents and all the elderly that we come across.

The celebration of this day provides an opportunity for the Church, at all levels, to draw close to the elderly; to celebrate their unique communities; and to reach out to those who may feel lonely or forgotten. The theme that Pope Leo has chosen for the 2026 World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is

Prayer for the 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Holy Father

Who watches over every person
Watch over me too when I am elderly.

You have revealed your name
to me in Christ,
And You were not discouraged by
my frailties.

You hold me tenderly in your hands,
And You caress my lines.
You will never forget me! (see Is 49:15).

Grant that I may not fear my weakness;

Help me learn to love it
Just as You love it.

Help me learn to listen to it
Just as You listen to it.

Help me embrace it
Just as You have chosen it –
You who, though all-powerful,
clothed yourself in humility.

May growing old strip away all our
pride and all division

So that we may live these years
united in You.

You will never forget us! (see Is 49:15)

"I will never forget you."

Isaiah 49:15

According to Vatican News, this theme is both a message of comfort and hope for grandparents and elderly people, as well as a reminder to families and communities not to forget them, but rather to recognise them as "precious presence and a blessing" (Deborah Castellano Lubov, Vatican News, 10 February 2026).

Dioceses, parishes, associations, and ecclesial communities across the world are encouraged to mark this day in two important ways: by celebrating the Eucharist together with grandparents and the elderly, and by reaching out to those in our communities who experience loneliness or isolation. These two actions help us to appreciate more deeply the unique vocation of the elderly, who keep us connected to the roots of our faith, pass on the faith to the next generation, and intercede for us.

These actions also help to raise awareness in the wider community of the need to support and pastorally care for the elderly. As Pope Francis said, this is part of being "a Church that challenges the throw-away culture with the overflowing joy of a new embrace between the young and old!" (General Audience, 11 March 2025).

OUR VISION

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

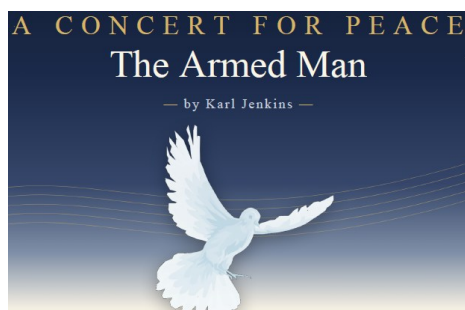
OUR MISSION

The St Agnes' Parish Community strives to make our Vision a reality by a commitment to:



UNCOMPROMISING
INTEGRITY

- 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.



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 (\$20) available at the door 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

Every Wednesday during the school term 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 in St Agnes' Church on Saturday 8 August. Instead, Adoration will follow 9.00am Mass on Saturday 15 August, the Solemnity of the Assumption.



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



We pray for Rose Duncombe, Bronte Apps and Kalani-Blu Takahi who will be gifted with the grace of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism. May the Lord look lovingly on these children and their families.

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.

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: <https://app.tickets.org.au/Hyland/silentvarrovillenov2026>

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

St Mary of the Cross Feast Day



Saturday 8 August is the Feast of St Mary of the Cross, Australia's First Saint. There is a tapestry of Mary MacKillop in our Chapel of Saints. Her life was a journey of ups and downs, as we all have, and saw her journey as one courageously dedicated to the work of the Lord. A special feast day Mass will be held on Saturday at 8.00am. The readings will be special feast day readings.

Holy Communion to the aged

We are seeking more volunteers to assist with the ministry of taking communion to the parishioners in our local non-Catholic aged care residences. 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.

Parish Pastoral Council

Recently an A5 booklet of the 2025 Report (Overview) of the PPC was circulated through the Parish News. Feedback regarding this was that it was very hard to read with the print too small. With 'stewardship' in mind, another print run will not be offered. However, individual A4 copies are available through the Pastoral Office. If a copy of this information is needed, please contact the Pastoral Office pastoroffice@stagnesparish.org.au or 6583 1024. It can also be downloaded from the website: [Overview-Report-with-Photos.pdf](#)

Congratulations – Rachael Kama

Some would remember a former parishioner who worked within the Parish and the Lismore Catholic Schools Office, Rachael Kama. (She has relatives still living and worshipping here.) Several years ago, Rachael took up a position in the Parramatta Diocese. Recently she was appointed to the *Secretariat for Mission and Volunteering* within the Order of St Augustine, a significant international role that will help shape the future of the Augustinian mission and volunteer initiatives around the world. Rachael is the only lay person and the only woman serving on the Augustinians' Commission for Pastoral Ministry and Mission, bringing a distinctive perspective to the international body as it seeks to support the mission of the Church around the world. Read more in *CathNews* [Australian layperson appointed to international Augustinian secretariat - CathNews](#).

We offer our prayers and congratulations to Rachael.

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.

St Agnes' Gift Shop

The gift shop, will open on Sunday 2 August following the 9.00am Mass. The shop has a wide range of gifts, and we accept cash and EFTPOS payments.

Save the Date....

**St Agnes' Community Day,
Sunday 22 November, 2026
the Solemnity of Christ the King**



Remember in Prayer

Recently Deceased: Ensi Payne, Alan Ross, Mary Wood, Betty Waterer, Patricia Parsons, Sieglinde Davar, John Paul Zerna, Janette Paris, Janice Brennan, Frank Hannigan, Margaret Kirby, Maureen Day & Christopher Randall.

Anniversaries: Anne Johnson, Jack Lindsay, Kathleen O'Connor, Conrad O'Connor, Peter Cassidy, Veronica Clifton, Maree Velton, Judy Tyson & Joseph McNamara

Other Intentions: Beryl Thomas, Molly & Robert Friggins, Nicole & 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 & Patrick Mullens, Mary Clark, Margaret Gallagher, Barbara Riordan, Win Rohan, Peggy Collins, and 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.

👉 Scan the QR code to express interest .

Expressions of Interest close Friday 7 August.

For Youth Ministry enquiries, please contact:

christa.morrow@stagnesparish.org.au





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

17th Week in Ordinary Time (Year A/2)

Wednesday 29 July

[Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus](#)

Memorial



Thursday 30 July

[St Peter Chrysologus](#) Optional

Friday 31 July

[St Ignatius of Loyola](#) Memorial

Saturday 1 August

[St Alphonsus Liguori](#) 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

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 2 August 2026

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7.30am:

SAC: Denise Smith

R1: Saidee Talty

R2: Shane Talty

C: Joan Lancaster

EMHC: Kevin Lewis

Denise Smith

Welcomer: Leisa Nardella

9.00am:

SAC: Sue Williams

R1: Terry Timbs

R2: Wendy Schumann

C: Beth Flynn

EMHC: Sandra Hartas

Donna Sprague

Welcomer: Rita Credaro (S)

Gavin Smith (W)

Paul Barron (Mob)

CLW: Volunteer

Volunteer

5.00pm

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R1: MacKillop College

R2: MacKillop College

C: MacKillop College

EMHC: MacKillop College

MacKillop College

Welcomer: MacKillop College

CLW: Volunteers

Tuesday 12.05pm, 4 August

SAC: Vanessa Denham

R: Vanessa Denham

Thursday 12.05pm, 6 August

SAC: Leone Flanagan

R: Gae Green

Friday 12.05pm, 7 August

SAC: Sandra Hartas

R: Kaye Stingel

Psalm: MacKillop College

Saturday 8.00am, 8 August

St Mary of the Cross

SAC: Sue Williams

Readers: J Lancaster & A 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



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