

## Bell Refurbishment at Our Lady of Lourdes by Fr. Paul Gooley

The church bell of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Wauchope has, over the last several months, been cleaned and readied for a new lease of life.

Records show that the bell was originally given to the Catholic community of Wauchope by Fr Filladeau, a French priest, who was working in the area around 1922. The bell is named in memory of his mother, Marie Josephine. The original belfry was built by a Mr Craig but was replaced by the current steel structure gifted to the church community by Colin and Colleen Ninness and family in 1995. It was blessed at that time by Wauchope's first parish priest, Fr Dineen.

It has been customary down through the centuries for church bells to be rung in order to summon the people to church, to prayer and on other occasions. For example, weddings and funerals.

This year the parish, through the efforts of the Parish Pastoral Committee and through the generous support of parishioners and local businesses, has re-painted the tower and has automated the bell so that it tolls the Angelus 3 times a day. The bell can also be used for a number of religious ceremonies with just the push of a button!

(for example – calling people to mass each weekend and chiming through the Gloria at Easter).

Father Gooley – (Parish Priest) would like to convey his appreciation to Al Horton, David Smith, Greg Bullock, Tim McCarthy and Tim Tracey from Wellacre Engineering who undertook the detailed restoration and automation of the bell. The parish

also acknowledges the generous support of Fr. Donnelly and the Port Macquarie Parish in this project. It was part of a commitment made to the Wauchope parish when Wauchope gave a bell to its neighbours back in the late eighties. That bell is still in use today at the MacKillop Campus of St. Joseph's High School.



Inspecting the automated bell are (L-R) Tim Tracey from Wellacre Engineering, Parishioner Al Horton and Fr. Paul

## New Website for Diocese

The Lismore Diocese has a new website:  
[www.lismorediocese.org](http://www.lismorediocese.org)

The website, produced by NTech Media is a comprehensive source of information about the diocese, its schools and parishes, personnel, Mass times, news, links to other websites, contacts, welfare agencies in the diocese, facilities for aged care, retreat centres, upcoming events and media releases. "Catholic Life" is also on the website.

Daily bible readings and prayer reflections are also available. Liturgy notes and an historical gallery are soon to be added. Any inclusions for the website can be emailed to Fr. Peter Karam at the Media Office: [media@lismorediocese.org](mailto:media@lismorediocese.org)

