



ORDINARY TIME

31st Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A

5th November 2017
Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
James Gilbert Carr, Bruce Spence.
- **Anniversaries:**
Pat Hennessy, Patricia Cameron,
Alina Uminski, Albert David Snell,
Sr Patricia Snell, Shirley Job.
- **And the sick:**
Pat Burgmann, Mary Drinan,
Margarita Gomez, June Towson,
Therese Corner, Audrey Barsenbach,
Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor,
Patricia Dwyer, Roy Beverage,
Brian Finlayson, Laura Krauss,
Marylou Tafilagi, Matilda Tawake,
Mick Nino, Kevin Houghton,
Nellie Brown, Ken Thorson
Ian Wilks, Janet Dean,
Bobby Sutherland, Dianne Briemer,
Grace Wellins, Courtney Wellins,
Tom Thorton, Olive Brittliff,
Audrey Kirkman, Malina Tugaga,
Abigale Tugaga, Maria Wise,
Elizabeth Skinner, Beryl Reynolds,
Terry Wilkinson.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

CWF APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

OUR SECOND CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL FOR
2017/2018 IS ON THIS WEEKEND (4/5 NOVEMBER).

Our target is \$12, 049.

The CWF supports five vital services:

Special Religious Education in State Schools;
The Ephpheta Centre (for hearing impaired);
Hospital Chaplaincy;
St Lucy's School and
St Edmund's School for students with
disabilities and special learning needs.

Please help these important agencies that benefit our parish.
Envelopes are provided in the church.

DONATIONS TO THIS APPEAL ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you
have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

The Book of the Names of the Dead is in the church throughout November. You are invited to write the names of the faithful departed in it. The lamp will be lit at all Masses.

Charitable Works Fund: Extra collection at all Masses this weekend.

Working Bee in Church Grounds, this Saturday, 11th November, 10am. **Volunteers urgently needed.**

Fr Robert Borg will celebrate Mass on Saturday morning at 9am, 18 November. Following Mass & Exposition he will speak on "The Liturgy" in the Leo Mahon room. All welcome.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Quinton Ashton who was baptized last Sunday.

Marriage Ceremony: Prayerful Congratulations to Lynden and Catherine James, who were married during Nuptial Mass last Friday.

Liturgy Meeting this Thursday, 9th November, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

The Just Word

8 November. Harvester Judgement:

The Harvester Judgement was a landmark legal case in the campaign for a fair basic wage for Australian workers. The case had both national and international significance.

The Harvester Judgement was delivered in the Australian Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by HB Higgins. The case involved the Sunshine Harvester Works, a company owned by Hugh Victor McKay that built agricultural machinery. Higgins ruled that McKay was obliged to pay its employees a wage that guaranteed them a standard of living which was

Dedication of the Church 10 Year Anniversary (Saturday, 18 November). A celebration is being organised for Sunday, 19 November. Organisers & helpers needed—please contact Bernie French on 0407 214 699 or Gladys on 0421 312 362. More details next week.

Coffee and Chat: The monthly social gathering for parishioners will be held on November 13th instead of 20th as scheduled. The gathering commences at 1pm and will conclude shortly after 2pm. Enq: Kaye or Bernie 4341 6343.

Church Cleaning Roster 10/11/17: Michael French, Jo Salter, Bev Whackett, Maria Wickens.

Children's Liturgy Roster 12/11/17: Mary Wood, Joanna Baxter, Gerri O'Keefe.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group: Thursday, 9th November, 11am, in the Leo Mahon room. All welcome.

reasonable for 'a human being in a civilised community', regardless of its capacity to pay. This gave rise to the legal requirement for a basic wage, which dominated Australian economic life for the next 60 to 80 years.

The hearing took place in Melbourne from 7 October 1907 to 8 November 1907. Higgins heard evidence from employees of McKay's factory and also their wives. In defining a 'fair and reasonable wage', Higgins referred to Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum* which addressed the condition of the working classes. Higgins ruled that remuneration 'must be

Upcoming Events for Mary Mac's Place: On 25th November, Patonga Beach Hotel and Ettalong Diggers present "Giving Back to Mary Mac's" night fundraiser—hosted by Scott McRae. (to be held at Ettalong Diggers from 7.30pm).

7th December Frantastics Choir "Family and Friends Christmas Concert". Walter Baker Hall. Watch this space for further information. If you need to discuss, please call Louise Degeling on 040 155 1864

Morning Tea Roster 12/11/17 will be the Live, Pray, Love Project.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy Appeal. SVDP is appealing in November for donations of childrens toys, new if possible. Over 100 families are visited by SVDP members each week on the Peninsula, many with children. The appeal is focusing on children up to age 12. A toy box will be in the gathering area for toys to be placed in. Your generosity is appreciated.

enough to support the wage earner in reasonable and frugal comfort.'

Higgins set a 'fair and reasonable' minimum wage for unskilled workers of 7 shillings, which is around 70 cents, or 42 shillings per week.

McKay successfully appealed the decision to the High Court. Notwithstanding that, the 1907 Harvester decision was regarded as a benchmark in Australian industrial case law. Higgins regarded the minimum wage as sacrosanct and applied the Harvester reasoning to subsequent judgements in his long and distinguished career as president of the Conciliation and Arbitration Court.

From the Diocese and beyond

Beyond Divorce? A Dialogue 500 years after the Reformation. Saturday, 11th November, 7pm. Harrington Hall, Chatswood Parish. 96 Archer St. Chatswood. (enter via Kirk Street). Speakers include our Bishop Most Rev. Peter Comensoli and Dr. Michael Jensen, Rector of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Darling Point. Light refreshments served. Gold coin

donation gratefully appreciated. RSVP by Wednesday 9th November. See notice board.

Spirituality in the Pub: Theme 2017: "My Spirituality: Influence on the Way". Tuesday, 14th November, 7.30pm-9pm. Rev. Neil Smith, an ordained minister of the Uniting Church with an interest in interfaith relations in

conversation with Sheik Mohamed Khamis, Imam of Newcastle Mosque.

SIP Central Coast is an Ecumenical and Interfaith Speakers Forum with Q's and A's. The focus is on developing understand and encouraging dialogue about Spirituality through sharing one's life journey. Enq: Maryke 4328 2596 or 0498 588 216. See notice board.

Titles and Burdens

I have known our Archbishop Emeritus for many, many years. Every time I speak to him, I preface the remark with, 'Your Grace', a feudal title straight out of the Middle Ages. I am so brainwashed that nothing else seems quite right. But Our Lord, I am sure, would not approve.

This Gospel also makes me query the common title given to Catholic Priests: 'Father'. I am so used to the term, that I don't think of it as overloaded with meaning. It is just a greeting. It is true that St Paul described himself as a father to the community of faith at Corinth (1 Cor 4:15). But, nevertheless.

When I was Parish Priest at Bridgewater I often celebrated Mass at Pontville. You can see the two French words, *pont* = bridge, and *ville* = village. One of the ancient titles of the Pope is 'Pontiff' from the ancient Roman title 'Pontifex Maximus' which means 'the greatest bridge-builder', building the bridge between heaven and earth. I don't think Our Lord would approve of that.

When Pope John Paul II visited St Canice Church in our Parish, a plaque was unveiled which simply titles him, 'Bishop of Rome, Servant of the servants of God'. That is certainly in line with today's Gospel.

We have to be careful with ecclesiastical titles. They can go with a mindset which is dangerous for church leadership. Jesus spoke of it in relation to some Jewish authorities of his time, but of course it applies with special force to Christian leaders. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift their finger to move them? Not they! But they do love to be greeted obsequiously!

There have been periods in the church's history, where the burdens placed on the shoulders of people — particularly an exaggerated sense of guilt for certain sins — truly weighed people down, creating a terrible sense of unworthiness, leading to the living of a distorted life.

But these days, when people feel that the Church is laying an unsupportable burden, perhaps on their relationship with another, they throw off the burden and move away from the institutional Church.

The Church withers and dies that little more because we lose the presence of good people.

Nevertheless, there are boundaries and limits which give a social group its identity. The Church has its identity founded in the Gospels. In it we find the One who said: 'My yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Of course, a yoke over an animal shows it is harnessed for work and gives it direction. No-one says being a Christian is aimless and requires no effort, but the test for whether the yoke imposed by Church authorities is fashioned from the wood of the Gospel is clear.

'Come to me all you who toil and are burdened *and I will refresh you*. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble in heart *and you will find rest for your souls*. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.' (Matt 11:28-30)

If people don't find that the burden laid on them by Church leaders leads to refreshment and rest for their souls, then it is right to question the burden, and to question the leaders who impose such burdens.

Our Lord makes it clear that leaders cannot evade the question by hiding behind honorific titles. Perhaps we will be more likely to get it right by only using the title favoured by modern Popes: 'Servant of the servants of God'. I am sure our Lord would approve of that.

© Fr Michael Tate

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Since Vatican II the responsibilities of leadership have been spread throughout the community. This has not happened simply because there are fewer priests and religious. It has occurred primarily because the Council itself insisted that by virtue of their baptism all Christians are called to discipleship, which includes active participation in the mission of the church. While those who are ordained continue in specialised forms of leadership, other people have stepped forward to assume their newly recognised responsibilities. Sometimes they have more influence in the church than do the ordained.

We derive the connection between pharisaical and hypocritical from Jesus' description of the Pharisees found in today's reading. His condemnation, along with the condemnation of the priests in the first reading, should be a warning to all who in any way exercise leadership. We must always be on our guard lest the trappings of leadership ensnare us and we fail in our responsibilities toward God and the community we serve.

There is a mode of leadership that reflects the very meaning of authority. This way of leadership authors life. It is characterised by the striking image of a nursing mother who both gives and sustains life. Those who exercise leadership in this way create a community where life is fostered, not stifled, where talents serve all of the members, and the talents of all of the members are invited to serve. Such a community not only nurtures its members, it is itself the author of life in the world.



"The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest," Jesus says in today's Gospel.

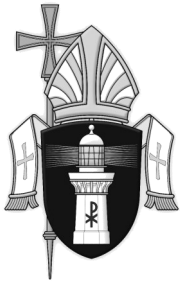
What wonderful good news for those who give of their time in service to others!

See Matthew 23:11



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy,



Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Koolewong, Blackwall, Booker Bay,

St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point, Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,
Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads,
Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au
Out of hours **medical emergency**
0438 631 327.

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.

Office Hours:

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30 p.m. Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 6pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday-Friday 7.45am (Monday & Tuesday with Lauds);

Saturday and Public Holidays 9am; First Friday 4pm (with Anointing of the Sick).

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday after morning Mass; First Friday 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only). Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practising Catholics, at least sixteen years old. If there is at least one godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents and godparents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am). Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

PARISH CHOIR - Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm. Enquiries:

4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. . For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

CATECHISTS conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

CATHOLIC CARE Counselling and Family Relationships 4356 2600.

MARY MAC'S PLACE Volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cooked meals and information and referrals to appropriate community services. Open Monday to Friday, 11am-1pm, at the Ethel Cox Parish Centre. For more information, please contact Christine on 4341 0584.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference. Please ring Peter 0425 358 376 or Joan 0422 272 339.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre,

Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

Doctor, Nurse or Allied Health Professional?

Please sign this open letter against the legalisation of assisted suicide

www.healthprofessionalssayno.info

Proposed legislation to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia will be debated in the Parliament of New South Wales on the 16 November. Similar bills are expected to be introduced in other states in the near future.

Let your members of parliament know that you support increased access to better aged care and mental health services, disabilities assistance and excellent palliative care, rather than the legalisation of assisted suicide and euthanasia which would place the most vulnerable patients at risk as well as undermining the relationship between patients and healthcare professionals which is based on trust and mutual respect.

This is an independent petition which has been organised by concerned healthcare professionals.