



The Voice

15th February 2015

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**
 Pierre Stanislas, Mary Carroll,
 Mildred Bradford,
 Fr. Frank Bendeich,
 Sr. Patricia Davis. O.N.
- Anniversaries:**
 Fr. John Wakeling,
 Bill Finlayson.
- Remembrances:**
 Arthur, Muriel and John
 Brown, and the Brown Family,
 Toni Townsend,
 Robert Brewington,
 Marion Johnston,
 Alfred Johnston, David Cang
 Snr. Sook Bee and Kai Tee
 Cang, Renato, Constancio and
 Paz Soriano, Jessie Geronimo,
 Juanita Rose, Juliet Hutton.
- And the sick:**
 Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,
 Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
 Ruth Fuller, Evangeline Cusay,
 Peter Crookes, Mark Church,
 Mary Dwyer, John Mortimore,
 Charles Knowles, Lily Emery,

A Lenten Parable

Let me tell you a story about Catholicism on the Central Coast.

A lady from a South American country came to live there and became a member of a Catholic parish. She attended Mass every Sunday, and often Saturday morning Mass as well.

She suffered from cancer, and found great support from local cancer support groups.

In general, she met with a good welcome, but something went seriously wrong.

She was talking to a friend from South America one Sunday. Naturally, they were speaking Spanish.

And they were confronted by a parishioner who said, "You're in Australia now; speak English!"

Cheer jingoism – and highly offensive.

The lady left the Catholic parish, and joined the nearby Anglican one. Her condition deteriorated, but the priests of the parish were not informed; she was attended in her last days by the Anglican minister.

She was buried from the Anglican church. A good number of her Catholic fellow parishioners were there in support. But did the story have to end like this?

Is this the way to treat a stranger and one

of Christ's "little ones"? Why is it that some people think that being rude and discourteous is consonant with Christianity?

The problem is not confined to not welcoming the stranger. Long time members of a Catholic parish can manage to alienate each other, and put to risk the overall work of the parish and its unity. Egos can get in the way of the Church's mission, and personality collisions can ruin the work of pastoral care and evangelisation.

This gives a special edge to Lent, which begins next Wednesday. None of us is sinless before God, and we all need to do penance for our own sins and for the sins of those who "give scandal to little ones" (Mk 9:42).

Consider your opportunities: daily Mass; Exposition and Benediction on Mondays and Saturdays; Way of the Cross on Wednesdays and Fridays; visiting the Blessed Sacrament (whenever the chapel is open); Rosary (after weekday mass); Confession (as scheduled); and so on.

Lent prepares the Elect for Initiation, but it also prepares the rest of us for Easter renewal – as individuals and as a community. Let us make the most of it.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us;
 God has visited his people. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Ash Wednesday Wednesday, 18th February. Masses will be 7.45am and 10am School Mass and 7.30pm.

Stations of the Cross will be followed every Wednesday at 4pm and every Friday at 7.30pm during Lent.

Fast and Abstinence: There are now only two days in Australia on which we are obliged to fast and abstain: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Project Compassion: Your donations to Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes and give generously this Lent. Envelopes and boxes available on table in the gathering area.

Lectio Divina in Lent: Lectio Divina will meet every Thursday during Lent in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 10.30am, beginning Thursday, 19th February.

Ecumenical Pancake Night 2015: This year's Pancake night will be held this Tuesday, 17th February at Ettalong Uniting Church Hall, Picnic Parade (opposite Sarongs Dress Shop) commencing 7.30pm.

The Just Word

Pax Christi Daily Prayer:
*Pax Christi International
Catholic Movement for Peace.*

Thank you loving God, for the gift of life, for this wonderful world which we all share, for the joy of love and friendship.

For the challenge of helping to build your kingdom.

Strengthen my determination to work for a world of peace and

Morning Tea Roster after 9.15am Mass 22/2/15: Parents and Friends Group.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family wish to extend their prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Mildred Bradford and Mary Carroll who were buried from our church last week.

Bus Trip – Pokolkin Hunter Valley Sausage Sizzle. Leaving 8.30am Wednesday 25th February. \$25. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Bus Trip to Wiseman's Ferry for morning tea and **Windsor** for lunch at a club, 4th March, leaving 8.30am. Cost: \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Leaders and helpers are reminded that a meeting will be held in the Leo Mahon room Thurs. 19th February, 7.30 pm.

Children's Liturgy Roster 22/2/15: Alecia Amaral, Mary Wood, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Catechists: God has blest us with one teacher, but we still need another. Please pray for a generous soul to volunteer and also to remember the children in your prayers as they begin their classes this week. Enquiries: Susie Simmons 4369 6235.

justice. My conviction that, whatever our nationality or race, we are all global citizens, one in Christ. My courage to challenge the powerful with the values of the Gospel. My commitment to find nonviolent ways of resolving conflict—personal, local, national and international. My efforts to forgive injuries and to love those I find it hard to love.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 20/2/15: Linda Potestas, Judy French, Christina Thorson, Maria Wickens.

Congratulations to Paul Tonkin who was named Gosford Council's 2015 Citizen of the Year.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

St. John the Baptist will be the host church for the World Day of Prayer. The Service will be held Friday, 6th March commencing 11am. Refreshments will be held after the service in the Walter Baker Hall. This same service will be held around the world on 6th March in many different Christian Churches.

Information sheets regarding World Day of Prayer are available on the table in the gathering area.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet in the Leo Mahon room, 3rd Monday of each month due this Monday 16th February, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us please phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Teach me to share the gifts you have given me. To speak out for the victims of injustice who have no voice, to reject the violence which runs through much of our world today.

Holy Spirit of God, renew my hope for a world free from the cruelty and evil of war, so that we may all come to share in God's peace and justice. Amen.

From the Diocese and beyond

Pathways of St. Paul: A 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, departing Monday, 20th April. Walk the footsteps of St. Paul, visit places where he lived, worked and was imprisoned. Also visit the island of Patmos, where St. John wrote the book of Revelations, Basilica of St. John built over the tomb of "The Divine" Apostle and the "House of Mary" where it said Mary spent the latter years of her life. For

Itinerary Brochure and Booking Form contact Fr. Peter Krigovski admin@holyc.org.au or download www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/news-and-events/parish-pilgrimage

20 Day Pilgrimage Poland, Prague, Salzburg, Vienna & Budapest (In the footsteps of St. John Paul 11 & St. Faustina). Join Fr. Dariusz Basiaga of St. Patrick's, East Gosford, as he leads this pilgrimage, departing Sydney July 8th, returning 27th July.

\$6,600 per person (twin/double share) or- add \$1,200, single room. Full itinerary and booking information via website:

www.dbb.org.au/parishes/gosford under 'News & Events'. Whilst a deposit date of 8th Feb. is given, it is only necessary to send your passport information to Francis Williams whose details are on the itinerary. Any questions please phone 4325 1042.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 15

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46
Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11
1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1
Mk 1:40-45

Leprosy was a serious concern in the biblical world. To be declared a leper was to be condemned to a life apart from the community, living “outside the camp” in Moss’s day (v 46), later outside the towns and villages. It was the task of the priest to declare someone unclean as a leper and, in the case of remission, to declare them clean and allow them to rejoin the community. The description of leprosy, detailed in Leviticus 13, makes it clear that biblical leprosy was not the same thing as what we call leprosy today. It could be contracted not only by people but also by cloth and even building materials and was something to be avoided because it was thought to be contagious.

Paul calls the Corinthians to “do everything for the glory of God” (v 31). Our task as disciples is to witness with our lives to God’s goodness and mercy. We are called to work not just for our own salvation but “that they [all/the many] may be saved” (v 33). Finally, in words uncharacteristic of Paul, we are encouraged, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (11:1).

The leper in today’s Gospel begs Jesus for help, “If you wish, you can make me clean” (v 40). Though Jesus risks contracting leprosy and ritual uncleanness, “moved with pity, he stretched out his hand [and] touched him” (v 41). Mark tells us “the leprosy left him immediately” (v 42), again emphasizing Jesus’s power. Jesus then commands the man to fulfil the law of Moses by showing himself “to the priest” (v 44), but instead the man “began to publicize the whole matter,” making it “impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly” (v 45).

For reflection: Who are the lepers today, and how do I view them? Why are some good deeds better left unannounced?

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Jl 2:12-18
Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17
2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

In her book *The Liturgical Year*, Joan Chittister writes that “Lent is our salvation from the depths of nothingness ... our guide to the more of life” (122). The prophet Joel is thought to have lived in the second half of the fifth century BC (450-400). In his day the nation is facing drought and locust infestations. In the face of such crisis, the prophet calls the people to return to the Lord “with your whole heart” (v 12), words appropriate for the beginning of this penitential season. God, who is “gracious and merciful” (v 13), calls us to change our hearts and our lives.

Paul exhorts the Corinthians “not to receive the grace of God in vain” (6:1), for this grace has the power to save us. With a new season of Lent, we are in “an acceptable time” – in fact, “now is a very acceptable time” (v 2). Today is a day of opportunity to share in God’s graces. Let us not pass up the opportunity but embrace it and strive to be, like Paul, “ambassadors for Christ” (5:20).

Today’s Gospel calls us to engage in works of piety for the right reason, not “in order that people may see them” (v 1). The stark beginning of Lent – with fasting, abstinence, and marking ourselves with ashes – serves as a reminder that we are sinners who stand in need of God’s mercy. We are called to root out evil from our lives and strive to follow the way of Christ. As Thomas Merton said, “the liturgy of Ash Wednesday is not focused on the sinfulness of the penitent but the mercy of God.”

For Reflection: How can I make this Lent different? When and where have I experienced God’s mercy in my life?

Fr Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



In today’s second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to “do all for the glory of God.” If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards!

See 1 Corinthians 10:31



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, corner of Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

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

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

Fr Stephen Wayoyi, A.J. *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene McLenaghan & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

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, 3.30 p.m.; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15 a.m. Mass. 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 9.30 a.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

PARISH CHOIR— Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7 p.m. Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 f 0243 445049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

CATHOLICCARE 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.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990818.

Participation

Paul Turner

You come to Mass not as a spectator but as a participant. Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy says in paragraph 14 that the full, conscious, and active participation of the people is their right and obligation as the priestly people of God (1 Pt 2:9).

The phrase "full, conscious, and active participation" expands a sentiment expressed by Pope Pius X in his 1903 *motu proprio*, Instruction on Sacred Music, in which he urged the assembled faithful to acquire the true Christian spirit from its source: "active participation" in the mysteries and solemn prayer of the church. When he wrote this, most people prayed devoutly at a typical Mass but were not yet fully engaged with the liturgical action exercised by the ministers in the sanctuary.

When the Second Vatican Council promoted this in the 1960s, it called for a participation that was not only "active" but also "full" and "conscious" and gave these examples for its execution: acclamations, responses, psalms, antiphons, hymns, actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes (30). In 1967

the Sacred Congregation of Rites issued an Instruction on Music in the Liturgy (*Musicam Sacram*), citing these passages from the council and calling for both an internal and external participation of the people.

As a result, when you come to Mass, you have words to say, songs to sing, gestures to make, and postures to assume. But all these external actions should be supported by an internal sense that gives them deliberate meaning.

This is why the famous Catholic "Sunday obligation" appears in the Code of Canon Law not as an obligation to "go" to Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation but to "participate" at Mass on those days. The obligation is more than just being there. It is to sing and respond from the heart.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2011, Resource Publications, Inc. 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. This article may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher. For permission e-mail info@rpinet.com. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. Comment online at ML Current Issue Discussion.

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Diocese of
Broken Bay