



ORDINARY TIME

14th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A
9th July 2017
Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Garry Martin, Kathryn Ray,
Leo Budin, Alexander Momot,
Pam Taylor, Fr Aubrey Collins.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. Patrick (Paddy) O'Rourke,
James and Elizabeth Carr,
William Arahill, Marcus McNamara,
Thomas and Aileen Carr,
Josie Thistleton, Irene Fitzgerald.
- **Remembrances:**
Agnes Arahill,
Thomas, Nell and Mary Molloy.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsenbach,
Kath Hardy, Pat Burgmann,
Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Judy Neal,
June Towson, Therese Corner,
Peter Wellis, Diane Gillett,
Lorraine Von Nida, Rene Glase,
Margaret Davin, Patricia Dwyer,
Edie Trovato, Roy Beverage,
Laura Krauss, Janet Dean,
Brian Finlayson, Brooke Simmons,
Nola McKeowen.

Not an Outsider but an Insider

If an average person were invited to go on a journey of discovery to find the Holy Spirit of God, where would he or she go? Where is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit?

Most in the world, if they wanted to think about it at all, might say: 'You have to voyage to the farthest reaches of the cosmos and there, just over the very edge of the universe, that's where the Holy Spirit is to be found.'

There are others who might say: 'Well, there are special sacred sites inhabited by the Holy Spirit, places where you feel the special presence of God. Perhaps it could be a spectacular wilderness, or out on the ocean wave, or in a hilltop town in Italy where St Francis of Assisi lived, or the place where one first met one's beloved.'

These responses are getting closer to the truth. There are places where there seems to be an overflow or effervescence of creativity and joy. Perhaps the last example gets quite close: the place where one first met one's beloved.

But, for we who are Christians, there is an amazing answer to the question. What does St Paul tell those early converts in Rome, those recently baptised, and therefore tells us who are baptised?

'The Spirit of God has made his home in you.'

Since your baptism, the Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, dwells in you in a special way.

This is a very Jewish idea. In the Genesis story of the creation of Adam, the author has God fashion a figure of a human being out of damp earth, and then breathes into the nostrils of this clay figure. It becomes a live earthling, an Adam. In Hebrew, the word for breath, wind or spirit is the same, so this story tells us that we become human because the Holy Spirit is breathed into our very being.

This revelation that divinity dwells in the heart of humanity was also a theme of the great Spanish mystic, St John of the Cross, who wrote in this vein in the late 1570s.

He was in a prison cell in Toledo, thrown into solitary confinement for seven months by his fellow Carmelite Friars. Despite his terrible ordeal,

confinement in a cold and dismal cell cut off from the warmth of the sun or of the companionship of the other friars, he wrote some of the most beautiful poetry in the Spanish language.

He spoke of the yearning of the soul for Christ, using the ancient Jewish tradition of the Song of Songs speaking of the soul as the bride and Christ as the beloved bridegroom. Here is his own commentary on stanza one of the Spiritual Canticle.

'Oh, then, soul, most beautiful among all creatures, so anxious to know the dwelling place of your Beloved so you may go in search of him and be united with him, now we are telling you that you yourself are his dwelling and his secret inner room and hiding place. There is a reason for you to be elated and joyful in seeing that all our good and hope is so close as to be within you, or better, that you cannot be without him. Behold, exclaims the Bridegroom, *the kingdom of God is within you.* (Lk 17:21) And his servant, the apostle St Paul, declares: "*You are the temple of God*". This is what we Christians are privileged to know and believe in contrast to other religions. For example the Buddhists practise compassion towards all creatures. But they do not believe in a Creator who could be so compassionate towards a human being as to dwell, to make a home, in the depths of that creature's heart as part of a rhythm of mutual love.

In the very depths of your personality, at the very heart of what makes you human, the Holy Spirit has made a home. The Holy Spirit is not an outsider but an insider, a deep-down insider.

This is a great reality of our faith, but we have to become more conscious of it, making it a practical part of our belief. If we did so, then when we are struggling under the burdens of life, would we not feel somewhat less anxious, somewhat more at ease, more refreshed and rested deep down in our souls, as Christ promised for those who come to him?

So, let us pray: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle *in* them the fire of your love.

[Quotation from The Collected Works of St John of the Cross, ICS Publications Washington DC, 1991.] © Fr Michael Tate.

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Thomas Faith and Phoebe Withers who were baptized last Sunday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 14/7/17: Michael French, Christine French, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan.

Children's Liturgy 16/7/17: Geraldine Baxter, Mary Wood, Carol Yates.

Bus Trip: Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside. Wednesday 12 July. Leaving 9am. Cost \$20. Contact: Susie 0403 417 639/4344 1742.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday, 13 July, 11am. Leo Mahon room. All welcome.

Peter's Pence Appeal: We are joining with others across the world by taking up a collection for the charitable works and structures of mercy identified by Pope Francis. The funds, which are sent to the Vatican, are then allocated to 11 projects across the world this year, which support victims of war, oppression and disasters. More details are on page 3 of this bulletin. Please put your donation in the special envelopes provided & place in either collection bag.

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal will be held the weekend of 15th & 16th July. Bags will be available this weekend in the gathering area for return next weekend. For any pick-up's call Peter on 0425 358 376.

Coffee & Chat This month will be celebrating Christmas in July. Pelican's Restaurant Thursday, 20th July at 12pm, cost \$17, to book please ring Bernard 4341 6343. Usual bus pickup will occur. New guests are more than welcome.

The Just Word

Indigenous Catholics:

In places where the Catholic Church has its arms open to the Inculturation of the Mass and the physical Church, these houses of God become places of not only worship, but also places where traditional symbolism and language can be practiced and renewed. Catholicism does not strive to take the place of Traditional Culture, rather it harbors a deep desire to be enriched by the gifts that the first Australians can bring.

Pope John Paul 11's visit to Australia in 1986 and his address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was pivotal in the journey of Indigenous Catholics. The two best known passages are:

Take heart from the fact that many of your languages are still spoken and that you still possess your ancient culture. You have kept your sense of brotherhood. If you are closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bush

-fire The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree the sap is still flowing, and under ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn. The time of the rebirth is now!

As you listen to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, seek out the best things of your traditional ways. If you do, you will come to realise more and more your great human and traditional dignity. Let your minds and hearts be strengthened to begin a new life now. Past hurts cannot be healed by violence, nor are present injustices removed by resentment. Your Christian faith calls you to become the best kind of Aboriginal people you can be. This is possible only if reconciliation and forgiveness are part of your lives. Only then will you find happiness. Only then will you make your best contribution to

all your brothers and sisters in this great nation. You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.

There are Aboriginal and Islander ministries in every State and Territory of Australia. In each of these ministries the traditional owners are striving to incorporate the gifts of their culture, rituals and symbols into the physical church, the liturgy and life of the Church. Examples are Aboriginal art and items being used as altar cloths and vessels. There are also places where rituals such as water blessings and smoke ceremonies are culturally appropriate to incorporate into the Mass.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, www.natsicc.org.au/understanding-culture-and-faith.html

From the Diocese and beyond

Meeting Christ in the Scriptures: This course highlights Scripture as a privileged place of encounter with Christ where we come to know Jesus' life, mission, death and Resurrection in order to proclaim the person of Jesus Christ to the world. Emphasising God's Word as transformational for the sake of the world, the course engages the primary themes and basic concepts in Scripture, including covenant, kingdom, creation, salvation and conversion. This course emphasizes who Christ

is for us, thereby inviting a deeper relationship with Jesus; God made flesh.

Session 1, Tuesday 25 July; Session 2, Tuesday 1 August. 10.30am-12.30pm. Parish Centre, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 239-243 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. Presenters: Pina Bernard & David Patterson.

Feast Day St. Mary Magdalene: Celebrate by discovering Mary of Magdala in the Gospels, Mary of Magdala in prayer and participating in a conversation

that draws wisdom from Mary of Magdala for the roles of women in our Church today. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, 92 Sparks Rd. Warnervale. Saturday 22 July. 10.30am-12.30pm. RSVP Joan Pavitt 0408 165 014 for further information. See notice board for more detail.

Australia needs Fatima is an ongoing project to bring the message of Fatima to all Australians. Special Fatima 100th Anniversary Rosary Beads and rosary booklet. \$5 (including postage). Phone 9715 2324. Email: info@fatima.org.au

Scripture Readings Bruce Janiga



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 9

Zec 9:9–10

Ps 144:1–2, 8–11, 13–14. R. v.1

Rom 8:9, 11–13

Mt 11:25–30

The words of the prophet Zechariah, written centuries before Christ, are filled with hope as he encourages Israel to look to the future, when Jerusalem will be restored to its true glory as the city of God. At that time all people will come to acknowledge the God of Israel as the God of all the earth. In a verse reflected in the Palm Sunday story, we hear of “your king ... riding on an ass” (v 9), entering Jerusalem amid shouts of joy and gladness. This king will eliminate weapons of warfare and “proclaim peace to the nations” (v 10). This hope, long anticipated by Israel, begins to be realised in the person of Jesus, to whom “all things have been handed over” (Mt 11:27).

Paul reminds us that we have been given a share in “the Spirit of Christ” (v 9). This means that we can anticipate victory over death, because “the one who raised Christ from the dead / will give life to your mortal bodies” (v 11). We share in the life of the Trinity through our baptism, and God’s spirit dwells in us, guiding us to lead holy lives. Ours is a spirit of adoption, Paul writes in a later verse, allowing us to call God “Abba, Father” (v 15).

It is to this Father that Jesus gives thanks and praise in today’s Gospel. His words remind us that knowledge of God is not something acquired by “the wise and the learned” (v 25) through their own efforts, but something revealed by God “to little ones” (v 25). It is our trust in God that leads us to this deeper relationship as we come to know that we are God’s children. Jesus has a unique relationship with “the Father”(v 27), a term found five times in today’s reading, and because of that he is able to reveal the Father to us.

For reflection: In what ways have I come to know God in my own life? How can Zechariah’s hope be translated into action in today’s world?

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

Peter's Pence Appeal

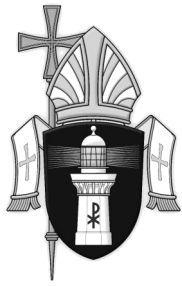
Thank you for your consideration.

The charitable projects that will directly benefit from the 2017 collection are as follows:

- Expansion of the “Filippo Smaldone” Institute for poor and hearing-impaired children in Kigali, Rwanda;
- Ten scholarships to complete college for young people displaced from Iraqi Kurdistan;
- Support for the Parish school of the Immaculate Conception of Al Huson in Jordan that welcomes young refugees from Syria;
- Funding a two-year project in the Philippines that allows 1,000 young survivors of Typhoon Yolanda to complete their university studies;
- Aid for the humanitarian emergency in faminestruck Ethiopia;
- A reconstruction project for the coastal regions of Ecuador affected by the earthquake;
- Rebuild homes destroyed by terrorist attacks in Bangladesh;
- A new cathedral for the faithful of Moroto in Uganda;
- In support of the children at the Paediatric Hospital in Bangui, Central African Republic;
- An Appeal to alleviate the Suffering of the Ukrainian People;
- Tangible Support from the Holy See for the First Catholic University in Jordan.



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.

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 in the Leo Mahon Room. Term 3 dates: 16th July, 30th July, 13th August and 27th August. High school (Years 7-12). For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

CATECHISTS Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.

Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

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.

