

THE VOICE

Creation Set Free



ORDINARY TIME

15th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME

Year A

16th July 2017

Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Lorraine Von Nida, Betty Fawkner,
- **Anniversaries:**
Neil Cameron, Edith Brame,
Maurice and Mary Mathew,
Fr. Francis (Frank) Vaughan,
James Alphonsus Player,
Pretoria Anne Player,
Sr. Patricia Snell, R.S.J.,
Albert David Snell,
Mabel Catherine Snell,
Sheila Carroll Walsh, Molly Dunne,
Amy and Veronica Moloney.
- **Remembrances:**
Ann Smith.
- **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,
Rene Glase, Margaret Davin, Patricia
Dwyer, Edie Trovato, Roy Beverage,
Laura Krauss, Janet Dean,
Brian Finlayson, Brooke Simmons,
Nola McKeowen, John Purser,
Tim McNamara.

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil – soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a good observer of the farmers of his time who used to sow the seed before ploughing?

No. There is something more. Notice how much time Jesus spends amongst the magnificent outcrops and ridges of rock in the wilderness on the far side of the Jordan, or how much he enjoyed being on a boat buffeted by the squalls which descended out of the hills around the Sea of Galilee.

There is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

And then we remember the ancient Jewish story about the creation of the world, the Book of Genesis, what I call the Jewish dream-time story.

Every time God created an aspect of the universe, the story goes: 'God saw that it was good.' Then at last God created human beings and the story goes: 'God saw all he had made and indeed it was very good.'

What made the scene 'very good'? Precisely that it is at last a scene, something to be looked at by creatures with eyes and intelligence to really see the world for what it is.

Have you ever thought how radically incomplete the whole cosmos would be without human beings as the conscious part which can celebrate its splendour and cherish its beauty? We are the heart and mind of the whole of material creation.

I recall taking four Tanzanian World Youth Day pilgrims up Mt Wellington to play in the snow. The city of Hobart, nestling on the banks of the Derwent River looked magnificent below.

Mt Wellington was never able to praise God for the beauty of the River Derwent. The River Derwent was never able to praise God for the grandeur of Mt Wellington. But the hearts of those pilgrims were elated and they praised God for it all.

Perhaps we are amongst the first generations who, from a scientific point of view, can understand the intimate links between every part of the universe and we earthlings. But St Paul intuited that link

and then at a more profound level still. This led him to make the most amazing claim that the whole of creation is going to share in the transformation of life which for us we call the resurrection of the body. As he says in the Epistle to the Romans:

'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

This is so fantastic that I feel bound to repeat it. (*repeat*)

We human beings have played our part in the slavery to decay of the universe. Obviously, every instance of shocking pollution of the waters or the air of our planet or wanton destruction of the common heritage of nature adds to the decay. But in St Paul's view, all our sinfulness makes its contribution.

But the positive aspect is that we share a common destiny brought about by the more powerful and profound victory of Christ over the final instance of decay which is death. The material universe will share in the transformation begun with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. One can't begin to imagine how this will all work out, but we have a preview, an anticipation of this at every Mass. After the invoking of the Holy Spirit and the words of consecration of the Last Supper, elements of the universe: wheat – bread; grapes – wine; become each and together the Real Presence of our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. They become the sacramental presence of His glorious resurrection body.

The destiny of the whole universe is to share in the resurrection life of our Lord. Heaven and Earth are to be full of God's glory. Heaven and Earth are to be full of God's glory. Jesus saw this and loved the craggy wilderness, the windswept Sea of Galilee, the soil giving life to the crops of local farmers.

At the end of time we will all see this and join with the angels as we sing what we already proclaim at every Mass:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

Not too fast



The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruit-ful harvest.

© Colin D. Smith cfc

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Ezekiel Mahar baptized last Sunday.

Children's Liturgy Roster 23/7/17: Shadeeqh Quai Hoi, Joanna Baxter, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/7/17: Anisha Burns, Elena Egan, Kathleen Cullen, Bill Cantley.

Morning Tea Roster 23/7/17: Parents and Friends Group.

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal is being held this weekend.

The Frantastics Choir Fundraising Event for Mary Macs Place Walter Baker Hall. Thursday, 27th July, 2.00pm. Entry \$5. Afternoon Tea: Gold Coin Donation

Baptismal Preparation: Parents seeking to have their baby

baptized are required to attend a talk about the significance of the ceremony. Important issues are raised and the participants view a brief film, which complements the talk which has been given. The meeting takes less than an hour and occurs on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parishioners who would like to be part of the group that presents the preparation talks are asked to contact the Parish office 4341 1073.

Ecumenical Service: In conjunction with the Australian Church Women a "Fellowship Day Service" Subtitled "Women empowered to lead" will be held at The Salvation Army, Sydney Ave, Umina Beach 28th July 2017, commencing at 10 am. All welcome!

Come along, try your luck at our own Cash Housie/Cash

Bingo night every Saturday night at Peninsula Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. 7.30pm-10.20pm - selling commences 6.30pm, hall open 5.30pm. **Prizes:** \$100, \$150 and a chance to win the \$2,000 Jackpot which reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within specified number of calls. Prizes subject to sales. **Games:** 50 games, 3 books of tickets; Bk 1-20 games, Bk 2-20 games, Jackpot Bk 10 games. **Cost:** 1 all night -\$8, 3 all night \$24, 4 all night \$32, 6 all night \$48 - all combinations of books available. This fundraiser continues to raise essential funds for the parish. Busways bus stop right outside the door. Kiosk available. Tea and Coffee free—help yourself in the kitchen. Chinese takeaway can be ordered at the venue. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818 or www.cphousie@hotmail.com

Social Justice

Understanding Culture and Faith:

When I read the Gospels, I read them as an Aboriginal. There are many things in the Gospel that make me happy to be an Aboriginal because I think we have a good start. Christ did not get worried about material things.

He was born in the countryside in a cave, like many of us have been born. He walked about like us and with nowhere to lay his head. He died with nothing on a cross. So many of our people die with nothing. He liked the bush as we do. He loved nature. He loved the big

things like the hills and open spaces. He loved the little things like the mustard seed and the grain of wheat and the corn, drops of cold water and the little sparrows. We have the similar three things like seeds and berries and yams, small water holes, and we like the quietness of the hills and the bush. Like him we have a deep sense of God in nature.

We like the way he uses the things of nature to teach, and the important part nature plays in the Sacraments. We can appreciate also the community nature of the Church, because we are very conscious of being

part of a group bounded by religious ties. We are strong on ceremony, through dance, song and painted bodies. Our ceremony closely involves groups and group participation. So the ceremony of the Mass, the ceremony of the Sacraments and the ceremony of the liturgy should find a ready response in us, provided it is made meaningful, based on a theology that is turned to the Aboriginal mind.

Deacon Boniface Perdjert.

More information go to <http://www.natsicc.org.au/understanding-culture-and-faith.html>

From the Diocese and beyond

Santa Sabina College: is offering 2 scholarships. One with 100% remission of tuition fees for Year 11. 2018 and Year 12. 2019. Applications close Friday 18th August 2017.

The second, International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Scholarship, offering the successful candidate a three year scholarship from Yr. 10 2018 to Year 12 2020. The recipient will intend to study the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in Years 11 and 12. Applications close Friday 2 September 2017.

Contact Marion Malouf, College Registrar for both scholarships

9745 7030 for further information or m.malouf@ssc.nsw.edu.au

17 Days Pilgrimage of a Lifetime to Jordan and Israel: 28th May-13 June 2018. Dubai, Petra, Jericho, Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho and much more. Hosted by Fr. Timothy. Full details on notice board and some detailed copies in gathering area.

Feast Day St. Mary Magdalene: Celebrate by discovering 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 0408 165 014 for further information. See notice board for more detail.

Tapping the Power of Music in the Liturgy: A Formation Day for Parish Liturgical Teams, Musicians and Clergy. What is 'liturgical music'? Principles to guide our musical choices. Saturday, 22nd July, 10.30am-3.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary School Library. 23 Yardley Ave., Waitara. RSVP: 18 July. BYO lunch. Morning and afternoon tea provided. RSVP to Jenny Hildebrandt. Jenny.Hildebrandt@dbb.org.au or phone 9847 0508.



The Rock of my Ages Ron Raab

I entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in August 1978 in Cascade, Colorado. It was my first experience living away from the Midwest. I loved the mighty beauty of the Rocky Mountains, the breathtaking views from the novitiate property, and the smell of the many pine trees. I also found in the mountains and in my time in the yearlong program of prayer and discernment a rich and deeper experience of God. I wanted to stay on the mountaintop forever.

Sometime during that year, I found a small, red rock that seemed to form itself in my hands. I clung to this reddish brown stone in my moments of prayer. I wanted to be reminded not only of the holy place in Colorado but of my experience of prayer sitting on the hillsides. So I carried the rock back to graduate school after the novitiate year. I displayed the free memento alongside my Bible in my room. It became part of my daily prayer and surrender to the next phase of formation.

So I have carried that rock with me for 35 years. I still keep the rock next to my Jerusalem Bible. I sit with the rock now in my hand when I feel disconnected from the earth, when I do not feel I belong to anyone, when I have my moments of disbelief and worry. I want to remember the days when I found a new awareness that God made me exactly who I am.

As I reflect on the series of Gospels from the 17th Sunday until the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time, I remember the rock and my experiences with Christ Jesus. I too found a treasure buried in a field. I even wanted to take the field with me. In fact, I did leave everything to buy the field, to enter into priesthood. I still search for the great pearl when I feel so alone and lost. I cast into the mercy of God my own net filled with small nuggets of regret, loss, and shame, but God seems to reveal to me the very heart of kingdom love and forgiveness every time I fret or worry. I hold the kingdom of God in my hand; I see it in a small red rock.

I place myself in the deserted place where Jesus's heart was moved with pity and he cured the sick. I hear his command every day to give hungry people some food — not only in the Eucharist itself but from our food pantry. I see the hungry in the middle-aged man wanting to become clean from crystal meth and in staff members who just want to talk. My experiences of priesthood teach me that there is enough love and mercy, enough hope and beauty, to go around to

feed every person. When I feel lost among people's hunger, I cling again to the sacred rock.

I especially cling to the rock with my sweaty hands when I feel trapped in turbulent waters of self-doubt as I enter into relationships with people who most need healing. When we see Jesus so near, even walking on the waters to get our attention, fear invades our lives and hearts. We are in fact only human. When I hold fast to the rock when storms surround me, I ache to hear in my deafness, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." The words of Peter are often on my lips even on dry ground, "Lord, save me."

I hold the rock in my hands especially when I want to change Jesus's mind about something in my life or about the suffering I encounter among people. I take this rock and shout out to the Canaanite woman who persuaded Jesus to cure her daughter. I want those scraps for a friend who just lost his mother, for a woman who wails with mucus running down her nose, having lost her son. I want to hold on to something during the sheer and gut-wrenching grief of people.

Peter reminds me to hold tight. Peter's life was filled with uncertainty in one moment and great faith in the next. Jesus promised him a key to heaven. His entire life became the rock on which Christ built the promise for all who hunger. Somehow, I want Christ's presence for every person. I want the certainty that the rock brings, that the foundation of the church will be a safe place for every person to stand upon.

I moved back to Colorado last year. I carried back to the Rocky Mountains a piece of the rock. I still have it next to my Bible on a stand next to my bed, both anchoring my fears even in the nighttime. The sacred rock has traveled with me, has been calm in storms, and has reminded me to persevere. Now in my new role as pastor, I pass on to the next generation how the unchanging nature of the Scriptures and even the rock have formed me into a believer and a minister among people who most need to stand on steady ground. **ML**

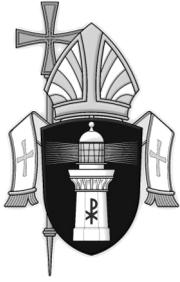
Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as pastor of the Tri-Community Catholic Parish in Colorado Springs, Colo. He broadcasts a weekly Scripture commentary, *On the Margins*, on radio KBVM.fm. Learn more at www.ronaldraab.com. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



May our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred — or sixty — or thirty-fold!



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.



Please join our parish catechists in praying for much needed helpers to assist us in our ministry of taking our faith to the children in our four State Schools on the Peninsula.