



ORDINARY TIME

17th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A
30th July 2017
Psalter Week 1

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Fr. Claude Borg, Adrian Lloyd,
Fr. Aub Collins, m.s.c., Bob Ryan,
Anne Maree Baguley, Danuta Gluszak,
John Purser.
- **Anniversaries:**
Pedro and Damiana Bulual,
Edna Tighe, Irma Carbery,
Noel Barron, Michael Barron,
Faeala Casey, Paul Houghton,
Sergei de Souza.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valeris Price,
Nora & Eli Houghton.
- **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, June Towson,
Therese Corner, Peter Wellis,
Diane Gillett, Rene Glase,
Margaret Davin, Patricia Dwyer,
Roy Beverage, Laura Krauss,
Brian Finlayson, Edie Trovato,
Brooke Simmons, Nola McKeowen,
Tim McNamara, Peter Crookes,
Louisa Dunn, Marylou Tafilagi,

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Bows, Genuflections, etc.

Reverence and courtesy are important in the liturgy. They sometimes take an old-fashioned form (and are therefore subject to revision), but the principle remains: informality does not render good manners obsolete or redundant.

It is indeed true that church etiquette (if I may call it that) derives from court etiquette. Courts have gone, because kings have gone, but they have, as it were, left behind a residue.

The common form of monstration, a few centuries back, was like the sort of clock one sees in museums: the Host was exposed inside a glass tube. But when Louis XIV of France began to speak of himself as the "Sun King," Christians thought, 'If it is true of a king, it is much more applicable to God,' and so monstrances of the modern form appeared, in which the Host is enshrined in a sunburst.

So it was with bows and genuflections. Kings of England, at one time, were approached with a threefold genuflection. If one had to do that to a mere king, people thought, how much more appropriate was it for the Blessed Sacrament! But when one no longer had to genuflect to the king (although a curtsy is a sort of genuflection, so it is still there to some extent), one wondered how to behave to the Sacrament.

You hear occasionally the abrupt statement, 'I will bow to no man.' There is a mistake here. Respect is the issue, but there are two forms of respect: that given to an individual human being because of intrinsic personal qualities; another, given to an individual because of the role he plays. The armed services have, in this respect, the principle: one salutes the rank, not the man. (I am told that when an officer is not wearing his cap, one does not salute.)

If, when in Canberra, you decide to visit the High Court or a House of Parliament, you will be instructed to bow to the Bench, the Speaker or the President. Whatever you think of the individuals concerned, you treat their office with respect.

It is important to keep this in mind when one goes to Holy Communion. First of all, we remember that we are in a procession, not a queue; we are approaching the altar as God's People, not as individuals unconcerned for each other.

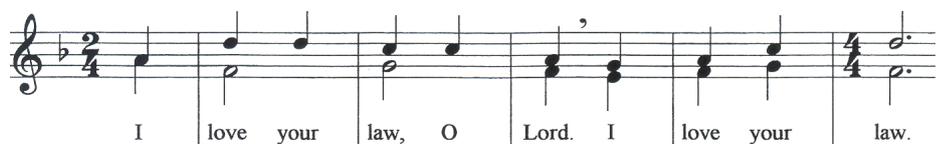
How do we express our respect at this moment, while keeping our fellow communicants in mind?

The Australian bishops have said that it is sufficient to bow the head before receiving Communion. This is done while

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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

13th National eConference – Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos. The Hope of Pope Francis: will be held in the Leo Mahon room on Thursday 10th August. Commencing at 10.30am and closing at 2.50pm. Please bring a plate for sharing at lunch time. List of speakers available on the notice board. If attending please write your name on the list in the gathering. Michael Tebbutt will again be facilitating this event for us.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal will be held the weekend 12th/13th August. Envelopes are available in the church. The need is great. Your generosity is appreciated. Our quota for this financial year is \$36 147, equating to \$12 049 for each of the 3 appeals.

Tax Receipts for C.W.F. (last financial year) are available in the gathering area.

Voluntary Church Cleaning Roster 4/8/17: Reg Harrington, Warren Sparrow, Jo Salter, Mary McCumstie.

Ministry of Intercession: Anyone who would like to pray for any intention, for your loved ones, family and friends, for the needs of the Parish and the world. Please join us in this Ministry of Intercession, Thursday nights from 7.30pm-8.30pm. We pray earnestly before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

Social Justice

National Missing Persons Week:

National Missing Persons Week is an annual event to raise community awareness of the issues and impacts surrounding missing persons.

National Missing Persons Week has two primary aims:

1. To assist in the resolution of missing persons cases through heightened awareness and increased

sightings reported.
2. To raise community awareness regarding issues facing missing persons and their families and friends.

It is important to remember that people go missing for a variety of reasons. In some cases, the person may be escaping from real or perceived family or personal conflict, they may be victims of foul play, whilst others may be asserting

their independence or taking time out. Some simply forget to make contact.

Going missing is not a crime. The aim of police to confirm that people reported missing are safe and well. You don't have to wait 24 hours before reporting a person missing. For more information on missing persons see www.missingpersons.gov.au

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant: The Christian Brothers' Community at St. Edward's College in East Gosford is seeking to employ a part-time cook to prepare an evening meal on four days of the week. (Monday to Thursday). Please phone 4323 1367 for further information and to register interest in this position between 10am-2pm from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August, 2017.

Grandparenting the Faith. Grandparents are like the wisdom of the family, they are the wisdom of the people" Pope Francis, October 2013. Grandparenting the Faith 4 day Retreat \$440, will be held on 28th August to 1st September. St. Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, 9 Humphreys Rd, Kincumber Sth. Phone 4368 2805 or email bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au

Connections 2017 – Past, Present and Future: The work of Seasons for Growth is based on Mary MacKillop's principle "Never see a need without doing something about it." Over the last twenty years our

range of programs has grown and continuously developed. Our programs seek to support all members of the community to develop the knowledge and skills to adjust to significant life events, and to grow from the experience. Over the last twenty years, in excess of 200,00 children and young people have participated in the Seasons for Growth Program, along with thousands of adults. Good Grief is hosting the event: Connections 2017-8. Past, Present & Future at Isabel Menton Theatre Mary MacKillop Place, Nth. Sydney, Wednesday 2nd August, 2pm-6pm. See notice board for details of speakers and content.

Christians in the Middle East & Interreligious Dialogue: Past and Present Situations:

A presentation by Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald who is a former president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He is retired Apostolic Nuncio to the Arab Republic of Egypt and delegate to the Arab League. A scholar of Islam living in Jerusalem, his previous

presentation in our Diocese was met with much enthusiasm. Please don't miss this special presentation. Saturday, 19th August, 10am-12pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Bldg 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. (Vehicle access via city view Rd.) RSVP Thursday 17 August. RSVP: Registrations @dbb.org.au or phone 4332 9825/ 9847 0448.

Catholics Returning Home Programme @ St. Patrick's Parish, East Gosford: If you are a Catholic who has felt separated from the Church, who may like to feel at home once more, or know more about the Catholic Church today, please join us for our Catholic Returning Home Programme. No matter how long one has been away, or for whatever reasons, everyone is welcome. If you would like to know more about this programme, please contact the Parish Office on 4325 1042.

Feeding them ourselves

Mary Amore

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full.

Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. (Mt 14:13–21, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time).

After an emotional day filled with the sad news of the imprisonment of his cousin, John the Baptist, Jesus is moved with pity for the vast crowd of followers. Rather than dismissing them so late in the day, Jesus tells his tired and bewildered apostles that they should feed the people themselves. The apostles wondered how they were going to accomplish this task with only five loaves and two fish.

Jesus, on the other hand, isn't deterred by the problem at all. Taking the simple gifts of creation into his sacred hands, he offers blessings to God, breaks the bread, and distributes the miraculous food to disciples, who in turn share the abundance of bread with the thousands gathered. In this moment of mass feeding, no one dared to ask where the food came from; rather, people ate until they were full.

How interesting that Jesus chooses not to feed the people directly but rather instructs his disciples to take on this responsibility. In doing so, Jesus offered us a model for discipleship.

In a way, having the apostles actively share in the feeding of the people is a precursor to what occurs at the eucharistic liturgy. During the eucharistic prayer, the priest,

acting in the persona of Christ, takes the ordinary gifts of bread and wine into his hands, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, these ordinary table gifts of bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. As disciples we approach the altar table seeking our spiritual nourishment, and we are transformed into the very mystery that we receive, so that we may then go out and spiritually nourish those in our lives. As in the Gospel story, Christ depends on us, his followers, to feed one another, both in body and in spirit.

"Give them some food yourselves" is a divine call for each of us to care for one another. Our world is in desperate need of spiritual nourishment, and through our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, we have the power and the ability to feed the hungry souls of those who seek God. How? We can satisfy the spiritual and physical hunger of those around us by offering mercy and love to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the homeless instead of criticising them or ignoring them. Pope Francis is modeling Christ in this very manner, and people are taking notice. Francis is dedicated to helping the poor and the forgotten — shouldn't we do the same?

All people in the Gospel story were fed by the miraculous fish and loaves — not just the believers. As followers of Jesus, we can nourish hungry souls by accepting our differences instead of condemning individuals and groups because they seem different from us. We can bear witness to the saving power of Christ by inviting God to act in and through us so we can offer reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing to wounded and broken souls who hunger for wholeness.

But are we willing to "give them some food ourselves," as Jesus directs? Are we willing to cast aside our selfish tendencies in order to care for the needs of those around us? Are we willing to be spiritual nourishment for our family, friends, and those whom Jesus sends into our lives? ML

Mary Amore is the executive director of Mayslake Ministries in Lombard, Ill. She holds a doctorate degree in liturgy and master of arts degree in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union. She is the author of *Primary Symbols of Worship* and *The Call to Participation* as well as numerous articles. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



"The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces," says the psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

See Psalm 119



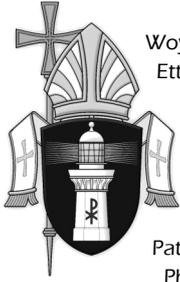
Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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:

Bows, Genuflections, etc.

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the person in front is receiving—waiting until it is one's own turn turns the procession into a queue and holds up the process. We similarly bow before receiving from the chalice.

If you want to go further and genuflect, consider what this might entail if the person behind is not ready for this, and that good order makes it preferable that we all show reverence in the same way; in any case, once again, this is done while the person in front is receiving; you don't wait until it is your turn.

The important point is that we should

show reverence for what we are about to receive; as St Augustine says, 'we receive because we adore.' We do not treat the Blessed Sacrament in an offhand way.

If you receive on the hand, extend your hands one above the other, like a throne; then step to one side and put it in your mouth. Don't snatch at it; receive it.

Remember that Communion by "intinction" (dipping the Host in the Precious Blood) can only be done by the minister; the Church has excluded "self-service" in this area. The dangers of profanation are too great.

Meanwhile, other courtesies also should prevail. The server presenting things to the priest bows, and the priest bows in return: nothing more than courtesy. The reader bows to the presider, just as we bow to the presiding officer at a meeting. None of this is a big deal, and no offence is taken if it is not done, but the atmosphere of courtesy is strengthened.

As Belloc once put it, 'the grace of God is in courtesy.' Reverence and courtesy go together when we all treat each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

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

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 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.