

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE



ORDINARY TIME

19th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A
13th August 2017
Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR
CHARITY
PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Win Trotter, Patrick Keegan,
Tom Fawkner, Dennis McMahon,
John Purser, Lorraine Von Nida, Robyn
McInnes, John Arahill.
- **Anniversaries:**
Jannette Moroney, Thomas Fell,
Carlos Baroquillo, Norman Wise,
Noreen Connolly, Robert Sharp,
Grace and Guzeppi Farrugia,
Jim and Betty Filewood,
Grace Bewley,
- **And the sick:**
Maryanne Diorio, Pat Burgmann,
Mary Scarf, Margarita Gomez,
June Towson, Therese Corner, Peter
Wellis, Audrey Barsenbach, Rene Glase,
Margaret Davin, Diane Gillett, Patricia
Dwyer, Roy Beverage,
Brian Finlayson, Laura Krauss, Tim
McNamara, Janet Dean,
Nola McKeowen, Edie Trovato,
Marie Carter, Peter Crookes,
Mary Drinan, Marylou Tafilagi,
Matilda Tawake, Mick Mino,
Kevin Houghton.

Keep Rowing!

I vividly remember as a young boy swimming on a coastal beach and being dumped in the surf. I was tossed around topsy turvy and was very aware of the power of the waves. I survived, but since then have always been afraid of turbulent water.

This Gospel resonates with that experience, and it resonates with lots of experiences in our lives.

Have you ever felt swamped by an event – a traumatic accident, the death of someone we love, betrayal by a friend, the loss of a job, failure in an exam – which seems to leave us floundering? A sudden tempest storms into our life and we can't find our feet, can be quite literally gasping for air, we can feel we are drowning.

That is when we can cry out in our individual distress 'Lord, save me' and Our Lord will extend his hand, pull us from the turbulent water, get into the boat of life with us and calm the storm.

But, and this is very important, Our Lord will not take us back as if by magic to the previous situation. The storm might be behind us, but we have to press on.

The disciples had started off from the Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, familiar territory. Jesus guided them through the stormy situation to "the other side", the pagan side, unfamiliar territory where they would not have felt at home.

It takes courage for us to move to a new situation, but with Our Lord's presence we need not be as afraid as we would otherwise be.

But this Gospel is not so much about individuals as it is about the Church. It is

about the disciples of Jesus around the figure of Peter. We are the disciples of Jesus gathered in the boat with the successor of St Peter, Pope Francis.

When the Church is buffeted by storms, it is often because the Church is in the midst of a journey from familiar to unfamiliar territory. We can all list some of the storms of the past fifty years.

There is a new attitude to authority. Rule by dictate or decree with unreflecting obedience is not possible except in a few remaining authoritarian or totalitarian regimes. Rome-based clerics and bishops have to get used to this new situation, and Our Lord says to them 'keep rowing' to the unfamiliar shore.

There is a new attitude to gender roles. The feminist movement has challenged many of the stereotypes by which women had been subjugated over the centuries. Males have got to get used to this new situation and Our Lord says to us 'keep rowing' to the unfamiliar shore.

Pope Francis is rowing in the right direction on that score. As he has said: 'The challenge today is this, to think about the specific place of women also in those places where the authority of the Church is exercised for various areas of the Church.' [A Big Heart Open to God, America: National Catholic Review 30/9/13]

There is a new attitude to priests and bishops. There is anger and suspicion at sexual abuse and its cover up. Transparency and responsibility are demanded. Clergy have got to get used to this new situation. Our Lord says 'keep rowing' to an unfamiliar shore.

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Psalm Response

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Lord, show us your mer-cy and love and grant us your sal-va-tion.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!



Around the Parish

Parish Pastoral Council: We thank our retiring members and welcome our newly elected members who are Pat Baxter, Celeste Boonaerts, Barbara Cardwell, Louise Degeling, Jeff Freeman, Bernie French, Helen Glennon, Gladys Leger, Tony O'Neill, Malcolm Sequeira, Pat Slattery, Ken Stewart, Willie Woods, & Nicole Cumming (Ex-officio). The Commissioning of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place at 9:15am Mass this Sunday, 13th August.

A Formation Programme for the members will be held on Tuesday, 15th August in the Leo Mahon room at 7.30pm.

Daniel Ang from the office of Evangelisation will be facilitating the meeting.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal at all Masses this weekend. The need is great. Your generosity is appreciated. This year's quota is \$36 147, equating to \$12 049 each appeal.

Social Justice

Youth Off The Streets with Fr. Chris Riley:

Often we forget that there are young people who find it difficult to access the education that is so important to the development of a child. Yet every year in Australia around 50,000 young people aged 15 to 19 drop out of education and are unemployed.

(NSW Department of Education, 2010.)

Many of these young people have suffered disadvantage due to family breakdowns, mental illness, substance abuse, poverty and are at risk from positive community interaction such as unemployment and training.

Our role as adults is to make sure that these young people are supported and to recognise their needs. It is a fact that not all people can thrive in mainstream education, and, as a result, there need to be alternatives available to ensure that we can still equip our youth with skills and opportunities that will lead them to become happy and contributing community members. I founded the

Solemnity of the

Assumption: Tuesday, 15th August. The Assumption is, in Australia, a holy day of obligation. Morning Mass will be the usual time of 7:45am and an evening Mass will be held at 7pm. **The Parish Bus** will be available for the 7:45am Mass, if there are sufficient parishioners who would like to use the service. If you would like a seat on the bus for please ring the Parish office not later than 12 noon on Monday, 14th August. Parish phone 4341-1073. Ivan will be driving.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Thomas Johnston, Matthew Johnston and George Chorazyczewski who were baptized last Sunday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 18/8/17: Pamela Burton, Kathleen Cullen, Bill Cantley, Lisa Ann Rae.

Bus Trip to Convent of Mercy, Singleton leaving Wed. 16th August, 8.30am. Cost for trip \$20, tour cost \$11. Enquiries: Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

Children's Liturgy Roster 20/8/17: Mary Wood, Joanna Baxter, Hannah El Khatib.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room, next being 21st August, 11.30am-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard on 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Volunteers: We are looking for volunteer parishioners to assist in repairs and maintenance of our Parish church. If you can assist and are willing to be placed on a roster for ongoing garden maintenance and care, or if you have specialized skills or a trade to get some of the much needed repairs to our church done, please complete a slip from the gathering area table and return to the Parish office or to Father.

organisation Youth Off The Streets in 1991 and over 20 years of services as well as my own experience prior has taught me that education is the key to preventing our youth from becoming reliant on welfare and suffering the effects of prolonged social isolation. As a result, Youth Off The Streets has set up four accredited high schools that provide young people with the opportunity to achieve an education in an alternative setting to mainstream education. Our schools aim to re-engage students with education by focusing on individual interests and skills and linking learning with those strengths.

If students struggle to engage in note-taking in a class we will take an alternative approach to learning, such as through a hands on project. We work to re-ignite a passion for learning by structuring the curriculum so that students may best progress on their path to their own end goal.

Our schools include Key College

located in Redfern, Chapel School Campus—Key College located at Merrylands, Matthew Hogan School located in the Southern Highlands and Eden College Campus—Key College and which has recently relocated to our new Koch Centre for Youth in Macquarie Fields. Our school intake has grown greatly over the years and we have seen a 31 per cent increase in students counted in our census from August 2011 until February 2012.

These schools are all designed to give young people experiencing disadvantage a last chance to achieve either the NSW School Certificate, Higher School Certificate or the skills they require to go on to further vocational education apprenticeships and/or employment.

These young people need to know that they can reach their full potential and that there are services that are available that support them in their needs and goals. I will continue to work to offer those services.

Fr. Chris Riley.

From the Diocese and beyond

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

Homily

A conservative Protestant Church in a sleepy fishing village had to find a new minister. Over the protests of Jimmy, the senior Elder, a woman was hired as the new Pastor.

After the Reverend Gayle had been there a few weeks, Tom, a member of the congregation, offered to take her out fishing. Jimmy reluctantly agreed to allow them to use his boat for the day's outing, but insisted that he lead the expedition.

The trio got into the boat and motored out on the lake. When they got ready to fish, they realised that all their tackle had been left on the dock. Tom concluded that they would just have to go back and get it. Reverend Gayle said that wouldn't be necessary, and she got out of the boat and started walking across the water toward the dock.

Jimmy, who refused to be impressed by Gayle's miraculous abilities observed, 'See I told you we never should have hired that woman. She can't even swim.'

The hit animation film *Shrek* was praised by critics for many things but most especially for the clever way it quoted from several other much-loved animation films. When writers do this it's called 'intertextuality', where one text uses another text to tell the story. Some of the references in *Shrek* were obvious; others took a little longer to reveal themselves. Some were used in a new way that turned the original story upside down. Whether any of us got all or none of the references didn't affect the enjoyment we derived from the film, it only added to what was already a great tale.

The story of Jesus walking on the water is in a similar vein to *Shrek*. In eleven verses Matthew quotes several other stories in the Old Testament, uses them in his own way and re-interprets all of them in reference to Jesus. It might be lost on some of us who just enjoy the power of the story, but none of this intertextuality would have been lost on Matthew's first hearers.

Poor old Job found God in the midst of a storm, and winds and waves are a usual Old Testament shorthand for the perils of life. The image of the boat was an early symbol for the Church and Matthew has all Jesus' disciples in it. Jesus hovering over the waters has echoes of the action of the Spirit in the first account of creation in Genesis. Even Jesus restoring calm to the sea follows on from what the Prophet Jonah had done before. For the keen student there is much more besides.

Matthew's account is magnificent on its own terms, but with these details we can see he is also interested in a theological message. Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of creation, remains faithful to the disciples, no matter how treacherous the seas or how

great their fear. He has come to them so that they may be saved and recreated as the Church who recognises that he is the fulfilment of creation, the one whom Israel has been longing to see and embrace.

And what does all this mean for us?

We are inheritors of Matthew's faith. We're here because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has saved us from ourselves and from destruction. But it also means that in every storm that threatens our lifeboat Jesus comes to call us to faith, to catch us when we think we're drowning, to accompany us back to safety and to bring calm to the troubled seas of our life.

Aren't we lucky Jesus never learnt to swim?

© Richard Leonard SJ

Gospel Reflection

By Greg Sunter

I don't know that we've ever properly understood the significance of the disciples in the gospels; our attention is always focused on Jesus. The disciples certainly got the inside running on all of Jesus' teachings; they witnessed the miracles; and were themselves empowered to carry on the work of Jesus. They can be seen as the prototypes for all the followers of Jesus that have come since. When we read the gospel stories we can perhaps place ourselves in the position of James or John or Peter or Andrew.

To be a disciple to a rabbi was not just to be a supporter or an interested bystander. To be a disciple was to hungrily learn from your rabbi. The fact that all of Jesus' disciples were called from other walks of life means that no other rabbi had already chosen them. They had been passed over as not good enough to study with a rabbi. When they were called by Jesus it was an opportunity they would never have dreamed possible; of course they left everything and followed him.

To be a disciple was effectively an apprenticeship to becoming a rabbi. To be discipled to a rabbi was to believe that you could do what your rabbi did. It is this belief that makes Peter get out of the boat. His rabbi is walking on the water and Peter believes that he can do what his rabbi does. And extraordinarily, Peter begins to walk on the water just like Jesus. It is only when he starts to think about what he's doing that he sinks.

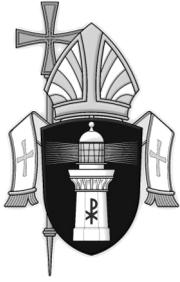
When Jesus asks Peter, 'Why did you doubt?' he is asking Peter why he doubted himself. It wasn't that Peter doubted Jesus; he doubted his own ability to be the equal of his rabbi!



Elijah recognised the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.



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

Keep Rowing!

(Continued from page 1)

Of course, throwing tradition overboard willy nilly is not a solution either. There is Tradition with a capital 'T' which is the Spirit-led experience of Catholic Christianity over two millennia. That is not to be jettisoned. But the grace of discernment is needed.

In particular, Our Lord will not allow us the indulgence of nostalgic yearning for the safety of the past country inhabited by the Church. We must make our way to the other shore.

Perhaps we are called to help build a new structure of the Church on that other shore. We know the preferred model put forward by the current successor of St Peter: 'I see the Church as a field hospital after battle. ... Heal the wounds, heal the wounds. ... And you have to start from the ground up.'

We can row with courage because we know we are in the same boat as Peter to whom our Risen Lord constantly extends a saving hand.

'Do not be afraid.'

©Fr Michael Tate

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-8.30pm.

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.

WOY WOY LEAGUES
PROUD HOME OF THE ROOSTERS

MARY MAC'S PLACE PRESENTS

\$36 (6 tickets)

CASH HOUSIE

From 8th August
TUESDAY NIGHTS
7.30PM
AT WOY WOY LEAGUES CLUB
30 CASH GAMES

PETS and paper tickets

Think! About your choices. Gambling more enjoying it less? For free and confidential information and advice about problem gambling, please contact gambling help 1800 858 858 www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au