



## ORDINARY TIME

26th Sunday in  
ORDINARY TIME  
Year A  
1st October 2017  
Psalter Week 2

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Linda Evans.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Fr. Pat McMaugh, Fr. Clem Tierney, Barry Follett, Mollie Quinn, Stanley Walsh, Jim Blakemore, Jim Palmer, Jack Dunne.
- **Remembrances:**  
Molly Dunne.
- **And the Sick:**  
Maryanne Diorio, Pat Burgmann, Margarita Gomez, Mary Scarf, June Towson, Therese Corner, Peter Wellis, Audrey Barsenbach, Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor, Patricia Dwyer, Roy Beverage, Brian Finlayson, Laura Krauss, Nola McKeowen, Mary Drinan, Marylou Tafilagi, Matilda Tawake, Mick Nino, Kevin Houghton, Nellie Brown, Ken Thorsen, Ian Wilks, Janet Dean, Bobby Sutherland.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

# THE VOICE

## 'No, no, no, no ...Y-yes!'

At the end of World War II in France, many prostitutes had their heads shaved. Their beautiful hair was hacked off to the last millimetre. Why? Because they were prostitutes? No. The reason was, that they were collaborators. They had sold their services to the German occupiers and therefore were regarded as traitors. They had betrayed their people.

It was the same in Christ's time. The two most despised groups in Israel and Galilee were tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army.

So, when Jesus says to the religious elite of his time: 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you', this was truly shocking.

Why did Jesus believe this?

Because he had observed tax collectors and prostitutes switching allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God under the influence of John the Baptist. This signalled a profound change of heart. And this profound change of heart would express itself in real commitment to the values and lifestyle of God's Kingdom, unlike the superficial pledges of loyalty from the religious leadership of the day.

Hence, Jesus' little story about the two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required.

Jesus loved the brother who came

around, perhaps after saying 'No' many times. He was very hard on those who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

We know from other stories in the Scriptures what it meant for a tax collector to change. St Matthew himself was a tax collector who abandoned his post at the Customs House to follow Jesus.

In another passage, we read of Zacchaeus, a tax collector who climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. He was drawn into conversation with Jesus and shared a meal with him. The Gospel then reads:

*'Zacchaeus' heart was changed by Jesus' kind words. He told Jesus "Behold Lord, I will give half my goods to the poor. And if I have taken more from any man than I should, I will give back four times as much as I took."*

You and I are perhaps not at the extreme of the tax collectors and prostitutes of Our Lord's time. But we have all made compromises with the ruling ethos of our time.

I have been haunted by the story of Cardinal Wolsey, one time Lord Chancellor to Henry VIII. He was demoted when he failed to secure the divorce from Catherine of Aragon, and was exiled to York. Summoned to London, he had a premonition of his fate and spoke the following words:

*'Well, well, Master Kingston, I see the matter against me how it is framed. But if I had served God as diligently as I have*

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Psalms Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Public Holiday this Monday, 2nd October:** Morning Mass will be at 9.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Parish office is closed and will re-open Tuesday, 9.30am.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Wynnie Fleming, Jesse Mitchell, Joss Mitchell, Campbell Dodsworth, Rosie Nokes-Hudson and Charlie Rasmussen recently baptized.

**All Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and new members interested in joining** are invited to afternoon tea with Fr. Timothy this Tuesday, 3rd October, 3pm in the Leo Mahon room. R.S.V.P. Phoebe Glacken on 4341 6324.

'El Shaddai' Monthly meetings for October are 7th, 14th, 21st.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 6/10/17:** Pam Hickey, Mabel Torres, Lisa Ann Rae, Mary McCumstie.

**The Woy Woy Youth Group** hosted its Cake Stall and BBQ Fundraiser last weekend after the Saturday night and Sunday morning Masses. The event was a roaring success, and the Youth were blown away with the level of encouragement, generosity and support given by so many people in the parish. The Youth would like to say a special thanks to Bernie French for running the BBQ the whole weekend, Mary Scarf for her generous contribution of jams and pickles, the Mondal family and Bakers Delight Umina for donating bread and rolls for the event, and the lovely Rosie and Gladys from the Live Pray Love Program who served tea, coffee and drinks to parishioners after Mass. The Youth would also like to thank many of its members who helped out over the weekend - Sophia, Grace, Bridie, James, Seilina, Speranza, Julia, Emma, Katalina, Gemma, John, Joseph and Max. A total of \$3 026 was raised!

The next Youth Fundraiser will likely be coming up in early November, where the Youth will host a raffle ticket sale. We ask that if you have anything that you'd like to donate as a prize in the raffle, please contact Matthew French at 0411 792587.

**Morning Tea Roster 8/10/17** will be our Youth Group.

**Anointing of the Sick** will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday, 6th October.

**Congratulations:** to Kevin & Sheila Houghton who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on 4th October.

**Free Counselling Services:** Third Year Bachelor of counseling student available Mondays and Tuesdays, 8am-1pm. Mary Mac's Place, 100 Blackwall Rd. Woy Woy. Phone 4341 0584.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 8/10/17:** Geraldine Baxter, Rebecca Beisler, Carol Yates.

## The Just Word

**David Unaipon** (1872-1967) was an Aboriginal writer, poet, inventor and advocate for indigenous people. He was born at the Point McLeay Mission in South Australia and was educated at the mission. He developed a strong interest in science, philosophy and music and was a committed Christian, celebrated as a preacher and a **P u b l i c s p e a k e r**. Early in the 1900's Unaipon invented a modified handpiece for shearing and later patented a number of other inventions as well as foreshadowing the modern helicopter when he proposed a flying machine

based on the same aerodynamic principle as the boomerang. David Unaipon became a powerful advocate for Aboriginal people, preaching, giving public lectures and assisting a number of inquiries and commissions. He also became known as a writer, publishing Aboriginal legends and his own poetry. A tireless worker, David Unaipon travelled on foot throughout South Australia into his 80's, often finding himself refused accommodation because of his race. He received a Coronation Medal in 1953. Australia's 50-dollar note has a

picture of David Unaipon together with the church at Raukkan, where he grew up, and, and a facsimile of an extract from his manuscript: 'As a full-blooded member of my race I think I may claim to be the first—but I hope, not the last—to produce an enduring record of our customs, beliefs and imaginings'. He is commemorated in the annual David Unaipon Literary Award for an unpublished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander author.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Tell us how you get your Catholic News:** If you regularly or semi-regularly consume Catholic media, whether that be traditional newspapers, magazines or web-based publications and social media platforms, then the Australian Catholic Media wants to hear from you!

The Council has developed a short survey to find out what you value in Catholic media. Do you find that it helps to educate, form, challenge and deepen your faith, connect you to the local Church or to the

Universal Church? What is the particular character and role of Catholic media in Australia in 2017 and what might you hope it will be in the future? How can we strengthen Catholic media in Australia?

Just click straight through to the survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CathMediaUsers2017>. It will only take a few minutes (5-8 minutes).

**Spirituality in the Pub:** SIP Central Coast is an Ecumenical & Interfaith Speakers Forum

with Q's and A's.

The focus is on developing understanding and encouraging dialogue about Spirituality through sharing one's life journey. We meet 1st Tuesday from March-October and 2nd Tuesday in November.

Meeting *this* Tuesday, 3rd October, 7.30pm-9pm: Daniel Ang on Thomas Merton's Spirituality. Held at the Grange Hotel Function Room, Cnr. Renwick St. & Pacific Hwy. Wyoming. Detail of speakers on notice board. Enquiries: Marke Ph: 4328 2596 or 0498 588 216.



# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 1

Ez 18:25–28

Ps 24:–9 R. v.6

Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Mt 21:28–32

Jesus's parable of the two sons is addressed to the chief priests and elders (see v 23), a group opposed to Jesus in Matthew's text. The contrast between the two sons mirrors the difference between Jesus's opponents and sinners. The first son, who originally refused to work in the vineyard, eventually "changed his mind and went" (v 29). He represents the "tax collectors and prostitutes" (v 31) who originally refuse to follow God's way but then have a change of heart. That the sinners repented in response to the preaching of the Baptist should be enough to convince Jesus's opponents to embrace the message of the gospel, but it is not. Because of their hardheartedness, they will come under judgment.

In the text from Ezekiel, the prophet reminds us that God holds us accountable for our sins. In order to receive God's grace, we must do "what is right and just" (v 27). Writing as an exile in Babylon, the prophet calls us to reject sin and be faithful to the Lord, who is God of all the earth. For Ezekiel, the Israelites are in exile not because the gods of Babylon are greater than their God; rather, the exile is a demonstration of the Lord's sovereignty over all people.

In today's second reading, a text we encountered two weeks ago on the feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Paul calls the Philippians to live lives worthy of the gospel. As Christians, we are called to lead lives of humility and unity, following the example of Christ, who humbled himself and accepted death on our behalf. The vocation of a Christian calls us to conform our lives to that of Christ Jesus.

*For reflection:* Am I progressing in my spiritual growth? Do I make a conscious effort to follow the example of Christ?

Fr 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

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 8

Is 5:1–7

Ps 79:9, 12–16, 19–20 R. Is:5:7

Phil 4:6–9

Mt 21:33–43

As he begins to conclude his letter to the Philippians, Paul continues to exhort them to grow in their faith. If we place our trust in God, then "the peace of God ... / will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (v 7). It is this confidence that allows Paul to suffer persecution, imprisonment, and finally death. Paul knows that following the way of Christ ultimately leads to peace, so he encourages them to persevere in their faith.

Today's text from Isaiah serves as a background for Jesus's parable of the vineyard. Isaiah addresses his parable to the people as a word of judgment. God has planted a vineyard with great care in Israel. Even the location, "a fertile hillside" (v 1), is intended to ensure a successful harvest. He "planted the choicest vines" after preparing the soil; yet despite all this, the vineyard only yields "wild grapes" (v 2). Isaiah warns the "inhabitants of Jerusalem" (v 3) that because "the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel" (v 7) and they have produced an undesirable harvest, they are about to face God's judgment.

Jesus speaks of a "landowner who planted a vineyard" and "leased it to tenants" (v 33). This landowner had done everything he could to ensure that the land would produce a good harvest. But in his absence, the tenants refuse to pay the rent, and they abuse the servants sent to "obtain his produce" (v 34). Even his son cannot get them to pay the rent; they "seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him" (v 39). For Matthew's community these wicked tenants represent those who reject Jesus: they will have the kingdom "taken away from you / and given to a people that will produce its fruit" (v 43). Like the parable in Isaiah, Jesus's parable also challenges us to "produce fruit" or face judgment.

*For reflection:* Is my life producing a desirable harvest for God? How has God helped me provide a successful yield?



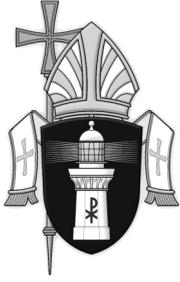
---

The first son in today's Gospel said he would do his father's bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

---

# 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.

## MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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** conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

**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.

## 'No, no, no, no ...Y-yes!'

(Continued from page 1)

done the King, he would not have given me over in my grey hairs.'

We may have said "No" to God at various times with various intensity in our lives.

But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

But, until then, Our Lord will try to engage us in conversation, as he did with Zaccheus.

Like Zaccheus, here today we are drawn into conversation with Jesus. We hear him in the Gospel and respond. That is 'conversation'. Note how close that word is to 'conversion'. Our conversation with Jesus of the Gospels should lead to conversion of heart.

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, entirely in harmony with this Gospel, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.'

'Walk the talk.'

© Fr Michael Tate

