



## ORDINARY TIME

29th Sunday in  
ORDINARY TIME  
Year A  
22nd October 2017  
Psalter Week 1

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Jim Marshall, Ria Reefman, Alan Cairns, Vincenzo Zappavigna.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Fr. Patrick (Paddy) Gillic, Leila Speer.
- **And the sick**  
Maryanne Diorio, Pat Burgmann, Margarita Gomez, June Towson, Therese Corner, 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 Thorson, Ian Wilks, Janet Dean, Bobby Sutherland, Dianne Briemer, Grace Wellins, Courtney Wellins, Tom Thorton, Olive Brittliff, Audrey Kirkman, Malina Tugaga, Abigale Tugaga, Maria Wise, Elizabeth Skinner, Beryl Reynolds, Terry Wilkinson.

# Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula THE VOICE

## Whose Image and Likeness?

In contrasting the spheres of Caesar and God, today's Gospel adamantly rejects any ideology which sets out to control or dominate every aspect of the lives of people.

Who are the Caesars of our age? We can look to the political and economic spheres.

North Korea is the most extreme example of political totalitarianism. There the government asserts control over every person: body, mind and spirit.

In the economic sphere, who could deny that some of the bankers of Wall Street believe that unrestrained capitalism should determine the worth of human beings and indeed whole societies?

What was the situation portrayed in today's Gospel? People in Judea and Galilee were under Roman rule. Some collaborated, others fiercely resisted (known later as 'Zealots'). Jesus is challenged about the payment of a head tax levied by Rome and which had to be paid in Roman coinage – the denarius.

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. *They* are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

That's all rather enigmatic. The key to understanding that famous statement lies in the question: Whose image and whose inscription?

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God.

Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings.' Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.

Political and economic authorities cannot reduce human beings to mere elements of society or the market. They have an inherent dignity which comes from being made in the image and likeness of God.

The Roman denarius handed to Jesus bore the inscription, in part: 'Tiberius Caesar, august son of the Divine Augustus.' The father of Tiberius Caesar awarded himself the *imaginary* title: 'The Divine Augustus'. That is all fantasy.

By contrast our heavenly Father grants us the *real* status of imaging the Divine. Human beings, made in such image, are not the property of the rulers of this age.

Yes, the political and financial authorities are owed due deference. They are necessary for social and financial stability. But their role must not encroach on the inviolate dignity of a human being.

The brainwashed inhabitants of North Korea belong primarily to God, not to the Caesar of the ruling family dynasty. Ordinary home buyers and citizens belong primarily to God, not to the Caesar of the financial market of unbridled capitalism.

We are fortunate to live in Australia in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God.

In 1891 the first outline of our Federal Constitution was drafted (in fact, largely by a Hobart lawyer, Andrew Inglis Clarke). *(continued on page 4)*

### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Parent Information Night** for the parents of children making their First Reconciliation in December—7.30 p.m., Monday, 23rd October in the Walter Baker Hall. This is the only opportunity to collect our enrolment from and register your child in a group for preparation for the sacrament.

**All Souls Memorial Mass:** Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass on all Souls Day, Thursday, 2nd November, 7.00pm. Together as a Parish community, we will remember our deceased family and friends and all those who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year.

**November Mass Envelopes** are available in the gathering area. All Masses during November will be for November Mass intentions. Normal intentions will resume in December.

**All Soul's Day cemetery visits:** Point Clare. Prayers start in the Green Hut 11am, Thursday 2nd November.

Palmdale. Prayers start 12.30pm at the undercover area to the East of the Chapels (next to the Native Gardens).

**Catholic Mission Appeal** at all Masses this weekend. In Bujuni, a remote parish deep in the heart of Uganda, bringing life into the world is often fraught with danger. Many women take great risks to get to the nearest affordable maternity ward at St. Luke Bujuni Health Centre. Please give generously to support women and children's health through Jesus' life giving mission today. Freecall: 1800 257 296 [Catholicmission.org.au/Uganda](http://Catholicmission.org.au/Uganda)

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Oscar Landow and Henry Malin who were baptized last Sunday.

**Bus Trip Auburn Botanical Gardens:** Wed. 25th October. Leaving 8.45am. Entry \$4. Trip \$20. Morning Tea provided. Ph: Susie 0403 417 639.

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal** will be held the weekend 4th/5th November. Envelopes available in the church. Our annual quota \$36 147 equating to \$12 049 each appeal.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 27/10/17:** Laurie Jarvis, Rano Spiteri, Pamela Burton, Kevin Glacken.

**Liturgy Meeting** this Thursday, 26th October, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

**Volunteer Parishioners!!** We are looking for parishioners to assist in the repair and maintenance of our Parish church. If you can assist and are willing to be placed on a roster for continuing garden maintenance and care, or if you have specialized skills or a trade to get some of the much needed repairs to the church done, please take and complete a note on the gathering area table and return to the Parish office or to Father.

**Working Bee in Church Grounds Saturday, 11th November, 10am.**

## The Just Word

**17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:** The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993. The UN designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries—a need that has become a development priority. *Where poverty holds sway, people are held back. Lives disfigured by poverty are cruel, mean and, often short.* UN Secretary – General Ban Ki-Moon.

**From Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (2013):** 198....I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They

have much to teach us. Not only do they share in the *sensus fidei*, but in their difficulties they know the suffering Christ. We need to let ourselves be evangelised by them. The new evangelisation is an invitation to acknowledge the saving power at work in their lives and to put them at the centre of the Church's pilgrim way. We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them.

202. The need to resolve the structural causes of poverty cannot be delayed, not only for the pragmatic reason of its

urgency for the good of society, but because society needs to be cured of a sickness which is weakening and frustrating it, and which can only lead to new crises. Welfare projects, which meet certain urgent needs, should be considered merely temporary responses. As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems. Inequality is the root of social ills.

*Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Spirituality in the Pub** meeting Tuesday, 14th November, 7.30pm-9pm. Theme 2017: 'My Spirituality: Influence on the Way' The Grange Hotel Function Room, Cnr. Renwick St. and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Rev. Neil Smith, Uniting Church Minister in conversation with Sheik Mohamed Khamis: Educated in Alexandria, Egypt, Sheik Khamis came to Australia 2008 as Imam at Newcastle

Mosque and is on the Executive of the Imams Council NSW.

SIP Central Coast is an ecumenical and interfaith Speakers Forum with Q's and A's Meeting 1st Tuesday from March to October and 2nd Tuesday in November. Enq: Maryke 4328 2596 or 0498 588 216.

**MacKillop Family Services:** Can you provide a young person a safe, stable and supportive home environment? MacKillop Family

Services are seeking two sets of foster carers to provide separate long-term homes for a 13 year old boy and 14 year old girl.

Luke and Dani are kind, fun, energetic teens who have intellectual development delays. They both need carers who can give them stability, who can spend time helping them to learn new skills and reach their life goals. See notice board. Phone: 1300 791 677.

[mackillop.org.au/fostercare](http://mackillop.org.au/fostercare)



# Homily

by Richard Leonard SJ

There are people inside and outside the Church who think that Christ did not give the Church a mandate to speak about political matters. They regularly quote the Gospel we have just heard to support their case. But if one knows and understands the context and meaning within which this text was written it provides no ammunition for those who want the Church to stay indoors, reflect on things 'spiritual', preach the eternal verities, and sing hymns more ancient than modern.

In Jesus' day, we know that some people thought he was a Zealot. Zealots were a well-organised group who agitated for the end of the Roman occupation of Israel. One of the things Zealots did was withhold paying the Roman taxes. We can see why some people thought Jesus may have been a Zealot. He took the part of the poor, the sick, women and those who lived on the fringes of society. He attacked the religious authorities of his day and certainly stirred up trouble in many places he went. On the other hand he rejected violence, taught his followers to pray for their enemies and to return good for evil. Jesus showed us that the justice and equality God longs to see in the world comes from a community which is converted by love, not by weapons, fear or revenge. Jesus was no Zealot.

Rather than undermine civil authority, however, Jesus, in this passage, supports it. But he does more. 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's' is followed by 'And give to God, what is God's', which encompasses all the Caesars of this world, all civil authorities and states. The sense that we as the People of God can split off our obligations to the Gospel from the State is as false as it's dangerous.

We only have to think of some of the darkest chapters last century to see what happens when good, church-going people, like us, do not put their Sunday devotion in touch with their Monday politics. Evil can reign.

Christian leaders, who are charged to proclaim and defend the Gospel, are obliged to use whatever forum necessary to declare that God's personal love encompasses everyone and everything under heaven. As the prophet Isaiah reminds us today, God calls each one of us by name.

At times we may not agree with our religious leaders; we may think them ill informed; we may even think they have overstepped the mark. If this is the case we should tell them, enable them to consider other perspectives and to broaden the basis upon which they make their judgments. But we should never be seduced by those who want the Church sidelined from the mainstream of the debates that shape the way we live, the values we share, the laws we draft and the priorities we draw up for our human community.

If the Church shows disinterest in any of this, it is untrue to the very things for which Jesus lived, died and was raised from the dead. By all means we should give to Caesar all that Caesar is justly entitled to have for the sake of the common good. A higher allegiance, however, goes to God, who will call all Caesars to account for what they have done and what they failed to do. And we might be asked to explain how we let them get away with it in the first place.

# What belongs to God?

New Testament Commentary  
by Mary Coloe PBVM

Religion and politics – always a volatile brew! Today's Gospel shows that this is not a modern dilemma but one faced by Jesus and his first disciples. While we try to live out the values of God's kingdom, we are not divorced from the realities of this world, in fact it is this world that we are missioned to, and living in this world demands that we are political – that is, we are part of the society we live in. Vatican II expressed it like this, 'The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age ...re the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.'

Jesus had been preaching revolutionary values about the treatment of the poor and the outcasts. He reminded people of God's way of looking; he spoke of the Kingdom of God, which was a dangerous message when preaching in the Roman Empire, where Herod was considered the puppet King. Jesus' message and his growing popularity with the ordinary Jewish crowds had the possibility of turning society upside down and so some saw him as a social revolutionary. At that time some groups within Judaism were looking for ways to throw off Roman rule and return to having their own independent religious kingdom worshipping God alone – these were the Zealots. The Pharisees in the Gospel set a devious trap. If Jesus says 'No, don't pay the tax,' then he aligns himself with the anti-Roman ideals of the Zealots. If he says 'Yes, pay the tax,' then he sides with Rome's oppression of the people. Note that the people who ask the question represent both Herod, (the Herodians) and the religious leaders (the disciples of the Pharisees). This is a most unlikely mix. Since Herod only has his power with the support of Rome, the Herodians would be likely to support the Roman tax. The coin used to pay the tax was a Roman denarius which had the head of the Emperor – Tiberius Caesar – and the inscription: 'Tiberius Caesar august son of the Divine high Priest Augustus'. The coin's image and words would have been offensive to observant Jews.

Jesus turns the tables on his opponents with his response – 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.' Since the image and inscription are about Caesar then the coin belongs to Caesar. But then Jesus adds, 'and to God what belongs to God'. This challenges both the Herodians and the Pharisees to consider what belongs to God. There may even be a call to recognise that people are made 'in the image of God' and that all people therefore belong to God.

Jesus' response to his questioners makes me wonder 'what belongs to God' in my life. Does God truly get what rightfully belongs to God, or just the leftovers in my busy schedule? If only giving God what belongs to God was as simple as paying taxes. My God asks more of me than that.



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Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give "to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Does my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving "to God what belongs to God"?

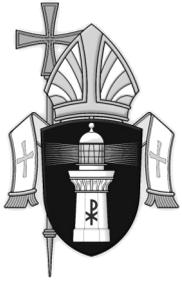
*See Matthew 22:21*

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# 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

## Whose Image and Likeness?

(Continued from page 1)

It took another one hundred years for the Catholic Church to issue its first official endorsement of democracy. After listing some good features of democracy, Pope John Paul II went on to say:

'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Centesimus Annus) (Italics added)

That correct conception is signalled and effected by Baptism. At our Baptisms we heard in the depths of our heart the same words which Jesus heard at his Baptism: 'This is my beloved child with whom I am well pleased.'

This is our true identity as we are called to image God during what we hope will be a long and blessed lifetime.

Let us who have the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism, use whatever influence we have to ensure that the world may give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but always to God what is God's.

© 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-8.30 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 during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. . 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.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### What's in a face?

The question of coinage was a problematic one for first century Jews. The tradition – grounded in the commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai – forbade the use of 'graven' or carved images. The people of Israel took this prohibition very seriously and did not portray the human face in artwork of any kind. Roman coins were minted with the face of the emperor on them and it was compulsory that taxes be paid with Roman coin. This helps to explain the role of the Temple money-changers who converted the Roman coin into Temple coin that could be used for religious purposes.