



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR  
THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Lola Proctor,  
Mother Mary Angelica of the  
Annunciation,  
Arthur Heighington,  
Bernie Koen.

• **Anniversaries:**

Mitchel Powell, Natalie Mrvica,  
Frank Savage, Eve Stanislas,  
(Gwen) Patricia McCarthy,  
Ireneo and Eleuteria Alejaga,  
Mary Bourke.

• **And the sick:**

Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt,  
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,  
Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham,  
Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin,  
Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen,  
Pat Fitzgerald, Rene Glase,  
Vince Zappavigna,  
Arnold Diorio, Irene Beck,  
Maryanne Diorio, June Ferry,  
May Leger, Jack Moulds,  
Carol Cross, Bruce Spence,  
Dian Balce, Keith Maiden,  
Brian Moloney, Carren Quinn,  
Mary Ann Gormly,  
Frank Schmidt.

**Inside this issue:**

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
Directory	4

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

# The Voice

3rd April 2016

Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

Psalter Week 2

The earliest Christian community focused strongly on the wounds of the Risen Lord for two reasons: to affirm the fact that Christ, now raised from the dead was the same person who had lived with them; and also to make sense of the physical wounds being inflicted on them for Christ's sake.

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds. We know the community of Ephesus, for which this Gospel is written, was experiencing great persecution. Is it any wonder, one generation from the earliest disciples, that the sign of Christ's risen presence are *his* marks of suffering?

Our own world continues to be intrigued by manifestations of Jesus' wounds. Do you remember when a well-known television reporter went in search of mystics and stigmatics? The television network ratings soared. Everyone from the true believer to the cynic wanted to see if the hands really bled, or the wounds really wept. Whatever the truth of these private revelations and experiences, it seems words and wounds still make a claim on us today.

You and I know, however, that we don't have to go to a stigmatic to see Christian battle wounds. We carry within us the death of the Lord. We all have our wounds. And we also know that, for many of us, it is precisely when we are wounded most deeply by life, that our

doubts in the presence of God are greatest.

The Easter story is not that we should be ashamed of this, or pretend it doesn't happen. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is into this chaos that Christ comes with words of peace, with empathy from the one who was wounded for our sake and with the mission to forgive as we are forgiven.

I remember struggling with some personal issues in the Jesuit novitiate. I'm told that's what these places are for! One day, when I felt lowest about myself, the novice master, adapting Psalm 118, said to me, 'you realise that the stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone.' By this he meant that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

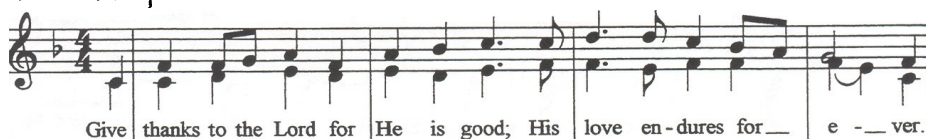
And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fear, his doubts and his disbelief and through the wounds of healing and peace transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is that which God wants to use as the cornerstone. And when this happens we can cry with the psalmist, 'This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.'

© Richard Leonard SJ.

## Psalms Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Bishop Peter** will be visiting the Parish on the weekend of Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th April. On Saturday, from 10.30am—12.30pm, Bishop Peter is keen to engage with you all in hearing your vision for the Parish as well as share his own for our parish and the Diocese. Please write your name on the list in the gathering area if you will be attending. A sausage sizzle is being proposed for Saturday, 16th after 5pm Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you are able to assist on the night.

**The Live, Pray, Love Project's, Faith, Fun, Family** will take place *this* Sunday, 3rd April at the Walter Baker Hall, 2pm-5pm. Plenty of children's activities—jumping castle, fairy floss, games and much more. Call Gladys 0421 312 362 or Michelle 0403 927 505.

**St. John the Baptist Kinder Enrolment Information Evening** Tuesday, 5th April, 7pm in the school hall.

**St. John the Baptist School:** Under 6 morning and tour of the school. Wednesday, 6th April, 9.30am.

**Home Blessings during Easter:** Fr. Timothy has made himself available for those who wish to have their homes blest during the season of Easter. Please phone the Parish Office 4341 1073 with your name and address.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Prayers. this Sunday, 3rd April, St. John the Baptist Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm with Meditations on Mercy from the words of Pope Francis.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 10/4/16:** Marianne Bowyer, Mary Wood and Gerri O'Keeffe.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 8/4/16:** Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Christine French, Michael French

**Thank You** to all for your generous support of the various collections over Easter.

**Good Friday** raised \$3,137.70.  
**Project Compassion** raised \$6,524.70.

**Easter Dues** raised \$2,623.45.

**Cancer Support Group** for those suffering from cancer or those wishing to support them meet the first Tuesday of the month due 5th April, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room.

**First Holy Communion:** Please pray for our children who will be receiving the Sacrament over Eastertide.

**Rite of Initiation –Easter Vigil:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for:

**Infant Baptism:** Kiah Edmonds, Scarlett Edmonds.

**Conditional Baptism & Full Communion:** Shane Bilham.

**Full Communion:** Georgina Bakarich, Vesna Bakarich-Davies.

**Full Initiation:** Natalie Edmonds, Deborah Munn, Jasmine Bilham, Angus Bilham, Noah Bilham, Afra Plummer and Bradley Plummer.

**Morning Tea Roster 10/4/16:** Our Catechists.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Please phone Parish office on 43411073 if you know of a member of your family, a friend or a parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Sacrament.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Parent Information Night for Confirmation** this Monday, 4th April, 7.30pm in the Walter Baker Hall.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Just Word

### Neighbour Day 29 March:

Neighbour Day is Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door, across the street or on the next farm for a beer, a barbie or just a cuppa.

Held on the last Sunday in March every year, it's the perfect day to say thanks for being a great neighbour and for being there when I needed you most...

The principal aim of Neighbour Day is to build better relationships

with the people who live around us, especially the elderly and vulnerable. Neighbours are important because good relationships with others can and do change communities. Social connection also makes us feel better as it helps prevent loneliness, isolation and depression.

Neighbour Day brings together like-minded people, resources, and organisations to grow stronger, well connected communities.

Working with neighbourhoods

across Australia we aim to grow this ethos beyond a single day—to every day of the year.

Relationships Australia  
For more information about Neighbour Day: [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)  
The Neighbour Day website has information about how we can celebrate Neighbour Day in our communities.

[www.neighbourday.org/resources/how-to-celebrate-neighbour-day](http://www.neighbourday.org/resources/how-to-celebrate-neighbour-day)

## From the Diocese and beyond

### A Weekend Conference for Catholic Families in 2016:

Thee 'National Association of Catholic Families' will be hosting a Weekend Family Conference April 8-10 at Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong. Talks and activities for all ages, so come and enjoy the excellent speakers, including our own Bishop Peter Comensoli. The Conference includes family catechesis and prayer, evening social entertainment and the wonderful company of other Catholic families. Please contact:

[nacf.sydney@hotmail.com](mailto:nacf.sydney@hotmail.com) or phone Mary on 02 9875 3664 or

Karen on 0413 539 378. Registration and bookings are also available at [www.trybooking.com/159690](http://www.trybooking.com/159690).

### CatholicCare Pregnancy Counselling

program provides telephone and face-to-face counselling around pregnancy issues. The program assists young women and their partners by providing ante-natal classes as well as support following the birth of their child, miscarriage or fertility loss. CatholicCare also has Young Mum's Groups offering support for parents of children under 2

years of age and is a great way to meet other new Mum's, share experiences and learn from others. Contact the Central Coast family centre for more information Phone 4356 2600.

**Divine Mercy Sunday: April 3.** Today's Divine Mercy programme at St. Patrick's Parish, East Gosford.

1pm: Adoration & Reconciliation

2pm: Mass

3pm: Chaplet and Benediction.

You are warmly invited.

# The Peace which the World cannot give

3rd April 2016

by Fr Michael Tate

In preparing this homily I have been thinking of what Pope Francis might make of this Gospel passage.

Thomas rejected the reports of some of the disciples that they had seen the risen Lord. Did they exclude him from their circle? Did they purge their group of this 'doubting Thomas'?

No. We read that a week later 'Thomas was with them'. The disciples kept Thomas in their company, remained his companions, waited for something or Someone to be revealed to them.

Does this tell the Church not to too readily exclude those who have doubts, express those doubts, struggle with the faith of the 'true believers'?

Doubt and questioning are a normal and proper part of being human. We should allow for this within the community of the Church. A point may come where a person may no longer remain in the church with any integrity. But a dismissive, excluding church is not the church of this gospel story.

One hopes it will be the church of Pope Francis who bent down to wash the feet of twelve prisoners on Holy Thursday. Prisoners are by definition excluded from civil society, but the Pope did not exclude them from his pastoral care. By treating those prisoners as companions, he allowed our Risen Lord to bring a great gift to them.

What gift? 'Peace be with you.'

These are the first words uttered by our Risen Lord to his followers. They are not words of command or obligation. Much less are they words of condemnation for deserting him in his hour of need.

No, the first words are words of gift: 'Peace be with you.' What sort of peace? It is that inner assurance which comes from the fact that the Conqueror of Death wants to be close to us.

In the midst of all the tribulations and the turmoil and the pains and the myriad precursor deaths which we suffer on all sorts of levels, the Conqueror of Death wants to be with us.

This helps us face those incidents which seem to sap our life away, the precursor

deaths, real enough and some not so little. We hope to share in the victory over ultimate death which is in the gift of the Conqueror of Death, Jesus of Nazareth, Risen Lord, and that brings us peace.

This is, obviously, not a peace which the world can give. The world is convinced of the ultimate power of death. It is a peace which only comes from the presence of our Risen Lord.

Thomas had the privilege of seeing Our Lord's physical presence for whom locked doors were no hindrance. This is obviously not available for us. Yet Our Lord says 'Blessings on those who do not see and yet believe.' Believe what? Believe that the Risen Lord is willing and able to be present for us. But how can this be?

There are at least two answers we can be sure of.

Firstly, we are invited to share in Holy Communion. 'This is my Body, this is my Blood. Take, eat. Take, drink.' When we do so, in the words of St John Paul II, 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the resurrection.'

The second answer is more demanding. Our Risen Lord is present as those counted as least in the world. He is those without the necessities of life: food, shelter, medical care, comfort in distress.

We know from Matthew 25 that our salvation depends on responding to those who are hungry, naked, sick or in prison. We may ask: 'When did we see you in this situation, Lord?' He will answer, 'When you did it to the least, you did it to me.'

Our salvation and the salvation of every human being depends on responding to Christ's needs in so far as he is still bearing wounds of one sort or another.

We can be sure that Pope Francis believes in this truth. He encourages us to respond to the wounded in the style of St Francis of Assisi: 'Preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.'

Pope Francis is wordlessly preaching that Gospel and radiating that peace which is the gift of the Lord, that peace which the world cannot give, that peace which is his gift to Thomas, that peace which is his gift to you and to me.

Alleluia! Alleluia!



---

"Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed," Jesus says in today's Gospel. For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously. Then, in our time too, "men and women in great numbers" will be "added to the Lord."

See John 20:29; Acts 5:14

---



## 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**, corner of  
Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office  
P.O. Box 264  
54 Victoria Road  
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre  
Walter Baker Hall  
100 Blackwall Road

Phone: (02) 4341 1073  
Fax: (02) 4341 0214  
Email: [parish@woywoycatholic.org.au](mailto:parish@woywoycatholic.org.au)

### "He must increase, I must decrease"

Fr. Jack Robson. *Parish Priest.*

Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S. Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.  
*Assistant Priests.*

*Office Staff:* Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill,  
Margaret Cooper.

*Office Hours:* 9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

*Deadline for The Voice:* 3.30 p.m. Wednesday



*Jesus reached out and ministered to those in need, meeting  
people where they were in their lives.*

Underpinned by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, the Live Pray Love Project nurtures an inclusive environment for members of community to LIVE and not just survive. Together we will learn to PRAY to know Jesus more and to have a personal relationship with Him which then leads to LOVE.

#### MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

DATE: 1st Sunday of every month (Starting 3rd April 2016)

TIME: 2 - 5pm

PLACE: Walter Baker Hall,  
Cnr of Victoria and Blackwall Roads, Woy Woy NSW 2256

#### TOPICS:

**Apr** Faith, Fun, Family  
3rd April 2016

**Jul** Cultural Day/Family Day  
3rd July 2016

**May** Mary and Prayer  
1st May 2016

**Aug** The Environment  
7th August 2016

**Jun** Saints and Sacraments (Baptism)  
5th June 2016

**Sep** Catholic Social Justice  
4th September 2016

CONTACT DETAILS: Gladys 0421 312 362 Michelle 0403 927 505  
St John the Baptist Catholic Church 4341 1073

Visit our Facebook page for guest speakers & regular updates for each event.  
[www.facebook.com/liveprayloveproject](http://www.facebook.com/liveprayloveproject)

*"Never see a need without doing something about it"*  
- Saint Mary of the Cross

#### 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 7am.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am Mass.

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 god-  
parent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents and godpar-  
ents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, held on the 2nd and 4th Sun-  
day 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).

**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. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

#### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

**CATHOLICCARE** Marriage & Family Relationships.  
Phone: 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 Ken 0400 335 351 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 approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm.  
Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

We're on the Web!  
[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of Broken  
Bay