



ORDINARY TIME

30th Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A
29th October 2017
Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Remembrances:**
John Baker.

- **And the sick:**
Pat Burgmann, Mary Drinan,
Margarita Gomez, June Towson, Therese
Corner, Audrey Barsenbach, Margaret
Davin, Helen Taylor,
Patricia Dwyer, Roy Beverage,
Brian Finlayson, Laura Krauss,
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

True Perspectives

When my father returned from serving in the Middle East during World War II, he brought home a set of photographs of the Sphinx, the Pyramids, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and so on. The set was accompanied by a mysterious instrument which gave we young boys endless fascination: bioptic lenses which created a 3D effect.

What was a flat photograph suddenly had depth and foreground. The sphinx loomed close, the pyramids receded. The true dimension in which those objects existed was revealed. Their reality was more apparent because we saw them in the right perspective.

Our Lord is asking us to see reality about the Divine and about human beings, beyond a flat description of 'God' or 'person', and then we will respond appropriately.

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? That is too abstract. No, we are to love 'the *Lord* your God', the proper Hebrew title for the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery.

The *Lord* God is the liberator, the one who sets us free. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the Lord your God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, we are commanded 'Love your neighbour as *yourself*'. So, it is necessary to get a correct perspective on 'yourself'.

Am I merely a biological phenomenon? The answer is 'no'. In the wonderful storytelling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had divine breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being.

We earthlings are conceived with the

Divine Breath, Divine Life, at the core of our being.

In a James McAuley hymn*, we sing of Jesus Christ as 'Divine Love in a human heart'. What is true of Jesus Christ by nature, is true of us by adoption, by grace.

The great Spanish mystic, St John of the Cross, wrote:

'[God] is hidden by his essence and his presence in the innermost being of the soul.'

'You yourself are [God's] dwelling and his inner secret room and hiding place. ... *(The Spiritual Canticle, 6.2, 7)*

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way. If only we saw ourselves in that way. If only we saw in that way every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically distant and culturally very different, but 'L'Amour sans frontieres'.

With these perspectives, seeing the true dimensions of God, self and the other, then how easily we could fulfil the dual command: 'You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul and with your whole mind. And you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

In the run-up to Christmas I have quite a few baptisms to celebrate.

Pray for all those to be baptised, that all those who encounter them will love them with the love due a neighbour who is the dwelling place of God.

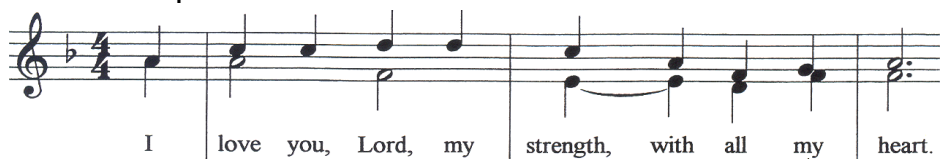
Pray that those baptised persons may come to the fulfilment of divine and human love in the everlasting bliss of Heaven.

'Jesus, in your heart we find' Text 1976 James McAuley: music 1976 Richard Connolly.

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

All Souls Memorial Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass on Thursday, 2nd November. 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.

Blessing of the Graves Thursday, 2nd November Fr. Philip will lead the blessing of the graves at Point Clare. Prayers to start 11.00am in the 'green hut'. Palmdale. Prayers start 12.30pm at the undercover area to the East of the Chapels (next to the Native Gardens).

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

The Book of the Names of the Dead will be in the church during November. You are invited to write the names of the faithful departed in it. A lamp will be lit at all Masses.

'**El Shaddai**' **Monthly meetings** for November are 4th, 11th and 18th.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal: An extra collection during all Masses will be held next weekend 4th-5th November. CWF envelopes available in the church. Our annual quota is \$36,147 equating to \$12,049 for each appeal.

Presentation of Candidates for Reconciliation will be at all Masses this weekend. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Scout Harival baptized last Sunday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 3/11/17: Bill Cantley, Mabel Torres, Linda Potestas, Mary McCumstie,

Catholic Missions Appeal held last weekend raised \$3,650.

Thank you for supporting this year's appeal through your kind gifts and prayers—for joining in Jesus' life-giving mission and supporting women and children's health in Uganda and around the world.

Liturgy Meeting will be Thursday, 9th November, 7.30pm replacing cancelled meeting last week.

Working Bee in the Church grounds Saturday, 11th November at 10am. **Volunteers needed – please save the date!**

Children's Liturgy Roster this Sunday 29/10/17:

Ingrid Stevens, Anne Maree Tonkin, Lisa Hutchinson.

Melbourne Cup Trifecta: Ladies of the Rosary Group will be selling trifectas at all Masses this weekend. Tickets 50 cents.

Coffee and Chat: The monthly social gathering for parishioners will be held on November 13th instead of 20th as scheduled. The gathering commences at 1pm and will conclude shortly after 2pm. Enq: Kaye or Bernie 4341 6343.

Upcoming Events for Mary Mac's Place: On 25th November, Patonga Beach Hotel and Ettalong Diggers present "Giving Back to Mary Mac's" night fundraiser – hosted by Scott McRae. (to be held at Ettalong Diggers).

7th December Frantastics Choir "Family and Friends Christmas Concert". Walter Baker Hall.

Watch this space for further information. If you need to discuss, please call Louise Degeling on 040 155 1864

The Just Word

Sydney Peace Prize:

From the website of the Sydney Peace Foundation:

The Sydney Peace Prize Foundation awards Australia's only annual international prize for peace—the Sydney Peace Prize...The Prize is specifically directed at peace with justice, which means the practical realisation of human rights; food, health, education and freedoms, not just a lack of oppression. It means children can walk to school without

being shot and asylum seekers seek freedom without being murdered, it means food security...the very broadest sense of human rights.

1998: First Sydney Peace Prize awarded to Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank, providing no-interest, small loans.

The prize for 2014 was awarded to Julian Burnside AO QC: 'For his brave and principled advocacy for human rights and for those wronged by government, for insisting that

we respect our international legal obligations towards those seeking asylum, and for his unflinching defence of the rule of law as a means to achieve a more peaceful and just society.'

2017 Black Lives Matter. Human Rights Movement that began as a hastag in response to the killing of an unarmed black teenager. Presentation of award and lecture. Sydney Town Hall, 2nd November 6pm.

More information: <http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au>

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Patrick's Business College (Institute of Education) Information Session: Places are filling fast in our 2018 Diplomas of Business and Business Administration. These 40-week courses are ideal for Year 10, 11 and 12 school

leavers and provide a real pathway to a career and university. We also assist well over 90% of our school graduates to find well-paid jobs in top tier firms in Sydney.

Our next information Session focusing on giving students

and their parents an insight into 'St. Patrick's Pathway to Success' will be held at 11am Sunday, 12 November at our Sydney CBD premises on Level 1, 65 York Street, Sydney.

Homily

by Richard Leonard SJ

Nguyen Van Mah is one of eight sons. In 1978 his poor farming parents had to decide which one of their 12 children would be sent on a boat from Vietnam. They knew there was a great risk that they would be sending their son to his death on the South China Sea.

At 4.00 am a knock on the door of the family home came and Mah said his goodbyes. He has not seen his parents since. Mah was blindfolded and travelled in the back of a truck for eight hours. He was led through the jungle to a beach where the blindfold was removed. Mah told me that sometimes at this moment people are shot by evil traders who collect the money without any intention of dispatching a boat. That families never hear from their children is no surprise.

Mah told me, 'We were lucky, we made it off the beach.' There were 29 adults in a boat built for 10. Inadequately prepared for the two week trip, all the boat people were sick, hungry and exposed. Thai pirates attacked their boat, executed three men and raped all the women on board. They were to bury another six people at sea who died from the effects of the journey.

On sighting land, the remaining 20 people in Mah's boat thought hope had arrived. But the Malaysian Navy, under orders to fire on all Vietnamese boats, forced it to return to international waters. Mah told me, 'At this point I almost lost my faith in God and human beings. I was going to die.'

The boat began to take water and was noticed by a Dutch trading ship which rescued them and deposited them in the Philippines. Mah migrated to Australia 12 months later and is now the local doctor in an outback community that could not get a doctor for two years.

Isaiah tells us today 'You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.' Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the love of God is fulfilled precisely in as much as we love our neighbour.

No pressing issue in the Western World, it seems to me, invites such hysteria as does immigration. Until recently, most western countries have been good in offering hospitality to people who have chosen to leave, or have had to flee their country of birth. Given our comparative wealth this hospitality is entirely appropriate. And it is also appropriate for our countries to have a threshold number for the sake of the common good.

In today's Gospel, however, Jesus does not promise us that the love of God and neighbour is going to cost us nothing. Jesus' law of love involves sacrifice for us

individually and as a nation. Through the acceptance of this teaching we are committing ourselves to being our neighbour's keeper. In another part of the same Gospel, Jesus tells us that 'those to whom much has been given, much will be required.' Sadly, many of us want the good life for ourselves, while doing very little to help other countries become more liveable, and then we can reject people who want to share in the blessings we have worked for and inherited.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus being forced to flee Israel for Egypt as refugees. If the Holy Family were coming our way these days, they might be sent back to King Herod. May this Eucharist see in us a change of heart that enables our faith to act justly toward all people everywhere. May our goodness and hospitality mirror on earth the welcome we hope to enjoy from Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the kingdom which is promised to all, irrespective of where any of us has been born.

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSS

Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

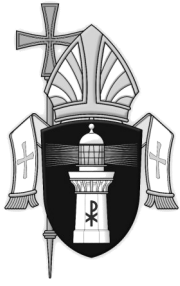


We fulfil the commandment to love our neighbour when we exercise good stewardship — joyfully sharing our gifts of life, abilities, and resources to meet our neighbour's need.



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 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.

God's Word

by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

A major theme of the Scripture readings is 'Love God and others'. The author of Exodus reminds the Israelites what it was like to be aliens in a strange land, as a way to teach them to reach out to others in need. God gives the Israelites special instructions to welcome strangers, care for widows and orphans, and expect no interest on loans. God hears the cries of those in need and comes to their aid – through our own hands. The psalm is a profession of love and confidence that God is always there – strong as a rock, stronger than a rock. The psalmist gives God many strong titles: strength, rock, fortress, shield, stronghold. This hymn thanks God for keeping us safe, out of harm's way. The reading from Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians praises them for turning away from idols and accepting the word of Jesus proclaimed by Paul. They have become a model and an inspiration for other Christian communities around them. By Jesus' day, Judaism had compiled an extensive list of laws that were followed in God's name. In the Gospel reading, the Jews tried to trap Jesus again by asking which of the hundreds of laws were most important. Instead of picking one, Jesus summarised all the laws with two: 'Love . . . God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind', and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Actually, these laws were not new to the Jews. Jesus sums up all the teaching of the law and the prophets in these two commandments, and in doing so, he gave this guide for living a Christian life.