

THE VOICE



ORDINARY TIME

32nd Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME

Year A

12th November 2017

Psalter Week 4

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Maureen Catania.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. John Harcombe, Megan Manning,
Peter John Grima, Kath Spear.
- **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.

**Thank You, Thank You!!
Charitable Works Fund:
\$9,850 was raised in last
week's collection. Thank
you for your generosity.
This leaves a shortfall for
this appeal of \$2,199.**

The Hour and the Time

The US Presidential election is held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of November every four years. It is set, fixed, predictable.

In Australia, the Prime Minister has a discretion as to when to call a federal election. As the three year term nears its final months, speculation grows as to the date. All attention focuses on the possible day, the hour full of destiny for the future. Everyone has an opinion, some more informed than others, but only one person knows – the Prime Minister.

It was like that amongst the Jewish people of Jesus' time. There was an expectation that God would intervene in human history. There would be a Divine Manifestation which would set humanity on a new course. Speculation was rife: When would the moment occur, the moment full of destiny for the future?

Israel was often portrayed as a bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the question was sometimes put: 'When would the Bridegroom – the Anointed One of God, the Christ – when would the Bridegroom appear?'

Jesus' warning is to the attendants of the bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared. You don't want to miss the moment.' *Some* (the five foolish attendants) did miss the moment: the earthly ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. They did not see him as the long awaited bridegroom of Israel.

But His warning is also for us.

The Catholic Church is the new Bride of Christ. We are the attendants to the Bride and the imperative applies to us also: Be alert, be vigilant, be prepared.

Prepared for what? For the eruption, the intervention of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, into *our* history, into *our* moment of time.

Our task is to trim our lamps – to be prepared and alert to the signs of His coming.

What will those signs be?

As we will hear in the Gospel two weeks hence, perhaps His coming will be in the least significant people in need, those in need of the necessities of life: food, drink, clothing, companionship.

But his coming could also be in the great movements of history. Where is Christ coming to meet us? Is Christ coming to meet us in the modern movements which demand to hold authority accountable, or which press for just recognition of women?

We can foolishly remain in the dark in relation to these questions, or we can wisely try to throw light on them. Only then we will be able to discern whether indeed it is the Lord who is approaching.

In the meantime, let us take the trouble to ready ourselves to carry the torch for Our Lord should we discern His approach in those or any other great movements of history.

We may be surprised to hear the Gospel acclamation: "In the middle of the night there was a shout: 'The Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him.'"

Will we be prepared when we hear the shout?

Come, Lord Jesus!

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of man is coming. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

Anniversary of the Dedication of St. John the Baptist Church occurs this coming Saturday, 18th November and will be celebrated at all Saturday and Sunday Masses. Fr. Robert Borg, Dean of the Cathedral will celebrate the 9am Mass on Saturday. Following Mass and Benediction he will speak on "The Liturgy" in the Leo Mahon room. All welcome.

Dedication of the Church On Sunday 19 November we celebrate 10 years of the dedication of our church building, Saint John the Baptist to God, a place where we gather to worship in spirit and in truth and grow together in love. Father John Hill will celebrate the 9.15 Mass. Following Mass we will have morning tea in the Leo Mahon room. Bring a plate and come along to share this great mile stone of our church." Contact Bernie French 0407214699 or Gladys Leger 0421312362 if you have any questions.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for, Riley Crozier, Ethan Fournel and Frankie Lynch, who were baptized last Sunday.

Parish Pastoral Council meeting: Tuesday, 14 November at 7.30pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy Appeal: SVDP is appealing in November for donations of children's toys, new if possible. Over 100 families are visited by SVDP members each week on the Peninsula, many with children. The appeal is focusing on children up to age 12. A toy box will be in the gathering area for toys to be placed in. Your generosity is appreciated.

Cuppa and a Chat: The monthly social gathering for parishioners will be held this Monday, November 13th instead of 20th as scheduled. The gathering commences at 1pm and will conclude shortly after 2pm. Transport provided. Enq: Kaye or Bernie 4341 6343.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 17/11/17: Emma Baker, Kathleen Cullen, Cheryl Sillick, Lisa Ann Rae.

Melbourne Cup Trifecta: Winners of Trifecta are Beryl and Steve Wilkinson. Rosary makers thank parishioners for their kind support..

Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers: List of various types of hampers needed are on display this weekend. Hampers to be returned by the weekend of 9/10 December.

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 from 7.30pm).

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.

Children's Liturgy Roster 19/11/17: Brenda Sweet, Hanna El Khatib, Ingrid Stevens.

Parish Bus: A reminder to parishioners who use the Parish bus service that walkers or walking frames **cannot be taken on the bus**. This is due to the damage caused to the seat upholstery. These expensive repairs must be done before registration. Please let the bus driver know if you need assistance.

Mozart's Requiem; Presented by The Central Coast Philharmonia on Saturday 18th November at 7:30pm here in our wonderful church. Adults \$20, Conc \$27, Children/Students free. To book; 4324 7477. For further details see poster in Gathering Space or call Lyn 0417 659 526.

Social Justice

Nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The power of individual testimony can inspire action and strengthen our determination to make nuclear abolition a reality. 'Testimonies of Hiroshima and

Nagasaki: Women speak Out for Peace' is a testament of *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) who experienced the bombings of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945, and their cries

for peace.
www.un.org/disarmament/education/Movies/women_speak_out_for_peace
DVD available at PeoplesDecade.org

From the Diocese and beyond

"Keeping a Finger on the Pulse!" Program presenter is Sr. Virginia, Sister of St. Joseph. Last session of the year to be held at Sisters of St. Joseph, Retreat Centre, Kincumber. Wednesday, 29th November, 10am and concluding 2.45pm with breaks for morning tea and lunch. Cost: \$15 given on the day. Morning tea provided. BYO own lunch. Tea/coffee provided at lunch time. If attending, email bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au or Phone 02 4368 2805.

Advent Women's Retreat at Notre Dame Sydney: On Monday 4th December from 9am-4.30pm. All women are invited to spend a day around the theme of "The Mystery of His Nativity." There will be Mass, Adoration, opportunities for Confession and to inspiring talks. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. The retreat is taking place at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia. It is free, but registration is essential:

Phone 02 8204 4189 or online: www.trybooking.com/SPJK.

Handel's Messiah: Presented by Central Coast Chorale & Chamber Orchestra. 3pm Sunday, 26 November 2017. Gosford High School Hall, Racecourse Rd, Gosford. Tickets \$35 general, \$30 concession, \$15 student. Book via www.centralcoastchorale.org or call 4307 9355 or buy at the door.

Homily by Richard Leonard SJ

One Sunday a pastor told the congregation that the church needed some extra money and asked the people to prayerfully consider giving a little extra in the offering plate. He said that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the offering plates were passed, the pastor glanced down and noticed that someone had placed a \$1000 cheque on the plate.

He was so excited that he immediately shared his joy with his congregation and said he'd like to personally thank the person who placed the money in the plate.

A very quiet, elderly, saintly spinster at the back shyly raised her hand. The pastor asked her to come to the front. Slowly she made her way to altar. He told her how wonderful it was that she gave so much and, in thanksgiving, asked her to pick out three hymns.

Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three most handsome men in the congregation and said, 'OK Father, I'll take him, him, and him.' Now that's a modern take on a wise virgin!

In one sense the parable of the wise and foolish virgins could be considered the first known oil crisis in the east. It is, however, about planning for the future and pacing oneself to see that one has a future to enjoy.

In Christian theology this is called 'discernment'. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, wrote a lot about discernment and one of his teachings is that the Holy Spirit allows us to prepare for our future without living it.

Think for a moment of the times when we are going to have a

difficult interview or a conversation we would rather not have. We play out in our mind how the interaction will run. It rarely happens how we imagine and we find that our anxiety and fear has often been misplaced. What is curious is that on the next occasion we go through this same process of trying to live the future all over again. Tragically, some people are so anxious about their future that they try and control it and everyone associated with it. It's always a disaster.

St Ignatius was suspicious of this process. Ignatius seems to have understood today's Gospel very well. The early church thought Jesus would return quickly. There was a crisis of faith when he didn't. Some Christians lived as though this imminent return was a fact. We are still waiting. Matthew tells us then, that the Christian life is about wisdom, right judgment and reading the signs of the times.

St Ignatius tells us the best way to prepare for the future is to let go of the unhealed past, as best as we can, and live in the here and now. The Holy Spirit helps us see what needs to be done today and what preparation is necessary for tomorrow. This is such simple and sound advice and yet many of us don't heed it. For some of us it takes nothing to feel the hurt and pain of our past or to be consumed by the future.

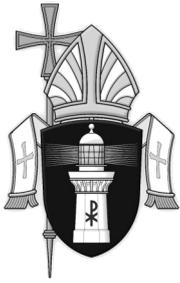
Alcoholics Anonymous sums it up neatly when it tells us to take life 'one day at a time' which is another way of saying what Matthew's community came to see, 'keep awake because you know not the time or place'.

Like the sensible bridesmaids in today's parable, good stewards make sure that they, and whatever gifts are theirs to share, are ready to serve when the Master calls.



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.

For Sale

Parish Car

2012 Mazda 3 Maxx Sport Sedan

BL Series 2 Auto MY13

4 Cyl, 2 litre engine.

79 000 km's. Black.

Rego until 1.9.18.

Great condition. \$14,300.

Please call the Parish Office,

4341 1073 if interested.

