



3rd Sunday in  
ORDINARY TIME

Year A

22nd January 2017

Psalter Week 3

**OF YOUR  
CHARITY  
PRAY FOR THE  
SOULS OF**

• **Recently deceased:**

Gina Dillon, Maurice Nimmo,  
Fr. Simon Roderigues. M.S.F.S.

• **Anniversaries:**

Richard Culmer, Edward Luxford.

• **Remembrances:**

Kathleen Kay.

• **And the sick:**

Maryanne Diorio, Alan Harland,  
John Allen, Audrey Barendich,  
Keith Oakes, Margaret Thoms,  
Margaret Jackson, Lorna Russom,  
Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Jason Wellin,  
Maureen Cows, Beryl Allen,  
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J., Mary Scarf,  
Maureen Carlon, Irudaya Mary,  
Kevin and Sheila Houghton,  
Elizabeth Anne Kenney, Ian Wilks,  
Steve Paino, Ralph Weate,  
Celeste Boonaerts, Helen McKeon,  
Cath Harding, Fr. Jack Robson,  
Carren Quinn, Don Mathesan,  
XChev Shengi, Pat Fitzgerald,  
Gada Selim, Grace Willins,

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

# THE VOICE

## The Voice of Jesus

There are certain news readers or presenters on the radio or TV one wants to switch off: something in the voice grates. Others, one could listen to endlessly: something about the tone is so attractive.

Jesus' voice must have sounded fascinating: something about it perfectly vocalised his attractive and fascinating personality.

It gave true voice to who he was, and this is what proved so alluring to those four fishermen, two sets of two brothers.

It is an extraordinary situation.

These men were running successful fishing operations, family businesses. But once Jesus passed by and *called* them, the Gospel says, *at once* they left their boats and followed him.

*Immediately*, they allowed this stranger to wrench them out of their place in society, in the commercial life of the Sea of Galilee. Without any further ado, they gave up their status as independent and settled businessmen and became dependent itinerants.

How did this come about?

I think because, hearing his voice, they realised that Jesus was the true vocalist of God.

Irish author and mystic, John O'Donohue, once wrote, 'Something in us senses and knows how perfectly the contours of the soul fit the divine embrace.' \*

Maybe Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John sensed that, in this Jesus, there was a Soul whose contours perfectly fitted the divine embrace. They were prepared to risk everything, abandoning their livelihood, for the chance to have *their* souls contoured along the same lines.

More particularly, they were Jewish.

Their Jewish scriptures and tradition would have prepared them, filled them with longing and expectation for the Messiah. They were in a state of readiness.

And then, the call: 'Follow me...'; the call not to an isolated individual promising to save his soul, but to two brothers and then another two brothers. Immediately, a community was being formed and its task was to bring others into that Jesus-following community.

At some stage, you will hear his fascinating voice, and a decision will be required: a decision of faith.

'Come, follow me.' The faith required is not a peculiar sort of knowledge about this or that. 'Faith' is setting out on a journey in the hopeful conviction that *this Jesus is*

the person who wants to set me on the Way which is most life giving,

the person through whom I can receive divine mercy,

the person in whom I can share victory over death,

the person by whom I am called to participate in Divine life.

The Nazarene is calling.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John are also beckoning: 'Take the risk of joining us. Let us together follow the sound of that voice which reverberates throughout all creation, the sound of that voice which perfectly articulates Divine Truth and Beauty, the call of that voice sounded by Our Lord Jesus Christ.'

\* John O'Donohue, *Divine Beauty: The Invisible Embrace*, Bantam Press, p.246.

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### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*



## Around the Parish

**Australia Day** Thursday, 26th January is a public holiday. The office will be closed and re-open Friday 9.30am. Deadline for notices for newsletter of 29th is this Tuesday, 24th.

**Catechist Meeting:** Due to Australia Day falling on Thursday, 26th January, our first meeting will be held this Tuesday, 24th January at 9am in the Leo Mahon Room. It is vital all attend as schools and classes will be changed/allocated at this meeting. Please do your best to attend. Thank you.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 27/1/2017:** Emma Baker, Warren Sparrow, Bec Whackett, Tom French, Emma Baker.

**New Servers Rosters** now available in the Servers Sacristy.

**Living Laudato Si': The Ecological Challenge of Pope Francis**, this book written by Manny Bautista was recently published and released. The book is a 40-day reflection on some of the important themes of Pope Francis' encyclical "**Laudate Si': On Care for our Common Home.**" It provides us with concrete and practical response to the call of Pope Francis to care for the Earth, our Common Home. It highlights the interconnection and interdependence of God's "very good" creation, and our integral relationship with the natural world. The book will help us to rediscover our eco-vocation as carers of God's creation, rekindle a sense of intimacy and communion with the natural world, and facilitate the much-needed ecological conversion. The book is being endorsed by six Australians,

including Bishop Peter Comensoli of the Diocese of Broken Bay, one Filipino and one American.

Manny will visit our Parish *this* weekend 21-22 January to promote his book in all our Masses. You will have the opportunity to have your book signed by him.

Now available to parishioners and church groups for only \$17.50. Pensioners \$15. Postage cost \$5.00.

To order please contact:  
Fr. Norberto Ochoa  
0437 324 227.  
or at: fr.bitz51@gmail.com  
Manny Bautista  
0410 522 101  
Email lionking2624@gmail.com  
Full details on notice board.

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference** members/volunteers monthly Mass, 4th Saturday each month due this Saturday, 27th February 9am.

## Social Justice

### 26 January Australia Day / Survival Day:

As we celebrate the beginning of European settlement in Australia it is timely also to remember the importance of acknowledging the traditional owners of Australia.

For the Aboriginal people who were present when Captain Phillip landed in 1788, the arrival of Europeans was truly an invasion and its effects are still being felt today by their descendants – and the descendants of the other First Peoples of this land.

We should honour the efforts of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to reclaim their history and demand the recognition from Australia's

governments.

One important way we can do this is to acknowledge traditional owners at the beginning of meetings and gatherings, or to arrange for an appropriate Indigenous person to make a welcome to country.

### The Aboriginal Tent Embassy

At one o'clock on the morning of 26 January 1972, four Aboriginal men began a protest vigil under a beach umbrella in the lawns outside what was then Parliament House in Canberra. In the days and weeks following, they were joined by other Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and established what became

known as the Aboriginal Tent Embassy. The protest was in response to the refusal of the government of the day to recognise Indigenous land rights.

With some interruptions, the Tent Embassy has remained in place since 1972.

In 1995 the site of the Tent Embassy was added to the Australian Register of the National Estate. The Statement of the Significance says that the site 'is recognised nationally as a site representing political struggle for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'.

It also records an earlier protest by the Aboriginal man Jimmy Clements during the opening of Parliament House in 1927.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Invitation:** German speakers are cordially invited to Our Lady Star of the Sea Church at Terrigal for a German Mass which is held every 3rd Sunday at 11.30M. All are welcome!

**Australian Catholic Radio "The Journey":** Rhema CC 94.9 broadcasting weekly Sunday 1pm. Each week the show provides good information (reflections and interviews with some of Australia's best Catholic presenters), family

friendly Catholic/Christian music and positive stories about our church designed to deepen the faith of practicing Catholics as well as reaching out to those who are disconnected from our faith communities.

Any questions or ideas about the content for the journey, please contact Jude Hennessy, Diocesan Director, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine on 02 4222 2407

Jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

### Achieving Pregnancy Naturally:

The Billings Ovulation Method can assist you in having the baby of your dreams. If you have been trying to have a baby without success, our teachers can provide essential information, which will give you the best chance to achieve your pregnancy naturally.

For a free information leaflet, please call Billings LIFE on 1800 335 860.

# HOMILY

BY RICHARD LEONARD SJ

Recently I was shocked by a Catholic woman who told me she didn't care very much for her local Bishop. She enumerated the many faults and failings of her diocese and its leader and then highly praised Pope John Paul II.

It's hard to argue with her admiration of the Pope, but unknowingly, she was falling into the same trap to which the community at Corinth was prey. Unfortunately, my acquaintance thought that her Catholic identity primarily came from her communion with the Bishop of Rome. She felt she could bypass her local bishop, 'because he's too trendy', and 'deal direct' with the Pope. She told me she saw the Pope as her bishop. The problem with her position is that it is not Catholic!

All of us in the Church are called to pray for, support and follow the lead of the Holy Father. But our Catholic identity comes from our communion with our local church, in and through its bishop, who is in turn, in communion with the Bishop of Rome. This is what the five-yearly ad limina visits are all about: a brother bishop sharing with the Pope the graces and challenges in his local Church and reaffirming the Catholic faith that unites all of us as members of the same universal Church.

Soon after Jesus called the apostles, disputes broke out among them. We know from the whole of the New Testament that there were serious disagreements between the earliest leaders in the Church. Their different temperaments and missions led to several misunderstandings. What St Paul found in Corinth, however, was a fractured Church, pleading allegiances to different leaders over and against Jesus. He teaches the Corinthians a critical lesson in being Church: we are all one under Jesus' leadership. Christ is the head of the Church.

Within ancient and clear limits the Church has a wonderful diversity, a plurality of expression, emphasis and culture. It's always been like this. It means the Church is taking seriously its role of finding Christ in every place and every community in the world. The moment we pit one local Church against the other ('I prefer the Pope to my bishop') we lose the Catholic communion in Christ Jesus which holds us together.

Paul tells us preaching the Cross of Jesus is the mission of the Church. Jesus shows us in today's Gospel that teaching, preaching and healing are the hallmarks of his ministry. And the same should hold for us. No matter how differently any local church might develop, the Bishop of

Rome confirms in the faith Bishops who continue to preach Christ crucified, teach in Christ's name, heal the sick and reconcile the estranged.

That's what makes us Catholic and why today we need to listen again and very carefully, to Paul's admonition, 'I beg you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and purpose.'

To the degree to which we live this out in our communion with our local successor to the Apostles, the more chance all members of the Church have to use the energy and gifts given at baptism to do what Christ wants of the Church: to change the world for good and be a beacon of the saving Christ's gifts – faith, hope and charity.

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## REFLECTION

BY DIANNE BERGANT CSS

Discipleship is not something that we take upon ourselves. We are called to it. Some people are very conscious of this call. They are aware of it in their aspirations and dreams; they recognise it in the events of their lives. They hear the call as clearly as Simon, Andrew, James and John heard the voice of Jesus. For others, the call to discipleship is not so clear. They may experience an undefined restlessness, a dissatisfaction with their lives. People can respond to the call in one of two ways. They can consider the mere suggestion of discipleship an intrusion into their plans, or they can drop what they are doing, leave their former concerns behind and follow Jesus.

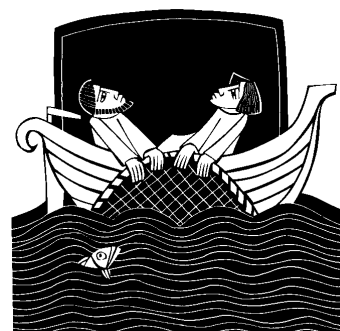
There is a misunderstanding about being called and leaving everything behind. Although the gospel says that the four men left their occupation of fishing in order to follow Jesus, this kind of 'leaving behind' was not, and still is not, required of all, for it is in the ordinary events of life that our salvation unfolds. For most people, this is precisely where they are to function as disciples. Still, disciples of Jesus are called to leave behind certain ways of living as they follow him. They are called away from lives of pettiness and division. They are called away from the kind of factionalism that seems to have threatened the unity of the Corinthian community. They are called away from narrow-mindedness and mean-spirited competition. It is much easier to leave nets than to leave the web of one's prejudices.



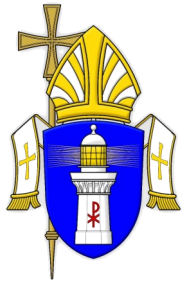
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The watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond *immediately* to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

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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

**"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 and Margaret Cooper.

### 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).

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

**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 f 0243 445049.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

**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 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 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

## OUR CHURCH AIR-CONDITIONING: How to get the most out of it:

To say the weather of late has been merely hot would be a gross misrepresentation of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth! One might even go so far as to say, it's been hellishly horrendous! and it's likely to get worse through the looming, humidity laden month of February!

**How can we make the church more comfortable? We all need to follow these 2 proven steps:**

1. The 3 sets of stained glass doors (opening into the body of the church) are to remain **OPEN**, yes....**OPEN**.

**Why?** Because the extraction vents are in the gathering area. Shutting these doors traps the hot air inside the church where there are no extraction vents to take it outside thus allowing the cooled air to enter.

2. The main entry doors (the heavy metal ones) whilst unlocked, are to remain **CLOSED**, yes....**CLOSED**.

**Why?** Because this will stop additional hot air from outside the church entering the gathering space, which only makes the air-con work harder to achieve the desire result of a nicely cooled church.

This may seem the opposite to what you might expect BUT the steps above were tested by the office staff and myself during the past week and the church was noticeably cooler.

Thank you for your assistance, Fr Philip.