



EASTERTIME

4th Sunday of Easter

Year A

7th May 2017

Psalter Week 4

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Claude Fauvette, Isidoro "Luigi" Piani,
Gwen Strickson, Martin Bell.
- **Anniversaries:**
Richard Kemp, Gladys Daniel,
Reg Hogan, Mary Moulds,
Stanley Gleeson.
- **Remembrances:**
Joyce Woodin, Dick Oakes,
Marie McDonald, Hilliard Brothers,
John and Eva Burg, Valerie Price,
Keith and Ella Spence,
Mary and George Hilliard,
Kevin Mills, Mills Family,
Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning,
Pat and Neil Cameron, Maggie Moreau,
Sr. Margaret Mayne.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Audrey Barsendich, Kath Hardy,
Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Pat Burgmann,
Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Pat Fitzgerald,
Judy Neal, June Towson,
Therese Corner, Judy Goodacre.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

The Shepherd's Voice

Everyone knows that the Dalai Lama instructs his followers not to use violence against those who oppress them. He opposes violent rebellion against the authoritarian rule of the Chinese over Tibet.

Our Lord was just as strongly opposed to the use of violence against those who oppressed the Jewish people of his day. He opposed violent rebellion against the authoritarian rule of the Romans over Israel.

This stance permeates all that Jesus did and comes through many of his parables and stories, but sometimes we can miss allusions to this teaching. Today's gospel is no exception.

We are all very familiar with Jesus playing with the image of shepherding, sometimes making himself the gate of the sheep yard in which the sheep were protected during the night.

Another image he uses depends on the fact that in Jesus' time, as today around Jerusalem, the flocks are small (thirty or so) and the shepherd leads from the front: they follow him, or more precisely, the sound of his voice. If they follow that voice, and no other, they will be safe and will reach good pasture.

Whose other voices might try to mislead the sheep?

Jesus describes them as those of 'thieves and brigands'.

In John's gospel, two people are actually named, one as a thief, another as a brigand. The first is Judas, the second is Barabbas, and both were involved in violence.

Judas, the thief from the common purse of the disciples, eventually betrays Jesus and does so with violence. He led a

sizeable group of temple guards and some Roman soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane to take Jesus by force.

Peter tried to prevent Jesus being snatched away by this armed force. He drew his sword and wounded one of the High Priest's servants. Jesus immediately rebuked Peter. Why?

Jesus knew that Peter was to become the shepherd of his flock of followers. Shepherding the flock of Christ's followers is completely incompatible with the use of violence.

Barabbas was a brigand. Other gospel writers make it clear that he was a leader of an insurrection against Roman rule. Our Lord knew that armed rebellion against the Romans would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal of the Jewish people (about forty years later). This 'brigand' was not acting in the best interests of the flock of Israel, but would actually lead to the death of many and the remnant being scattered throughout the world. He was no true shepherd.

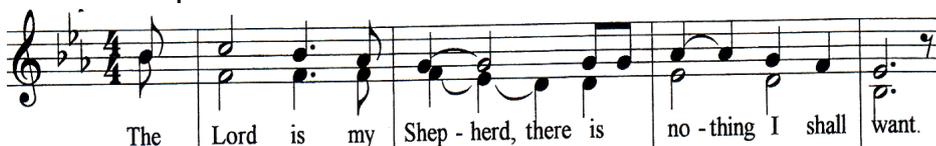
So, there is much more to the contrast between the 'Good Shepherd' and 'thieves and brigands' than first meets the eye. Jesus is warning his followers against the seductive voices of those who advocate the use of violence.

In particular, the successor of Peter should echo the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd and no other. Peter was entrusted by Our Lord with the words 'Feed my lambs; feed my sheep'. Peter and his successors are the shepherd of Christ's flock. That is why they carry a crozier – a shepherd's staff with a hook at the top to rescue lambs which have fallen down a gully.

(Continued on page 4)

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Psalm Response



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

Charitable Works Appeal

21st May 2017. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience. This is the last appeal for this financial year. Our quota for this year is \$37 008 – we have received \$13 531 so far, leaving \$23 477 owing before this appeal.

Charitable Organisations assisted by the CWF are:

- Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (for religious education of children in State Schools);
- Ephpheta Centre (the Catholic Centre for deaf and hard of hearing people);
- St Lucy's School, Wahroonga (for children with intellectual disabilities);
- St Edmunds College, Wahroonga (for students with vision impairment and other special needs and
- CatholicCare's Hospital Chaplaincy Program.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Carter Ferdinando, Sonny Goodwin, Savannah Healy, Emma Wilby and Grace Wilby who were baptized last Sunday.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Elizabeth McAusland who was buried from our church last week.

Morning Tea Roster 14/5/17: Spanish Speaking Prayer Group.

Mary Mac's Place will be holding a Mother's Day Stall and Fete on Sat. 13th May. We would love donations of cakes, pickles and jams from the clever cooks/bakers of St John's. Donations of these may be left at MMP's on Friday morning 12th May. Thank you very much.

Rosary Group: All welcome! Come and join us Tuesdays from 9am-12md in the Walter Baker Hall to make rosary beads and scapulars for the Missions.

Children's Liturgy Roster 14/5/17: Geraldine Baxter, Joanna Baxter, Lisa Hutchison.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Group 12/5/17: Bill Cantley, Christine French, Mabel Torres, Kathleen Cullen.

Invitation from Fr. Stephen: St. Brendan's Church 10th Birthday Celebration: You are cordially invited to join us in celebrating the 10th birthday of St. Brendan's Church. Sunday, 21st May, 10am. In the grounds of St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Carters Rd, Lake Munmorah. Celebrations begin with Mass, presided over by Bishop Peter Comensoli, followed by morning tea and an exciting magic show for the children. RSVP toukleyparish@dbb.org.au or phone 4396 4455 by 10th May.

Social Justice

World Red Cross, Red Crescent Day:

World Red Cross, Red Crescent Day, 8 May, is an opportunity to celebrate the bravery and the achievements of the 17 million volunteers and nearly half a million staff members who ensure that we keep our commitment to humanity every day by being there before, during, and after a disaster, health crisis or conflict. We are local and international, independent and impartial, and we are everywhere for everyone. Being everywhere for everyone means that people fleeing their homes to escape war,

persecution or disaster can keep in touch with family members or trace missing relatives through the Movement's global Restoring Family Links network.

In Syria, being everywhere for everyone means risking injury and death to provide the most urgent humanitarian assistance to people in desperate need. Since the conflict began more than five years ago 53 Syrian Arab Red Crescent and eight Palestine Red Crescent volunteers and staff have been killed while providing basic services such as food, water, blankets or medical care.

Statement by Tadateru Konoé, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Peter Maurer, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This day is the birthday of the founder of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Henry Dunant (1828-1910), who was the joint recipient of the first Nobel Prize for Peace in 1901 for his visionary decision to establish the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863, following his experience of the aftermath of the battle of Solferino in 1859.

From the Diocese and beyond

Australian Women's Mentoring Launch: You are invited to attend the launch of the new Australian Catholic Women's Mentoring Program. The new program, which is run through the National Office of Participation of Women, aims to grow the skills, confidence and networks of Australian Catholic women, increasing their capacity to use their gifts and talents for the Australian Church and Australian society. Saturday, 20th. Mass at 5.30pm; Launch from 7pm in

the Auditorium. Mary Mackillop Place, 7-11 Mount St. North Sydney. Tickets: Attendance at the launch is free of charge – please RSVP to: coordinator.opw@catholic.org.au

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - relationship enrichment for married couples. 19-21 May at Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Bookings online at www.wvme.org.au or phone Bill and Ardell Sharpe on 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

2017 Mission – one heart many voices: 15-17 May. SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St. Sydney.

If like Pope Francis, you are passionate about building a parish community that is both a place of sanctuary for all and a 'centre of constant missionary outreach' then **Mission: one heart many voices** conference is for you.

To find out more, including registration and the program, visit the Conference website at www.mohmv.com.au or free call 1800 257 296.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

4th Sunday of Easter, May 7

Acts 2:14, 36-41
Ps 22:1-6 R. v.1
1 Pt 2:20-25
Jn 10:1-10

In Acts today we hear part of Peter's speech at Pentecost. His announcement is a challenge but ultimately good news: "God has made both Lord and Christ, / this Jesus whom you crucified," he tells the crowd in Jerusalem (v 36). That they are "cut to the heart" (v 37) indicates Luke's view that they share in the responsibility for Jesus' death. "What are we to do?" they ask (v 37). Peter calls them to "repent and be baptized" (v 38). This response will be a sign that they are distancing themselves "from this corrupt generation" (v 40). As a result of Peter's words, "about three thousand persons were added that day" (v 41), a sign that the Spirit is at work in the believers.

In today's Gospel Jesus uses imagery of sheep and shepherds, something familiar to his audience. Old Testament imagery often presented God as shepherd and Israel as God's flock. As the shepherd, Jesus cares for his sheep and leads them to green pastures (see Ps 23). That the sheep would be called "by name" (Jn 10:3) indicates a relationship between shepherd and sheep: "I know mine and mine know me," he says (see v 14). In this text we have the background for Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning. She only comes to recognize him after he calls her by name (see 20:16). The shepherd's task is to be concerned for the welfare of the sheep; the sheep are called to hear and follow the shepherd's voice, for he "came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (10:10).

The letter of Peter picks up on the imagery of sheep and shepherd: "you had gone astray like sheep" (v 25) through sin. Christ suffered for us, "leaving ... an example that you should follow" (v 21). As "shepherd and guardian of [our] souls," he offered his life to save us. He truly is the good shepherd.

For reflection: How can I better hear the voice of the good shepherd in my life? Am I doing my part to bring people into God's flock?

5th Sunday of Easter, May 14

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 R. v.22
1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12

Today in Acts, Luke narrates the origin of the office of deacons. As the community of believers grows, the apostles find themselves overwhelmed. Their numbers include so many needy that they don't have time to preach: "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table" (v 2). This is also causing stress between the Hellenist (Greek-speaking) Christians and the Hebrew (Aramaic- or Hebrew-speaking) Christians. The situation leads to the selection of the first seven deacons, "reputable men, / filled with the Spirit and wisdom" (v 3), who can handle the task of "the daily distribution" (v 1). This frees up the apostles to devote more time to preaching the word of God, which "continued to spread" (v 7).

The letter of Peter reminds us that there are two possible responses to Christ Jesus: acceptance or rejection. For those who reject him, there is judgment. He is "a rock that will make them fall," the writer says (v 8, quoting Is 8:14). As believers, we are called to "be built into a spiritual house / to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices" (v 5). God has called us to be "a people of his own" (v 9), the writer tells us, echoing the election of Israel in the Book of Exodus (19:6).

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to stand firm in our faith. "You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (v 1). Speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper, he calls them to a deeper union with him and the Father. It is through Jesus that we are united with the Father, and he tells us that he is going to the Father "to prepare a place for" us (v 1).

For reflection: The story of the first deacons shows us that the work of God needs to be shared among ministers. Do I invite others to share in the work of the church? How does my faith enable me to share in the work of Jesus?

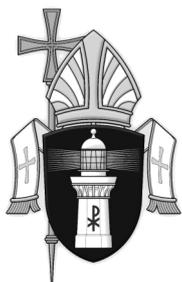


Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

See John 10:10



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.

Office Hours:

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30 p.m. Wednesday

The Shepherd's Voice

(Continued from page 1)

Over the centuries, the cacophony of voices enticing the Church to use violence against its perceived enemies has sometimes drowned out the voice of Jesus. Some Popes have found the voices of the 'thieves and brigands' of this world more attractive.

We have all seen photos of the Swiss Guards resplendent in their colourful uniforms at Papal ceremonies. They are the last remnant of the mercenary forces which Popes hired to fight their wars to control much of the territory of central Italy.

They now guard popes of the modern era who seem to be listening more attentively to the Good Shepherd, as they should, for they are the successors of St Peter who was instructed: 'Feed my lambs, feed my sheep'.

Let us join them in the listening.

Let us attune our ears to the sound of His voice and tune out the voices of the thieves and brigands of this world.

Let us follow Him so that He may lead us to pastures where the whole of humanity can have life and have it ever more abundantly.

Alleluia!

© 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.

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 For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.

Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

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.

The Live, Pray, Love Project 'Save the Date' Cultural Day Event

Sunday 4 June 2017

Walter Baker Hall (Church hall),
cnr of Victoria and Blackwall Rds, Woy Woy

This is a day where we come together to celebrate and share with one another our cultural diversity through music, singing, dance, food and story telling or something else not mentioned here.

Here at SJB we have a wealth of so many different cultures, as the song says...."We are one, but we are many, And from all the lands on earth we come, We share a dream and sing with one voice, I am, you are, we are Australian" Lyrics from "I Am Australian"

So get some friends together and
put something together for the day.

Gladys Leger 0421 312 362