

The Voice

17th April 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Psalter Week 4



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**

Ian Thompson,

- **Anniversaries:** Mary Gatt.

- **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,
Irene Beck, Frank Schmidt,
Maryanne Diorio, May Leger,
Tracey Passlow, June Ferry,
Jack Moulds, Bruce Spence,
Dian Balce, Keith Maiden,
Brian Moloney, Carren Quinn,
Mary Ann Gormly,
Lorna Russom.

The passages from the Gospels where Jesus likens us to being sheep leave me a bit cold. I think I must lose something in the translation from first century Palestine to today. Most of the sheep I have ever watched may well be cute, in a woolly sort of way, but they are anxious creatures often running in packs in every direction, are notoriously stupid and difficult to manage or direct. On second thoughts maybe the analogy is not so bad after all! We, the people of God, can certainly be an anxious lot, a bit slow on the uptake and difficult to lead. It also true, however, that sheep are incredibly useful and adaptable animals. Think about all the places they have been taken throughout the world. They thrive. With all due respect to the vegans, vegetarians and animal liberationists here today, think about the multiple ways they have served humanity.

The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in our homes. They are members of the family. Shepherds in Jesus' day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate

knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus' lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let's steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

We are God's peo - ple, the sheep of his flock.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Sunday Readings	3
Directory	4

Gospel Acclamation

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

Around the Parish

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

Morning Tea Roster 24/4/16: Craft Group.

Children's Liturgy Roster 24/4/16: Frances Giunta, Christine French, Isaak Giunta.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 22/4/16: Warren Sparrow, Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen, Pam Hickey.

Altar Flowers: Anyone wishing to donate towards the ongoing refreshing of flowers is kindly asked to make their donation at the parish office or via collection at Mass in an envelope clearly marked "Altar Flowers".

Mothers Day - 8th May Raffle: Tickets will be on sale after all Masses 23/24 April and 30 April/1st May for two weeks only as Mothers Day falls on 8th May.

St. Vincent de Paul Members and Volunteers monthly Mass next Saturday, 23rd April, 9am.

Live, Pray, Love Project will provide a talk on Mary and Prayer. Guest Speaker: Lorena Lalor. RCIA Co-ordinator. Sunday 1st May, Walter Baker Hall, 2pm-5pm. Discussion. Workshop. Q & A. A sumptuous afternoon tea, Ukelele interlude and raffles. There will be a separate children's ministry so bring the children too. Call Gladys 0421 312 362 or Michelle 0403 927 505.

Congratulations to Felix and Sadah Seady who celebrated their 69th Wedding Anniversary over Easter 2016.

Baptismal Preparation: Parents seeking to have their baby baptised are required to attend a talk about the significance of the ceremony. Important issues are raised and the participants view a brief film which complements the talk which has been given. The meeting takes less than an hour and occurs on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parishioners who would like to be part of the group that presents preparation talks are asked to contact the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

Devonshire morning tea: Mary Mac's are holding a fund-raising morning tea especially for Mother's Day. Saturday 30th April between 8.00am and 1.00pm in the Ethel Cox Centre,

They will be having gift stalls, cake stalls and book stalls for people looking for a great Mother's Day present.

As you are aware, Mary Mac's are reliant on community support and donations to continue providing a healthy meal for those who are struggling in our area and they would truly appreciate your help in promoting this event to the wider community for them.

If you have any questions please contact Christine on 0417 671 973.

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

The Just Word

Settlement or Invasion? 200th Anniversary of the Appin Massacre:

Early in the morning of 17 April 1816, a party of soldiers under Captain James Wallis took a group of Aboriginal people by surprise near Appin, about 75 km south of Sydney. Many Indigenous people were shot and others driven over cliffs of the gorge just by the camp. The attack left at least 14 people dead and probably more.

Violence had been increasing in the area as settlements and clearing deprived the local Dharawal people of their traditional lands and food sources. Settlers often abducted Aboriginal women and

children. In addition, the neighbouring Gandangara people, reportedly more aggressive, moved down the mountains to the west seeking seasonal food. The settlers made no distinction between the two Aboriginal groups. As bloodshed increased, Governor Macquarie issued draconian orders: columns of soldiers were sent throughout the colony with orders to capture and kill all the Aboriginal people they met—men, women and children.

The victims' bodies were to be hung from trees 'in order to strike the greater terror into the survivors.' Few Indigenous people were found, probably because of the

soldiers' guides. Both Aboriginal and European, deliberately led them astray. Wallis, however, stumbled on a group near Lachlan Vale and opened fire. Some bodies were hung from nearby trees and others were decapitated. The heads, sent to the University of Edinburgh, were returned to Australia 175 years later.

The massacre is commemorated annually near the site of Cataract Dam, where a monument has been erected.

For more information: www.dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/appin-massacre.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Edward's Christian Brothers College Year 7, 2017: Just a reminder to all parents (applying for St. Edward's College), that the closing date for enrolment applications for Year 7, 2017 is Friday 29 April, 2016. If you have any questions or would like to receive a Prospectus and Enrolment pack, please do not hesitate in contacting the Enrolment Secretary, Mrs. Simone Bartlett on 4321 6420.

Enrichment Days at St. Joseph's Kincumber: Sr. Virginia Bourke. r.s.j. will be hosting the following programs at the Spirituality and Education Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber Sth. Tuesday, 26th April (Feast of St. Mark): "Reflecting on the 'athletic pace' of Mark's Jesus". Tuesday, 19th July: 'The Will of God?: We're in it!' Sessions begin 10am and conclude 2.30pm with breaks for morning tea/lunch. Morning tea and a sand-

wich provided. Cost \$25 or donation.

Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations: St. Agatha's Parish, 17 Trebor Rd. (enter through car park). Pennant Hills. Wednesday, 27th April. 7pm-9pm. Adoration, Reflection on Scripture, Evening Prayer of the Church. After prayer a social gathering will be held and meal provided. Booklets with prayers will be provided. Cost: Free.



Voice Followers

17th April 2016

by Fr Michael Tate

If you have a look at a map of the world and look for Cyprus and then go across the Mediterranean Sea to the Turkish coast and then travel 100 miles over mountains, one comes to Antioch in Psidia – the setting for today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

If Paul had never gone there, we might never be here!

But Paul did go there, and we are here! What do I mean?

Paul and Barnabas, being of Jewish stock, spoke about the gospel in the Synagogue at Antioch. They got such a rough reception – such abuse and slander – that they said this to their Jewish audience:

'It was necessary to speak the Word of God to you first. Since you are rejecting it ...we are turning to the Gentiles!'

'Gentiles' is simply the word for non-Jews. You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, precisely because of Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth.

Christianity could have remained a Jewish sect, but because of Paul your identity as a Christian does not depend on being Jewish.

We are 'Catholic' Christians precisely because of Paul.

Catholic is simply the word for universal. Clearly, the Catholic Church is universal in terms of geographical reach, but is it truly universal?

We have all heard of Médecins sans Frontières – Doctors without Borders.

We should be the same in the Catholic Church. We have the potential. But at the moment we are too Euro-centric. What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

And now we have a non-European Pope! Pope Francis comes from South America which has its own way to celebrate and understand and live the Gospel.

And there is further reason for hope. This is the first truly global generation – with internet blogs and chat rooms, with unparalleled opportunities and means to travel.

And Catholic Christianity, embracing the huge range of ethnic diversity, is the perfect vehicle for the expression of the spiritual dimension of their common humanity. A global church for global citizens!

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ. That is what today's Gospel tells us.

For Australians, this is hard to visualise correctly. We think of a large mob of sheep with no individuality being herded by whips and dogs.

By contrast, the flock in Jesus' time was quite small – 20-30 animals – and the shepherd in Jesus' time, and still today around the hills of Jerusalem, calls each sheep by name and leads from the front – they follow his voice to the pastures which will nourish them.

In all our diversity, that is who we are – Voice-followers.

None of us is born tone-deaf to the voice of Our Lord, the Good Shepherd.

But it takes a good teacher to help us hear the voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the official assistant-shepherds in the Church – the Bishops who carry a crozier, which is a shepherd's staff.

But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, an Anglican Priest, a Catholic Dominican Friar at Oxford, and the inspirational Dr Martin Luther King Jr.

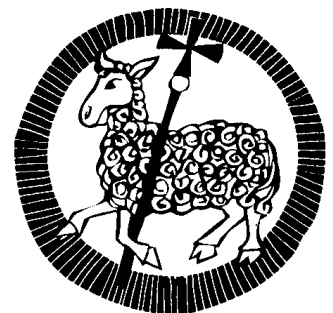
They have all been assistant-shepherds to the One Good Shepherd – Our Lord Jesus Christ – who says about you and says about me, the Gentiles in the Catholic Church:

'My sheep listen to my voice,
and I recognise them,
and they follow me;
and I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish,
and no one shall snatch them
from my hand.'

That is a voice worth following!



Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Kooilewong, 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

"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, Raeline 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

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.

MARY
and Prayer

SUNDAY, 1ST MAY 2-5 PM

*At the Walter Baker Hall,
Cnr of Victoria & Blackwall Rds,
Woy Woy*

TOPIC: MARY AND PRAYER
GUEST SPEAKER: LORENA LALOR
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION ON TOPIC
Q & A

PROVIDED ALSO...

- A SUMPTUOUS AFTERNOON TEA
- UKULELE INTERLUDE
- RAFFLES - FANTASTIC PRIZES
- SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN OUR LIVES - OUR MOTHERS



Diocese of Broken
Bay