

The Voice

24th April 2016

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

Psalter Week I



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Kevin Davern, Frank Moylan,
Denis Anthony, Brian Hodgins,
Trevor Brown, Roxanne Jager.

• **And the sick:**

Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt,
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham,
Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin,
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, Kate Tinson,
Mary Ann Gormly, Beryl Allen,
Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn,
Vince Zappavigna.

The word *love* has to be the most misused word in our language. We often say we love our house, our car, our holiday or even ice cream. Then we use exactly the same word to describe our feelings for our spouse, family, friends or children. If language is a window into meaning, then we are in strife at the loose way we transfer the same word for vastly different feelings and realities. At least I hope we feel differently about people over possessions. The way some people go on about their car, pets or money we begin to wonder.

The love Jesus encourages us to have in today's Gospel is a very particular love. He tells us not just to love one another, but to 'love as I have loved you'. The core of Jesus' love for us is sacrificial love, where he laid down his life that we might live. While love is a popular word, and even more popular notion, in our music, film, art and literature, sacrificial love is not something we hear much about these days or that we embrace very easily. Loving someone in the popular imagination has come to mean hanging in there until someone better comes along, or we grow bored of each other sexually or personally. Often it entails keeping the exit door on commitment nice and handy for the quick get away. But this hardly describes a love that involves sacrifice.

Sacrificial love is demonstrated in deeds not words. It states that there is no point in saying we love anyone unless our actions follow the profession we make. Sacrificial love is not just about warm and fuzzy feelings; it is an intensely practical affair where our love is judged by our gentleness, kindness and patience with each other. Christian love is not arrogant

or rude, it does not drag other people down, but rejoices and weeps when others are successful or downhearted. Loving as Jesus has loved means telling the truth with compassion, forgiving, working at trust and holding on to faith in the face of difficult times. Jesus does not promise us that this commandment is easy, just necessary if we are to love as he loves us.

While sacrificial love demands of us that we die unto self, Jesus never asked us to 'kill' ourselves. The distinction matters. All too often the Church has been guilty of giving out this teaching in a way that people thought they should put up with violent, undignified and soul-destroying behaviour from their spouse, children, parents, family or friends. Sacrificial love is never destructive. It is a free gift where we sometimes forego other options, opportunities and even good things for a love and life that is even better. The Lord laid down his life for us and in turn the Father raised him up to a glorified life. What's true for him is true for us. We lay down our lives for each other so we can take up a new and richer life. We are never meant to destroy ourselves or stay in relationships that rip our dignity from us. Sometimes the most Christian thing we can do is to set up boundaries or make decisions that protect ourselves from behaviour which is neither loving nor Christian.

May this Eucharist then grant us the wisdom to love people and not things. May it help us embrace sacrifice in a way that leads to life and may it give courage to sort out the relationships that affirm our dignity and help us grow in faith, hope and love.

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Psalms Response

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I will praise your name for ev - - - er, my King and my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I will give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Public Holiday Anzac Day: Monday, 25th April. Morning Mass will be 9am. Please note: There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Liturgy Team Meeting Thursday, 28th April, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Catechists Meeting Thursday, 28th April, 9.30am in the Leo Mahon room.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for the month of May are 7th, 14th and 21st. Meetings held in the Walter Baker Hall.

Mothers Day—8th May Raffle: Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend and the next weekend 30th April / 1st May.

Bus Trip to Warnervale and a visit to Fr. Stephen. Wednesday 11th May, leaving 9am. Cost \$20 includes lunch. Contact Susie 0403 417 639

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Evelyn Clifford, Logan Clifford, Andrew Wills, Thomas Wills and Alanah Karanikalas who were baptised last Sunday.

Live, Pray, Love Project will provide a talk on Mary and Prayer. Guest Speaker: Lorena Lalor, RCIA Co-ordinator. Sunday 1st May, 2pm-5pm. Walter Baker Hall. 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.

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.

Living Faith Booklets now available in the Piety Stall. \$2 each.

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 phone Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

Sacrament of Confirmation: A reminder to all parents of children preparing to receive this Sacrament that Preparation Groups commence 9th May. Please remember our children in your prayers.

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

The Just Word

Water Facts: We have been slow to give up on the myth of Earth's infinite generosity:

97.5% of the water is salty *Around 1% of that is brackish groundwater * 46% of people do not have water piped to their homes* Women in developing countries walk an average 3.7

miles to get water* Millions of the world's poorest subsist on fewer than 1.9 litres of water per day* Two-thirds of our water is used to grow food* with 83 million more people on earth each year, water demand will keep going up unless we change how we use it* Australia has the second highest water usage rate per person in the

world at 485 litres per day, second only to the USA at 600 litres per person per day* There is a real possibility of WATER WARS* One out of eight people lack access to clean water* 3.3 million die from water related health problems each year.

*mscmisio@mscmisio.org

From the Diocese and beyond

Retreat for Men (age over 18): Saturday, 28th May. 9am-5pm. St. Patrick's Parish, Gosford. Information and registration: vocations.ministry@dbb.org.au R.S.V.P. 23.05.2016.

For men who are discerning their vocations especially for Priesthood and Diaconate. For men at all stages of their discernment. It includes times of prayer, reflection, talks, quiet and socializing with other men considering or open to a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat will offer an opportunity to reflect on priesthood, vocation and discernment.

So if you are interested in coming or would like to find out more, contact Vocations Office. Mobile 0418 522 449 or phone 9484 1427.

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 for Year 7, 2017 is this Friday 29th April. Any questions please contact Enrolment Secretary, Mrs. Simone Bartlett on 4321 6420.

'Amoris Laetitia'. On Friday 8th April, 2016, Pope Francis published a new papal document called *Amoris Laetitia*, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family' at the Vatican in Rome.

It is about marriage and family life. The papal document is also known as an 'Apostolic Exhortation'. It is available to read and download on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Website:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/synod-2015/home>

If you don't have time to read all 256 pages of the Exhortation, you can access a summary on the bishops conference website.

Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre May Retreats: The Carmelite Saints speak to the anguish of the human heart and show us how to find an inner life.

Mercy and Creation: A Creative Embrace. May 6th. 6.10pm-May 8th 1.30pm. Cost: \$230 (concessions apply). Fr. Greg Burke, OCD and Darren McDowell. Exploring Pope Francis' call to care and be merciful to the whole of creation.

How can we live Pope Francis's 'Year of Mercy'? May 7th, 9.00am-4pm. Fr. Brendan Purcell. Cost: \$25. Together we'll try to see how we can put his writings on 'The Joy of the Gospel' and the 'Face of Mercy' into practice.

Mt Carmel Retreat House, 247 St. Andrews Road, Varroville. Contact: Mrs. Carla Walker. Phone 8795 3400. Email: retreats@carmelite.com www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Faith Enrichment Day: St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber South. Tuesday, 26th April. Feast of St. Mark. "Reflecting on the 'athletic pace' of Mark's Jesus". Sr. Virginia Bourke. r.s.j. Session begins 10am and concludes 2.30pm with breaks for morning tea and lunch. Morning tea and a sandwich lunch will be provided. Cost \$25 or donation. bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au or phone 4368 2805.



Full, Conscious and Active Participation

William C. Graham

Remember Simon telling Jesus, “Everyone is looking for you” (Mk 1:37)? This is the company to which we are called, to be part of the great crowd looking for Jesus. Pope St. Leo the Great, who reigned from 440–461, observed that whatever was visible in Christ has passed over into the sacraments. And here is what was visible in Christ: inclusion for the isolated, health restored to the sick, light for those in darkness, food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, balm for the afflicted, healing for the sick, sight for the blind, and new life for the dead. This inclusionary sense is what prompted the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council to teach in the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 14:

Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people” (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4–5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.

In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else; for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit; and therefore pastors of souls must zealously strive to achieve it, by means of the necessary instruction, in all their pastoral work.

The vision of those who have participated in this quest is described in Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I:

Help us to work together
for the coming of your Kingdom,
until the hour when we stand before you,
Saints among the Saints in the halls
of heaven.

Saints among saints

In celebrating and living the mysteries, we become extraordinary.

The call to prayer for the 10th solemn intercession on Good Friday suggests that we ask God to

cleanse the world of all errors,
banish disease, drive out hunger,
unlock prisons, loosen fetters,
granting to travellers safety,
to pilgrims return,
health to the sick,
and salvation to the dying.

All of this is the business of the reign of God, the church’s holy agenda, to which we annually pledge ourselves when we renew our baptismal promises, by which we “promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church” (Easter Vigil, 55).

The tasks and duties of the church belong to all of us. This article’s opening quotation from John Paul II is here in fuller context:

The sharing of all the baptised in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ is the key to understanding the Council’s call for “full, conscious and active participation” in the liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 14). Full participation

certainly means that every member of the community has a part to play in the liturgy; and in this respect a great deal has been achieved in parishes and communities across your land. But full participation does not mean that everyone does everything, since this would lead to a *clericalising* of the laity and a *laicising* of the priesthood; and this was not what the Council had in mind. The liturgy, like the Church, is intended to be hierarchical and polyphonic, respecting the different roles assigned by Christ and allowing all the different voices to blend in one great hymn of praise.

“Respecting the different roles” suggests not only that each of us has a role to play but also that each is obliged to play that role consciously and actively.

Sensus fidelium

Since it was the will of God’s only-begotten Son that [wo]men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make [wo]men gods.

— Thomas Aquinas, *Oposculum* 57,
in *festo Corporis Christi*, lect. 1–4

Some things, it turns out, are just obvious. The fact that God’s people should participate fully and actively in the church’s life and liturgy is chief among these things. The sense of the faithful is that we are sharers in the mystery and in the mission. We know this truth deep in our hearts. At our baptism, and when we annually renew our baptismal promises, we pledge to serve God faithfully in the church. We fulfil that promise by full and active participation.

What we know almost intuitively is, I think, what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls “a supernatural appreciation of the faith (*sensus fidei*) shown by the universal consent in matters of faith and morals manifested by the whole body of the faithful under the guidance of the Magisterium” (glossary).

Because dignity and value are the properties of all the members of the faithful, the laity no less than the cardinals, the earliest church Fathers understood that truth is either sensed or recognised by all the faithful — from pope to last one to arrive for Mass. Thus all participate, according to our different roles, in the great polyphony. Augustine observed that this understanding reaches to all: *ab episcopis usque ad extremos laicos fideles* (from the bishops to the last of the faithful laity). Consequently, Vatican II’s *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* (*Lumen Gentium*), speaking of the *sensus fidelium*, did not so much make a decree as recognise and assert a reality:

The holy people of God shares also in Christ’s prophetic office; it spreads abroad a living witness to Him, especially by means of a life of faith and charity and by offering to God a sacrifice of praise, the tribute of lips which give praise to His name. The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One,



In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples — and us — a new commandment: “Love one another.” Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

See John 13:34



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Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of
Broken Bay

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, Blackwall,
Booker Bay, Pearl Beach,
St Hubert's Island,
Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point,
Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
PO Box 264 Walter Baker Hall
54 Victoria Road 100 Blackwall Rd
WOY WOY NSW 2256 Woy Woy

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

Parish Priest: Fr. Jack Robson.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron,
Raelene Spithill and Margaret Cooper.

Office Hours:
9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

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 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).

HOLY HOUR—EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

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. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

CENTACARE Marriage & Family Relationships. 20 Watt St, Gosford.
Phone: 4324 6403.

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,

Full, Conscious and Active Participation (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by means of the whole peoples' supernatural discernment in matters of faith when “from the Bishops down to the last of the lay faithful”* they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals. That discernment in matters of faith is aroused and sustained by the Spirit of truth. It is exercised under the guidance of the sacred teaching authority, in faithful and respectful obedience to which the people of God accepts that which is not just the word of men but truly the word of God. (12)

When we know these things, we continue day by day to cultivate sanctity, as St. Benedict advises in his *Rule for Monasteries*, that the prayer of our lips might sanctify

and fructify all our labours. This is the universal call to holiness. Hearing that call and living out our different roles, our primary act of evangelism is in giving the witness of holy lives. This transformative witness of each member of the body is, in fact, what the business majors among us might call good marketing: those with whom we live and move and have our being should be helped to see the mystical reality that attracts us as moths to flame, so that all can readily observe how Christians love one another.

Baptism enfolds and incorporates us; the Spirit differentiates our roles within discipleship. And “we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us” (2 Cor 4:7). On pilgrimage, we hear the voice of God: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2

Cor 12:9). We who are sacramental people, we who are the pilgrim church, are on the road with Jesus. We are called to spend a lifetime exclaiming “to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?’” (Lk 24:32, brackets in original). Like those disciples did, we too must “set out at once” (v 33) to carry this message — fully, consciously, and actively participating in the mystery.

ML

William C. Graham, PhD, is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Duluth and a frequent contributor to ML. He directs The Braegelman Program in Catholic Studies at the College of St. Scholastica. His latest book is A Catholic Handbook on Sex: Essentials for the 21st Century (Paulist Press). From Ministry & Liturgy, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.