



## EASTERTIME

6th Sunday of Easter

Year A

21st May 2017

Psalter Week 2

## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Beryl Allen, Barry Loaney.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Patrick Byrne, Fr. Ted Shepherd,  
Eve Rae, Nina Chetcuti, Erno Honyi,  
Trevor Spear, Agnes Spear.
- **Remembrances:**  
Dario, Caterina and Robert Burla,  
Herb and Sheehan, Fred Follett,  
Barry Follett.
- **And the sick:**  
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,  
Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsendich,  
Kath Hardy, Pat Burgmann,  
Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti,  
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,  
Anne Singleton, Judy Neal,  
June Towson, Therese Corner,  
Judy Goodacre, Peter Wellins,  
Diane Gillett, Lorraine Von Nida.

# Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula THE VOICE

## Parallel Truths

In ancient Jewish theology, there were various names for diabolical evil. 'Satan' was amongst them. Satan was the adversary of humankind. In particular, Satan was a prosecutor appearing before the throne of God accusing human beings of their offences and demanding retribution, that the punishment fit the crime.

On the contrary, our Lord had a very different image of himself in relating to us, the opposite of the satanic prosecutor. Did you notice in today's Gospel, knowing he was departing from his followers, he says: 'I will send you another *Paraclete* to be with you forever.' Our Lord was a *Paraclete*, and he would send *another*.

What does this strange sounding word mean? Here is a hint. We all know that parallel lines run, well, para-llel. They run alongside each other.

A *paraclete* is a person who stands alongside someone and uses his voice on their behalf. A *paraclete* is a person who stands shoulder to shoulder with someone and pleads their case.

That is how our Lord Jesus Christ saw himself in relation to his disciples. His role was not to condemn but to plead the case for mercy and compassion, to be the intercessor par excellence, to be the best character witness one might ever hope to have.

We see our Lord in this role with the woman taken in adultery. He saves her from death by stoning, engages her in conversation and, most importantly, refuses to condemn her.

But, our Lord's visible earthly mission was coming to an end. Hence he made a promise. That another *Paraclete*, another

advocate, would be sent to dwell in the body of the disciples.

This is a most fantastic gift. Dwelling within us, individually and as the body of Christ's disciples, is the Holy Spirit advocating our cause, giving voice to our deepest aspirations.

This *Paraclete* particularly assists us by acting as the Spirit of Truth, always reminding us of the reality about our Lord Jesus Christ. For us, that includes trying to live according to the pattern revealed in His ministry, and that will have its challenges, its failures, its successes and its doubts.

And one of the challenges is to check on our tendency to condemn. Discernment is necessary. I lecture at the Law School on crimes against humanity and genocide. Obviously, one has to condemn those who perpetrate these atrocities which violate our common humanity.

But Pope Francis has indicated that the Church needs to move away from strident moralistic hectoring in a condemnatory tone.

In a recent interview he said:

'In Buenos Aires I used to receive letters from homosexuals persons who are "socially wounded". They tell me that they feel like the Church has always condemned them ...

'A person once asked me, in a provocative manner, if I approved of homosexuality. I replied with another question: Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of that person with love, or reject and condemn that person?'

(Continued on page 4)

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## Psalm Response

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal:** Collection at all Sunday Masses this weekend.

**Please support the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) this weekend:** The Charitable Works Fund Appeal is the only Appeal that directly supports people in need in our Diocese. Thanks to your donations:

- Over 1,000 catechists provided a Catholic education to over 21,000 public school students in the Diocese through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).
- We have 5 Pastoral Care Practitioners providing pastoral care to over 3000 patients, over 700 families and over 180 staff across 7 hospitals in the Diocese through CatholicCare.
- Over 130 students with disabilities attending St. Lucy's and St. Edmund's schools were supported.
- Advocacy services, Mass and spiritual guidance were provided to those in our community with deafness or hearing loss through the Ephpheta Centre.

Please help our Parish support our Diocesan community by making a 100% tax deduction donation to the CWF through the envelopes. To learn more about how you can support the CWF please contact Liane Leslie, Diocesan Development and Relationships Manager on 9847 0444 or call the Parish office.

**Liturgy Meeting** Thursday, 25th May, 6.30pm. Note earlier time. in the Parish office.

**Catechists Meeting** Thursday, 25th May, 9am in the Leo Mahon room.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 26/5/17:** Warren Sparrow, Rano Spiteri, Cheryl Sillick, Bev Whackett.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 28/5/17:** Therese Carroll, Ingrid Stevens, Mimi Lambert.

**Thank you** to the very generous parishioner who paid for our gold chalice to be restored.

**Thank you** to Vince Ryan for his service to the Parish as a money counter on Monday mornings for the last 15 years. Your loving spirit will be missed in the room.

**Let us Pray:** Ecumenical event for Pentecost Sunday, imploring the Holy Spirit to bestow fresh charisms of preaching on all priests, deacons and pastors, and fresh charisms of teaching on catechists and anyone teaching Christian faith to children, young people and adults. Sunday 4 June. Formal prayers Woy Woy Church 1pm-2pm. Informal Prayers 2pm onwards. #LetUsPray2017

**Lectio Divina and Bible Study** 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 25 May. Leo Mahon room. Studying the Acts of the Apostles during Eastertide. Bring your bible.

**Mary Mac's** held a very successful Mothers Day stall on 13th May. They would like to thank the community for continuing to support the volunteers who support those struggling in our community. Thank you also to the volunteers.

**Servers Roster:** new rosters available in the servers sacristy.

**Morning Tea Roster 28/5/17:** Catechist/PPC Group.

## Social Justice

### 50th Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum 27 May:

At the 1967 referendum more than 90 per cent of Australian electors voted to change the constitution to permit the Federal Parliament to make laws for Aboriginal people and to allow them to be included in the national census.

While the 1967 referendum was a watershed moment in Australian history and was well-intentioned, the resulting amendments left the Constitution with no mention whatsoever of Aboriginal or

Torres Strait Islander people and with clauses that allow discrimination on the basis of race.

After the 2010 election the Federal Government made a commitment to hold a referendum to make changes to the Constitution to remedy these problems. An Expert Panel was appointed in 2011 to consult and make recommendations for changing the Constitution.

In its final report, the panel suggests that the main issues that need to be addressed are:

1. Placing a statement of recognition somewhere in the Constitution.

2. Removing section 25, which currently would allow state governments to disqualify a group of people from voting based on race.

3. Reformulating the race power (section 51 (xxvi)) to avoid the potential for negative outcomes while retaining the Commonwealth's responsibility for Indigenous affairs. More Information:

[www.recognise.org.au](http://www.recognise.org.au) or [www.antar.org.au](http://www.antar.org.au)

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Diocesan Advisory Committee Vacancies:** Bishop Peter A. Comensoli is looking to fill some vacancies for the various Advisory Committees of the Diocese. Historically, we have had great success in identifying the wonderful people from within the parishes, with exceptional gifts, skills and experience to form part of these Committees.

The following Committees are currently seeking voluntary membership:

1. Diocesan Finance Council.
  2. Investment Committee.
  3. Audit and Risk Committee.
  4. Catholic Development Fund.
- If you are interested in applying to be a voluntary member for a Committee, you are warmly invited to provide an expression of interest. The relevant Committee Knowledge & Skills Requirements Criteria are also available on request. For all matters please contact Mr. Tony Davies, Chancery Human Resources Manager at

[recruitment@dbb.org.au](mailto:recruitment@dbb.org.au) or on 02 9847 0446. Applications close Tuesday, 13th June 2017.

**Fashion Parade** by Sarongs, featuring winter garments in Ettalong Uniting Church (opposite Sarongs), Picnic Pde., Ettalong. Wednesday, 31st May, 1.30pm with afternoon tea to follow. Donation \$10. The Parade this year is being organized by ladies from the Uniting Church. To assist in catering, your RSVP would be appreciated. Details on notice board.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 6th Sunday of Easter, May 21

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17  
Ps 65:1–7, 16, 20 R. see v. 1  
1 Pt 3:15–18  
Jn 14:15–21

In the Gospel today Jesus continues to speak to the disciples at the Last Supper. Knowing that he is about to leave them, he promises, “I will not leave you orphans” (v 18), pledging the gift of the Holy Spirit “to be with you always” (v 16). Jesus’ death and resurrection are part of God’s plan and will lead to a deeper union between Jesus and his followers. The gift of “another Advocate” (v 2) assures us of his never-ending presence.

Ironically, the persecution of the church leads to its growth. In Acts, after Stephen’s death, Philip, another deacon, goes to “Samaria ... [proclaiming] the Christ to them” (v 5). That he is empowered by the Spirit is indicated by the fact that he speaks with power. “The crowds paid attention to what was said” (v 6), and he performs miracles, exorcising demons and healing those who are paralysed or crippled. He is doing the work of Jesus (see Jn 14:12). This evangelisation leads to a visit from Peter and John, who “prayed for them” (v 15) and “laid hands on them,” as a result of which “they received the Holy Spirit” (v 17).

Peter writes with an awareness that believers will suffer for their faith. But this should not discourage us, “for Christ also suffered” (v 18). We are called to be examples of integrity, practicing “gentleness and reverence” (v 16), even in our dealings with those who persecute us. We are also called to be a people of hope, because Christ’s suffering has a uniqueness about it that leads us to God. Christ’s suffering unites us to God in a way that our suffering alone could never achieve. He died, “the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous” (v 18).

*For reflection:* Do I see value in suffering in my life? In the lives of others? How do I experience the presence of the Spirit in the church?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian’s Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

## Ascension of the Lord, May 28

Acts 1:1–11  
Ps 46:2–3, 6–9 R. v. 6  
Eph 1:17–23  
Mt 28:16–20

Luke begins Acts by referring to his “first book” (v 1), the Gospel, and summing up the final days of the risen Christ on earth. Then he narrates the story of Jesus’ ascension. For Luke the ascension is the bridge between the story of the earthly Jesus and the ongoing story of the church, which is an open-ended story in which we are called to play our parts. To assist the church in its task, Jesus promises “power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”; this power will transform the disciples, enabling them to preach the gospel “throughout Judea and Samaria, / and to the ends of the earth” (v 8).

In the verse preceding today’s second reading, Paul gives thanks for the Ephesians (see v 16), a standard feature in Greco-Roman letters. He prays that they may gain knowledge of God, leading to “the hope that belongs to [God’s] call” (v 18). Our hope is based in Christ, who after his resurrection took his seat at the right hand of the Father in heaven. This is a place of honor, signifying that he is “far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion” (v 21). As “head over all things” (v 22), Christ is head of the church, and we are united to him.

In Matthew’s final scene, Jesus meets the disciples in Galilee. This is where he first met them and where much of his public ministry took place before he journeyed to Jerusalem in Judea to die. Jesus tells them that he has been given “all power in heaven and on earth” (v 18), and he commissions them to “go ... make disciples” (v 19). They are to do this by teaching “all that I have commanded you” (v 20) and “baptising them” (v 19). Matthew concludes by having Jesus promise, “I am with you always” (v 20), reinforcing his identity as Emmanuel, a name Matthew associated with Jesus in his first chapter (see 1:23).

*For reflection:* Does my prayer include thanksgiving for others? Do I have a sense of sharing in the commission of the disciples?



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Those who obey the commandments, Jesus says in today’s Gospel, are the ones who really love Him. Does my stewardship reveal my love for Jesus?

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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

**Office Hours:**

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

**Deadline for The Voice:**

3.30 p.m. Wednesday

## Parallel Truths

(Continued from page 1)

The Pope answers of course that God accompanies that person with love and mercy.

Adopting this approach, with discernment, we will find a deep peace, the sort of peace the world cannot give. It is a deep down assurance that we are on the right track, that we are living our lives Truth-fully by the measure of the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

In another Gospel, it is said that Jesus had a mystical experience in which he saw Satan falling from heaven (Luke 10:18). That is, Satan the prosecutor is no longer standing before God accusing human beings of various faults and felonies, seeking their punishment.

The one standing before God is Our Risen Lord. He stands before the Father as the 'Paraclete', pleading our case, acting as our character witness.

And here on our earthly pilgrimage, the Holy Spirit of Truth is walking alongside us as the 'other Paraclete', shoulder to shoulder, helping us to combat Satan who still roams the earth.

This revelation of the fall of Satan from Heaven, and the assistance of the divine Paracletes, is the cause of our Peace, a peace the world cannot give, the Peace which is our Lord's Easter gift to us.

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** Held once a fortnight in the Leo Mahon Room. Term 2 dates: 21st May, 4th June and 18th June. High school (Years 7-12). For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

**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