

Around the Parish

Our Prayerful Congratulations to Fr. Stephen Wayoyi who has been appointed Parish Priest of Toukley.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday 6th May.

Live, Love and Pray Project Monthly Workshop this Sunday, 1st May. 2pm-5pm. Walter Baker Hall. The Project nurtures an inclusive environment for members of the community to live and not just survive. Together we will pray to know Jesus more and to have a personal relationship with Him which then leads to Love. Topic for the meeting 'will be Mary and Prayer'. A Children's Ministry will run parallel to this program, in the Riley Room. Everyone Welcome.

Cancer Support Group for those suffering from cancer or those wishing to pray for them, meet 1st Tuesday of each month. Due this Tuesday 3rd May, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room.

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

The Just Word

Compassion:

“Our love of neighbour should be tender-hearted and compassionate. The Samaritan should be our model. Along the road he meets a wounded man, half dead, stripped and dying of hunger. He is stirred at the sight,

Morning Tea Roster 8/5/16 will be our Pastoral Council.

Current Living Faith Booklets available at the Piety Stall. \$2 each.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 6/5/16: Mary McCumstie, Kevin Glacken, Jo Salter and Rano Spiteri.

Children's Liturgy Roster 8/5/16: Geraldine Baxter, Joanna Baxter, Rebecca Lalor.

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

Mothers Day—8th May Raffle: Tickets on sale at all Masses this weekend. Raffle will be drawn on Monday 2nd May.

First Holy Communion: Please keep our children in your prayers as they receive the Sacrament for the first time.

Sacramental Programme Group Readers—Children's work books for Confirmation are in the Leo Mahon room for collection.

Your 'used postage stamps' help the Sisters of St. Joseph:

Mary Mackillop International incorporates the mission work of the Sisters in East Timor and Peru. The Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Peru more than 30 years ago, focusing on empowering local women to develop skills and earn income to support their families. Projects there include health education, community mental health, community aged care, support for people with a disability and their carers, support of children through play and learning centres, dental hygiene and care of children. Used postage stamps are sold to provide much needed funds for the Sisters in their work, so please continue your past support by dropping off your used stamps to the parish office for forwarding.

This weekend we welcome Jan Henderson to our Parish to share the joy of her Catechetical experience. Please ask Mother Mary to inspire us to open the doors to our hearts to this wonderful opportunity.

draw near to these unfortunate people, and do everything in our power to comfort them. Do we conduct ourselves in this way? Or do we imitate the hardness of heart of the men in the gospel towards the wounded man.”

St. John Paul II

From the Diocese and beyond

Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Canberra: A National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady Help of Christians to pray for Australia and especially it's Government

Pilgrims are invited to Canberra, Sunday, 29 May, Feast of Corpus Christi. Participate in the concluding 5km Eucharistic Procession after 11am Mass at St. Christopher's Cathedral processing to Archbishop's House (site of proposed Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians) Afterwards enjoy a BYO picnic lunch in the park. Further information contact Mary Clare Meney 0435 496 624.

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

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.

Mt. Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Rd. Mulgoa.

The 'Holy Door of Mercy' on our Shrine will officially close on 20th November. If you wish to book a group or personal retreat before, please contact us. For retreats and Annual Marian Pilgrimage details please see our notice board.



Readings Today and Next Sunday

1st May 2016

Bruce Janiga

6th Sunday of Easter, May 1

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8 R. v.4
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23
Jn 14:23-29

We sometimes idealize the early church as a community without disagreements. But today in Acts we hear there was dissension concerning the necessity of circumcision as a prerequisite for admittance to the community. Luke tells us that there was “no little dissension”; in other words, the issue seriously divided the community. So great is their disagreement that they send representatives to Jerusalem to acquire the judgment of the apostolic community. Their decision, communicated by a letter and a delegation, is that circumcision is not necessary for entry into the community.

John’s vision in Revelation of the heavenly Jerusalem “coming down out of heaven” (v 10) is filled with strong imagery. The “massive, high wall” of the city, “with twelve gates,” represents the strength and glory of God. The number 12 reminds us of the 12 tribes of Israel as well as the 12 apostles, both groups foundational for the church, which sees itself as the new people of Israel. The gates facing the four cardinal directions also provide universal symbolism as they represent all the points of the compass, and thus the whole earth.

In today’s Gospel Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, “the Advocate” (v 26). The Spirit represents Jesus’ abiding presence in the church. The presence of the Spirit in our lives enables us to keep his commandment of love and to share in the life of the Trinity. Jesus’ union with the Father means that he does the will of the Father and shares in his life. By sharing his life with us, he unites us with the Father. His return to the Father is a cause of joy for us because where he goes, we will follow.

For reflection: Does it disturb me to know that there was disagreement among the members of the early church? How does their way of solving their problems help us with divisions in the world today? In the church? Do I sense the presence of the promised Spirit in my life?

Ascension of the Lord, May 8

Acts 1:1-11
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 R. v.6
Eph 1:17-23
Lk 24:46-53

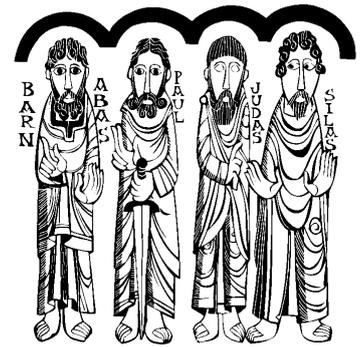
Jesus’ ascension serves as a transition point in the story of the church. His return to the Father serves to mark the end of his time on earth, but it will lead to the era of the church. Meeting with the risen Christ, the disciples ask him if he is “at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel” (v 6). This shows that they still don’t understand how salvation history is to play out. Only after they receive the Spirit at Pentecost will they understand that there is much work to be done before God’s reign is fully realized.

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul prays that God will bless them with “a Spirit of wisdom” (v 17) leading to a deeper knowledge of Christ Jesus. In raising Christ from the dead, God gave him a place over all creation. God also “gave him as head over all things to the church, / which is his body” (v 22). As the body of Christ, we are united with him and share in his life. This image is also found in Colossians (1:18).

Luke’s Gospel ended where Acts begins: at the ascension. Before Jesus departs, he instructs the disciples that his suffering, death, and resurrection were predicted in the Scriptures of Israel. “Thus it is written” (v 46), he tells them. Their task as “witnesses of these things” (v 48) is not to view them passively. The word “witness” in Greek is the root of our word “martyr.” Our witness is made evident in the lives that we lead. Luke knows that many of the apostles witnessed to Jesus not only in word and deed but also by shedding their blood.

For reflection: Having received the Spirit in baptism and confirmation, do I strive for a deeper knowledge of Christ? What impact does my witness to Christ have on the world?

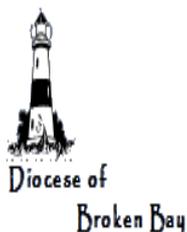
Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian’s Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with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



Today’s reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. “But,” the bishops’ pastoral on stewardship reminds us, “that ‘life to come’ is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now.”



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



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.

REFLECTION © Fr Michael Tate

Some people have the idea that God is awfully remote, dwelling beyond the edge of the cosmos. We make contact by sending a prayer like a long range rocket, hoping it will find its target.

This is far distant from Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel.

'If anyone loves me and keeps my word, my Father and I will make our home with that person.' It is not in outer space, but in inner space that Divine Love will make a home.

What turns a house into a home? It is in sitting around a table sharing a meal. So, Jesus created a sacred meal for us and invites us to share in the Heavenly Bread and Spiritual Drink.

When we do so, we find, in the words of St John Paul II, that we 'digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection'. We take into ourselves the Real

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).

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 HOUSE 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.

Presence of the Risen Lord who makes his home with us.

Coming to Communion, even after a long time away, satisfies the yearning of the human heart because it is made to be the habitation of Divine Love. We could pause for a moment to reflect on the gracious fact that God chooses to dwell in our hearts.
Let us respond wholeheartedly.

Fr Jack's Masses

Saturday, 30 April, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 1 May, 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, 8 May, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 14 May, 5:00 p.m.