



The Voice

1st November 2015

Solemnity of All Saints

Psalter Week 3

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Anniversaries:**
Eunice Gaffney, Shirley Job.
- **Remembrances:**
Patricia, Reg and Paul Hogan,
All Souls in Purgatory.
- **Sick:**
Peter Wellins, Loretta Holt,
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
June Ferry, Kate Tinson,
Beryl Allen, Lola Proctor,
Jack Moulds, Maryanne Diorio,
Charles Knowles, Bruce Spence,
Arnold Diorio,
Alan Harland, Mark Taylor,
Connor Cole, Carol Cross,
Fr. Bill Meacham,
Fr. Brian Rowland,
Grace Williams, Peter Harrison,
Natalie Rankin,
Vice Zappavigna.

Do you remember the old hymn, *Faith of our Fathers*? These days we would, of course, want to explicitly name the extraordinary faith of 'our mothers' as well. But do you recall how we once used to stand and sing,

'Faith of our fathers living still
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword.
Oh how our hearts beat high with joy...
If we like them could die for thee.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to Thee 'till death.
We will be true to Thee 'till death.'

In one of his letters St Ignatius Loyola tells us we should never pray for something we don't want, because we might just get it. Let's think about what we ask for in this hymn: that if needs be we will die for our Christian faith.

For the first 400 years of the Church's history, Christian women and men were dead at lunch for taking the waters of baptism at dawn. It is on the basis of their fidelity and sacrifice that we gather here in freedom and peace.

Many of us are wimps when it comes to pain, so all we can hope and pray for is that, given a similar context, we may have the grace to witness to our faith in whatever way is demanded of us. It remains true that when most of us hear about the faith of modern-day martyrs we are still deeply affected, our own faith is challenged and our values are shaken up. Mothers and fathers are still dying for the faith which we so often take for granted.

All Saints Day has its roots in the early Church's 'Martyrs Day', attested to by a hymn written in 359 by St Ephraim. It was called All Saints Day in the seventh century.

A Saint is someone who the Church believes is in heaven with God. Wrongly,

we often think Saints are perfect, but in fact their greatest witness is how they coped with the ordinary difficulties of life and how they reflected in a variety of ways the love of God.

For most of us sanctity and martyrdom will not come in dramatic ways. The daily routine of looking after a sick child, spouse or parent, of living with a mental, physical, emotional or spiritual illness, the scourge of being unemployed, homeless or addicted and the feeling that we are unlovable brings with it the reality of sharing in the lot of the martyrs and saints.

All Saints Day is the feast which commemorates all those we know who may never be publicly proclaimed in the canon or list of saints, but who nonetheless are in heaven. Some of them may only be known to God. Others are people whose love, sacrifice and fidelity we have seen for ourselves and who have inspired us. Sometimes they can be our own mothers and fathers.

These, too, we believe belong to the great multitude of witnesses who went through their own persecutions and found the blessings within their daily lives. They saw God in this world and are now fully alive to him in the next.

In this Mass may we have the grace to live a holy life that, in ordinary ways, demonstrates the extraordinary power of God working in us. In doing so, in our sacrifices, forgiveness and love may we remain faithful to the women and men who are our saintly heroes and pray that we remain faithful to the Gospel of Christ as they did.

'We will be true to Thee 'till death.
We will be true to Thee 'till death.'

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Psalms Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

Lord, | this is the peo - ple that | longs to see your | face.

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Monday 2nd November – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed – (All Souls Day). Memorial Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to attend this special Mass of Light at 7.30pm. We will remember our deceased family and friends who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year.

Blessing of the Graves: Fr. Philip will bless the graves at Point Clare on Monday, 2nd November at 10.30am.

All Soul's Day Cemetery Visits Point Clare: Prayers start in the Green Hut 10.30am Monday, 2nd November.

Palmdale: Prayers start at 11.45am at the undercover area to the east of the Chapels (next to the native gardens.)

The Book of the Names of the Dead is in the church throughout November You are invited to write the name of the faithful departed in it. A lamp will be lit at all Masses.

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal 14/15 November. Bags available in the gathering area.

The Just Word

International Day of Rural Women:

The International Day of Rural Women recognises the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

Rural women are key agents for achieving the transformational economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development. Limited access to credit, health care and

Holy Hour – Exposition & Benediction. Every Thursday (commencing 5 November), 7:30pm-8:30pm for the needs of the Parish.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 6/11/15: Jo Salter, Elena Egan, Warren Sparrow, Christina Thorson.

Children's Liturgy Roster 8/11/15: Geraldine Baxter, Joanna Baxter, Carol Yates.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Ronan Field who was baptised last Sunday.

Encounter Table: This Thursday 5 Nov, 11am - 1pm near the shrine of St John the Baptist. Drop in if you can.

Catholic Missions Appeal held recently has raised \$4,051. We thank you for your generosity.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal Collection at all Masses next Sunday, 8th November.

Thank You: Tony O'Neill wishes to thank friends and parishioners for offering their kind thoughts and prayers during his recent illness.

Parish Christmas Hampers: We know that there are many in our community who may be aged, widowed, single parents or disabled. They may be alone or have no close family. They may be in a nursing home or other care facility. A Hamper Gift from you, a member of our Parish family, would be appreciated and will give much joy to someone in need at Christmas.

Lists of various hampers needed from you to choose from are on display next weekend, 7/8 November. Please take notice of each hamper's code. Single items can be left in the gathering area from next weekend 7/8 November. No cigarettes, alcohol or perishables please. Hampers will be collected on the weekend of 5/6 December. Note: This is a separate collection from St. Vincent De Paul's Christmas collection.

If you know of anyone in need of a hamper, please contact Susie Casey on 0403 417 639.

education are among the many challenges they face, and these challenges are further aggravated by the global food and economic crises and climate change. Given women's pivotal role in the agricultural workforce worldwide, empowering them is key to the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, and to overall economic productivity. *Collectively, rural women are a force that can drive global progress. We must harness that power to achieve our three interlinked objectives for next year: accelerating our work*

towards the Millennium Development Goals, adopting a new vision for sustainable development, and concluding a meaningful universal climate agreement.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

See more about the role of women in rural development, food production and poverty eradication at www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/rural-women-food-poverty.

From the Diocese and beyond

Golf Day @ Gosford Golf Course: Friday, November 13.

Why not join with St. Pat's Gosford parishioners at 11.30am for a 12 noon Ambrose event and a great afternoon of golf?

Form your own team, or be placed in one! \$44 or \$28 concession. Dinner follows at the Club if you feel up to it. Please contact Gosford parish on 4325 1042 or pats-gos@acs.net.au if you would like to be there.

Have you experienced the death of a child? A special Mass to remember children who have died

will be celebrated 7pm, Friday, 13th November, Holy Cross Church, 10 Humphreys Rd. Sth. Kincumber.

It doesn't matter whether your child died as an adult, a child or in utero, through accident, illness, suicide, abortion, miscarriage, stillbirth or unknown causes, there is still a particular grief with outliving your child. At this Mass we hope to make room to attend this grief and to pray for God's comfort into the broken places of our hearts as we commend their souls to God's embrace .

The Diocese of Broken Bay is looking for a **full time Administrative Assistant, Office for Pastoral Administration.**

Responsible for providing administrative support including function and event management and interpersonal skills, the ability to work independently and maintain confidentiality. Please send application to Rachel Casey, Human Resources Manager. Email: rachel.casey@dbb.org.au Ph: 02 9847 0232. Applications close Monday, 9th November.



On True Blessedness

1st November 2015

Bruce Janiga

Before the revised lectionary, most of the annual Sunday Gospel readings came from Matthew's Gospel. As a result, his Gospel is probably better known than the others, and many of Jesus' sayings entered the church's tradition in their Matthean form. An example of this is the Beatitudes. They are found in both Matthew and Luke, but the form known to most Catholics is based on those in Matthew. In Luke's text (6:20-26) there are only four beatitudes, and these are balanced out by four woes. In Matthew (5:1-11) we find eight (or nine) beatitudes, spoken by Jesus to the crowd as part of his Sermon on the Mount. For Matthew, Jesus is a Moses figure, and his instruction to the crowd recalls Moses' giving the Law to the Israelites on Mount Sinai. (Luke's "sermon" is considerably shorter than Matthew's and takes place on a plain rather than on a mountain.)

We hear the Beatitudes proclaimed in liturgy as part of the Sunday Year A readings and on All Saints Day. It is also one of the choices for Masses for the Dead and is a frequent choice for those planning funerals. The Beatitudes are central to the Christian way of life because they are viewed as parallel to the Ten Commandments.

The word "beatitude" comes from the Latin word *beatus*, which is translated as either "happy" or "blessed." Beatitudes are commonly found in the Old Testament, frequently part of Wisdom literature created to encourage good life choices among the young in biblical Israel. In his Beatitudes, Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who sometimes are viewed to be far from happy or blessed in the eyes of the world: mourners, the meek, the merciful, and others. But the blessing is both in the present and in the future, for it is a blessing not of this world so much as the true blessedness or happiness associated with the unfolding reign of God.

Matthew's first Beatitude pronounces a blessing on those who are "poor in spirit" (5:3), whereas Luke's version pronounces "you who are poor" to be blessed (6:20). A careful reading of Luke's Gospel indicates that he writes with a special focus on the proclamation of the gospel for those who are on the fringes of society. This is seen in the announcement of the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds and continues until Jesus prom-

ises heaven to the repentant thief. Matthew's term "poor in spirit" is an idiom that refers not to those who are spiritually poor but to those who know they need God in their lives. These people know that without God they are lost. As an ancient writer once said, they might be needy in the things of the world but their wealth is in Christ, and that is true blessedness.

What makes Matthew's version of this beatitude more inclusive is that while Luke is concerned with the financially poor, "poor in spirit" is an attitude that can be embraced by people of every economic class. This means that anyone who is willing to rely on God can possess the kingdom. And the list of groups pronounced blessed by the other beatitudes consists of people who truly are in need of God in their lives: mourners, the meek, the merciful, peacemakers. To each of them future blessings are promised. St. John Chrysostom wrote that the kingdom is granted in every Beatitude.

Luke's four woes, balancing out his Beatitudes, serve as a reminder that the things of this world — wealth, satiety, laughter, and a good reputation — are not always permanent. Wealth can be lost or stolen, a full stomach will want for food again, laughter ends, and people will not always speak well of us, for the human heart is changing. So Luke's Jesus challenges the hearer to not put too much trust in these passing "worldly blessings." Despite current trials, the believer is called to rejoice (a favourite Lucan term) for "your reward is great in heaven" (6:23).

On the feast of All Saints, we commemorate the numberless men and women who have gone before us to the presence of God. While some are known, many are unknown, but they all serve as a reminder to us that the life of a Christian is to be rooted in the teachings of Jesus. May their lives and Jesus' words of blessing serve to illuminate the way that each of us is called to follow. **ML**

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 6744.



Today's psalm makes clear that we and everything we think we own actually belong to God instead: "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it." We are *stewards*, not owners, of our lives and all we possess!

See Psalm 24



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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

St John the Baptist Church, corner of
Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 Walter Baker Hall
54 Victoria Road 100 Blackwall Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

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. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priests.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene 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 7.45am, 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, 3.30 p.m.; Saturday 11.30am; &
4.30pm ; Sunday 7.15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15 a.m. 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 9.30 a.m.

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.

CATHOLICCARE Counselling and Family Relationships. Ph: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 Robyn on 4341 0584.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre.

Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and
finish approx 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds
benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY – for information and
events contact Robyn on 0432 619 182.

PARISH CHOIR – Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7 p.m.
Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21a Dulkara
Rd South Woy Woy 2256. Ph: 4341 0884 . Fax: 02 4344 5049.

Fr Jack's November Dates (amended):

Mass – 6pm, Sunday 1 November
Mass – 7.:30pm, Monday 2 November
Mass – 9:15am, Sunday, 8 November
Mass – 5pm Saturday, 14 November
Mass – 7:30am Sunday, 22 November

Mass – 7:45am, every Tuesday & Wednesday
Mass – 9am, every Thursday, Reynolds Court,
Bateau Bay

We're on the Web!
[www.woywoycatholic.org.
au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of
Broken Bay