



The Voice

1st June 2014

Ascension of the Lord, Year A

Psalter Week 3

EASTERTIME

The Ascension and Us

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
George Diebold,
Anthony (Lee) Robertson,
Pauline Hall, Julia O'Donnell,
Bella McGrenra, Clare Hann.
- **Anniversaries:**
Joy Ryan, Mary Justic,
Frank Justic, Max Field.
- **Remembrances:**
Molly and Jack Dunne,
John Hanrahan.
- **And the sick:**
Vince Ashby, Lola Proctor, Alan
Harland, Beryl Allen, Therese
Payne, Hanaa El Khatib, Mary
Leger, Wanda Grima, Anne Sing-
leton, Louise Dunn, Beverley
Purser, Grace McNeany, Silvana
Anzalone, Grace Williams, Cissy
Tuilekutu.

Today's feast is not some sort of curiosity, to be passed over as quickly as possible. It has immense practical implications.

The challenge is in the words of the angels who appear at the end of the first reading: *"Why are you men of Galilee standing here looking into the sky?"*

It is understandable (even for angels) that human beings, after such an experience, should be rather gob-smacked – but not to the extent of staying like that for ever. The Ascension is not meant to be an action inhibitor: it is meant to motivate action.

They have already received their instructions: *"you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth."*

So the message is: Get on with it.

They are not being told to do it all on their own. They will be baptised with the Holy Spirit; indeed, they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them. But there is no time to lose.

The angels provide an additional motive: *"Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there."*

Now that might sound like the old joke, *"Jesus is coming; look busy."* The angel, however, is simply drawing the attention of the disciples (including us) to the impli-

cations of the Ascension, as they are spelt out in today's responsorial psalm and second reading: Jesus is ascending his throne; the Father has put all things under his feet. As the gospel puts it, *All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.* So the instruction that follows makes sense: *Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.*

So how does each one of us respond to this challenge?

Christians need to take seriously the fact that Jesus, by his Cross and Resurrection, is truly the King of the Universe. We celebrate that fact annually, in the Feast of Christ the King, but it is this time of the year that stresses it very forcefully: for ninety days, through Lent and Eastertide, we enter into an anticipation of the Kingdom. The world outside may not recognise his victory but, as St Thomas More wrote from prison to his daughter Meg, *"the field is won."*

We do our bit by getting involved in whatever way possible in the work of the Parish for the Kingdom. There are many such ways. If you need any information, call the Parish Office or speak to one of the priests after Sunday Mass. You're not on your own: *"know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

eConference – Pope Francis: Modelling the Ministry of St. Peter will be held Wednesday, 11th June. 10am-3pm in the Leo Mahon room. A rich array of topics will be discussed, including leadership, women, ecumenism, evangelization and much more. Those attending please write your name on the sheet in gathering area for catering purposes. Information and updates visit <http://goo.gl/ANbn8g> or www.bbi.catholic.edu.au

Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Minister numbers need bolstering: Are you perhaps a young retiree with newly acquired time on your hands and looking for a fulfilling way of living our faith? Our parish has a small but dedicated band of parishioners who regularly take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, home bound and hospitalized members of our faith. They bring the comfort of Our Lord to those in poor health but sadly their numbers are dwindling. Bob Williams (EM Co-ordinator) is keen to explain the finer points required of an Extra-ordinary Minister and asks to register your expression of inter-

est with the parish office. Please remember, *the greater the number willing to take on a little will lighten the load for all.*

Urgent – Volunteer Drivers for parish bus needed to join a roster transporting parishioners to and from Mass on weekends. Must have an LR license. Please contact parish office 4341 1073 if you can help.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal held last weekend has raised \$10,258. Thank you all for your generosity.

Bus Trip: Budgewoi Barbecue Picnic. Wed. 25th June. 10.30am pick up. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 / 0403 417 639.

Cancer Group for those suffering from cancer and those who wish to pray for them meeting this Tuesday, 3rd June, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Enq: Phoebe Glacken 4341 6324.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 6/6/14: Kevin Glacken. Mary McCumstie. Don Anderson.

Children’s Liturgy Roster 8/6/14: Anne Tonkin. (L). Mary

Wood (L). Phillipa Tonkin (H).

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

Please pray for our children receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on 14th June and also those making their First Holy Communion throughout this month.

Lost Sunday missal: Recently a new Sunday Missal was left behind after Mass. It does not have a name inside but does have family holy cards of great sentimental value. Please check and if you find you have this missal place it on gathering area table marked to the attention of the parish office. Just the return of the holy cards alone would be appreciated.

Cash Housie every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. and McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games start 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm. Cash Prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Enquiries Jordan on 0417 898 668.

Social Justice

Principles of Catholic social teaching: The Common Good.

It grows increasingly true that the obligations of justice and love are fulfilled only if each person, contributing to the common good, according to one’s own abilities and the needs of others, also promotes and assists the public and private institutions dedicated to bettering the conditions of human life.

Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World Gaudium et Spes, 1965. #30
The common good:

- Actively seeks conditions that enhance the good of all and contribute to the achievement of a quality common life together
- Requires that the poor and marginalised should be the focus of concern
- Takes the issue of poverty beyond charitable acts and into the questioning and challeng-

ing of social values and structure

- Fosters collaboration rather than hierarchical management, ensuring a cohesive engagement of all involved
- Takes responsibility for the environment.

We cannot work to change the world by ourselves. We need to work in unity with those around us – and those far from us.

Lazarus at our Gate, Social Justice Statement 3013-14. P.13

From the Diocese and beyond

Retreat Day – “To Heaven with Dominic: The Pillars of Dominican Spirituality”: The Dominican Friars and Sisters are holding a retreat day on 12th July from 9am – 4.30pm. At St. Benedict’s Church and Notre Dame, 104 Broadway. Register by 25 June or email <http://retreats.op.org.au/registerretreats@op.org.au>

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Join Fr. Dariusz Basiaga sds of Gosford Parish on a 13 day pilgrimage, from Bethlehem to Nazareth, from Jerusalem to the lands of Galilee to Mt. Olive and

from the Wailing Wall to the Holy Sepulchre. Cost \$4,600 per person. (+ \$800 single supplement) with \$3,000 deposit soon. Enq: Francis Williams on 08 9459 3873. Mobile 0404 893 877. perthfamily888@gmail.com.

Latin Mass will be celebrated 15th June, 3pm. St. Cecilia’s Church, Wyong.

The Francis Effect – “I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and clinging to its own security”. Presentator: Peter

Gates – Deputy Director of Catholic Mission. This reflection day to come together, share and explore this vision and how we might better live the joy of the Gospel in our parish and daily life. This day is for all those involved in parish ministries – Catechists, Children’s Liturgy, RCIA etc. and anyone else are warmly invited. Friday 20th June 9.30am-2.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Centre, 241 The Entrance Rd. Morning Tea provided. BYO lunch. Register by 13th June. Ph: 4332 9825 registrations@dbb.org.au

Mass Intentions

David E. Fedor

It was about 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoon when the doorbell rang at the parish office. The receptionist responded, and a woman entered. Her uncle had passed away, and she was designated to take care of the funeral arrangements. While waiting for the priest to finish another appointment, she said to the receptionist: "While I'm here, I would like to buy a Mass for my uncle."

This scene is very familiar. It is a long-standing Catholic custom to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention: for a deceased person, in thanksgiving for a favor received, for the health of a sick person, for missionaries, and so on. The request is made, a time and location of the Mass is scheduled, and the person donates a sum of money. This offering is called a stipend.

However, the scene above reveals a widespread misunderstanding about having a Mass said for a specific intention: that payment is required. Many people think that their offering "buys" the Mass. This is not true. The money given is a free-will donation, not a required fee. This distinction is very important.

From the beginnings of our Christian tradition, the faithful have supported the work of the church and its leadership (presbyters and their helpers in ministry) with donations, generally made when the community gathered for the Lord's Supper. Gifts of material goods (for example, food) and/or money were brought to the presider along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist. The priest and his helpers were expected to distribute the offerings to those in need, and some would be used by the priest for his own needs.

As the church in the first three centuries became more established, people began to give an offering of money to the priest with a request that he celebrate a Mass for the donor's intention. These stipends were intended to support the priest as he carried out his duties. The donations were always voluntary, with no conditions attached.

By the fourth century, the church had become an institution and had a position of wealth and influence. Some unsavory persons sought to purchase promotions to the episcopate, priesthood, and deaconate: positions of power and prestige. It did not take long for some corrupt clergy to start attaching "fees" for all sorts of spiritual things, such as indulgences, Masses, blessed objects, relics, and oils. This buying and selling of spiritual favors or paying for clerical power and advancement is called simony. The first recorded example of this can be found in the Acts of the Apostles (8:9-24), in which a magician tried to buy spiritual powers from the apostles. His name was Simon Magnus; the word "simony" is derived from his name. The crime of simony became so widespread that the Council of Chalcedon (451) condemned it and imposed severe penalties on anyone involved. Simony again became a problem in the 10th century and was addressed by Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085). The Council of Trent (1545-1563), in responding to the Protestant Reformation, provided strict directives to eliminate abuses and prevent the trafficking of things spiritual that had become rampant in the church (see *Decree on Indulgences*, Sess. 25).

Today, we do not hear of people buying indulgences or other spiritual favors or positions of power in the church. However, people are expected to present a sum of money when they request that a Mass be celebrated. How can this be?

First of all, it must be made clear that the church has always taught that we cannot buy the salvation given to us by God through Jesus Christ. The price has been paid, once and for all, by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

Furthermore, any offering made for a Mass is just that: an offering. The reason dioceses may establish a suggested stipend amount is a matter of discipline: it ensures that a person requesting a Mass intention is aware that all members of the church are expected to contribute to the work of the



Jesus ascended into heaven, blessing His disciples and promising that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We who have received that promised gift of the Spirit are now empowered to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth — to use our time and talents to spread the good news of salvation.



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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, 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
100 Blackwall Road.

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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

Fr Stephen Wayoyi, A.J. *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene McLenaghan & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., 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, 3.30 p.m.; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00 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 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 9.30 a.m.

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, 7 p.m. Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21a Dul-kara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 f 0243 445049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

CATHOLICCARE 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.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990818.

Mass Intentions

(continued)

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church and support its ministers. A uniform stipend also ensures that a particular priest cannot set a higher amount for his own financial gain.

Church law is very clear that the stipend is never to be misunderstood to be a payment for a priest to celebrate a Mass. It is considered immoral to demand payment for a sacrament. (For more information on stipends, see the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, 945-958).

The suggested donation amount for a Mass intention is not a hardship for most people. However, even if someone does not have or cannot spare the funds, the request for the Mass intention should be honored. To demand the donation as a condition for celebrating a Mass is simply. Given today's widespread misunder-

standing about this, some catechesis might be done to make sure that everyone – the faithful and the parish receptionists who routinely arrange for Mass intentions – understands that the donation is voluntary and not the "price" of a eucharistic celebration.

ML

David Fedor holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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Diocese of
Broken Bay