



The Voice

22nd November 2015

Christ the King, Year B

Psalter Week 1

ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Anne de Graaff.
- **Anniversaries:**
Muriel Fietz, Brian Coogan, Paul Houghton.
- **Remembrances:**
Nora and Eli Houghton, Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
- **And the sick:**
Peter Wellins, Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, June Ferry, Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen, Lola Proctor, Jack Moulds, Maryanne Diorio, Charles Knowles, Mark Taylor, Alan Harland, Carol Cross, Fr. Brian Rowland, Fr. Bill Meacham, Bruce Spence, Mary Dolan, Grace Williams, Arnold Diorio, Tony O'Neill, Peter Harrison, Nathalie Rankin, Vince Zappavigna, Audrey Barsenbach.

Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in the Holy Year of 1925. It appears to have its roots in the 1880s when many European bishops were worried with what they saw as the rise of secularisation. I'm pleased they're not around today! These bishops were concerned at how governments were increasingly asserting more power over and against the church. Especially in France and Italy Bishops started to venerate Jesus as the Universal King. This devotion took off. By 1922, at the Eucharistic Congress in Rome, sixty-nine cardinals petitioned the Pope to establish this feast. Within three years the Vatican had been inundated with requests, and so the solemnity was established.

It's clear from today's Gospel, and the New Testament in general, that while Jesus frequently spoke of his Kingdom, is hailed like a king on Palm Sunday and is facetiously given the title of king by Pilate, his kingship is vastly different from those of Caesar, Herod and even David and the other Kings of Israel.

The earliest Christians seem to have understood this very well. We find very little writing or artistic representation of Jesus as a king before 324 AD. In that year Emperor Constantine becomes a catechumen and Christianity becomes the religion of the Roman Empire. After this time Jesus starts to appear wearing a crown and holding an orb. Mary is styled as the Queen of Heaven and begins to be pictured as such. This is all understandable as the previously persecuted Christian sect now emerges to become the most powerful unifying force in the Roman Empire. It was a sweet victory, but it meant that whatever was said of the Roman Emperor, even more must be true of Christ the Universal King and Lord.

As centuries passed and the Roman Empire passed away, the Church maintained

many of its now long-standing royal prerogatives and language. Just as an example, to this day the Pope and some bishops live in places called palaces. They wear jewels and rings and have feudal coats of arms. Worse still by far, however, is the mentality and behaviour of a very few Bishops, who seem to think that the church is above the scrutiny of the faithful, and the law of the land.

The problem with all these historical accretions is that they directly contradict the way in which Jesus spoke about himself as a King. Almost all references to Jesus' kingship occur within the passion narratives. Today's extract from John's gospel is among the most famous of them all. 'You say I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

There are not too many Kings or Queens today who would love their people so much that they would be prepared to die for them. We know from history that when the going gets tough many monarchs get going. But what we get in Jesus as King is one who did not compromise his humanity, who would not yield from his preaching and does not abandon us in our desolation. Jesus' kingship is revealed in his utter fidelity to us - even to the end. So let's not be seduced by the power, pride, riches and greed which worldly rulers so crave. Let's keep our own eyes on Christ our King who loved people more than things, who spoke the truth with love, and who died that we might live. And let's not shrink from challenging the entire Church to do the same.

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Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

The Lord is my Shep-herd, there is no-thing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Mass will be celebrated 25th November at 7.30pm and will be offered for those who have lost loved ones in the last 12 months. If you are able to assist with Senior serving please write your name on the sheet in the Servers sacristy.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Lachlan Griffiths, Charlotte McInnes, Heather McMillan, Althea Santos and Sofia Matus baptised last Sunday.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family extends its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of John Robbie buried from our Church during the past week

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 27/11/15: Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen, Pam Hickey,

Philomena Curtis.

Children's Liturgy Roster 29/11/15: Leif Spicer, Alecia Amaral, Gerri O'Keeffe. **St. Vincent de Paul Members and Volunteers** monthly Mass Saturday, 28th November, 9am

Liturgy Meeting has been cancelled for Thursday, 26th and now rescheduled prior to Christmas for Thursday 17th December, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Catechist's Meeting for 27/11/15 has been cancelled.

Christmas Hampers and Single Items in red bins will be collected on 5/6 December. If you know of anyone in need of a hamper, please contact Susie Casey on 0403 417 639.

St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Cash Appeal 5/6 December.

Your generosity would be appreciated. The need is great and your support is sought in giving what you are able to. All monies are used to support local families on the Peninsula.

Bus Fund Christmas Raffle:
First Prize: Zugler and Brown Twin Grill and B.B.Q., comes with Pizza Stone, B.B.Q. and Trolley cover. Twin Grill mobile Cart. Value approx. \$700. plus prizes on display. Tickets on sale at all Masses 28-29 November and 12-13 December. *Note two weekends only.*
Raffle will be drawn 14th December. Winner will be notified.
Enquiries: Mary Scarf 4344 2288.

Bus Trip -Mangrove Mountain: Wed, 2 December—sausage sizzle lunch. Cost \$20. Enquiries Susie 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.

Social Justice

25 November – International Day for the Prevention of Violence against Women:

The UN website for the International Day for the Prevention of Violence Against Women lists the following reasons for observing this day:

- Violence against women is a human rights violation.
- Violence against women is a consequence of discrimination against women, in law and also in practice, and of persisting inequalities between men and women.
- Violence against women impacts on, and impedes, progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security.
- Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. Preven-

tion is possible and essential.

- Violence against women continues to be a global pandemic. Up to 70 per cent of women experience violence in their lifetime.

Violence against women takes many forms—physical, sexual, psychological and economic. These forms of violence, such as trafficking, cross national boundaries.

Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families and communities across generations and reinforces other violence prevalent in society.

Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations.

This violence is not confined to a

specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women. Up to 70 per cent of women experience violence in their lifetime.

For more information, a Fact Sheet and a Brochure, see www.un.org/en/events/endoilenceday

I welcome the chorus of voices calling for an end to the violence that affects an estimated one in three women in her lifetime. I applaud leaders who are helping to enact and enforce laws and change mindsets. And I pay tribute to all those heroes around the world who help victims to heal and to become agents of hope.

*UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon.*

From the Diocese and beyond

"Soul-sorting in the silly season"- 'Joy to the World giving 'Glory to God'. Presenter: Sr. Virginia Bourke, r.s.j. Wednesday, 2nd December, 10am—2.30pm, with breaks for morning tea/lunch. Morning tea and sandwich lunch provided. Cost \$25 or donation. St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber Sth. If attending phone 4368 2805 or bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au

Invitation to a Reflection Day: Did you know Pope Francis has announced 8th December begins the Holy Year of Mercy? Come to a reflection day on Saturday, 28 November entitled "Mercy Be-

gins with Me" presented by Marist Fr. Ray Chapman, SM. This is an open invitation to everyone. To be held at St. Patrick's, Church Hill in the city from 10am-2pm. More information www.maristlaityaustralia.com

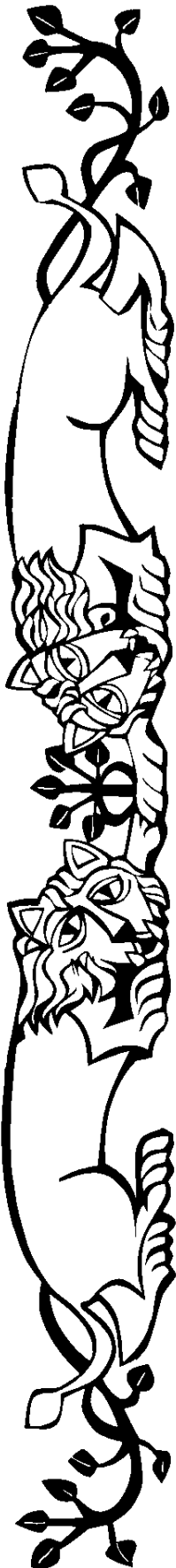
Holy Cross Catholic Lawn Cemetery is located in Humphreys Road, Kincumber South. In-ground Burial and Cremated Remains (Ashes) Memorial Beam Sites are both available now in the new Lawn Section of the Cemetery.

On-Site inspections (by appointment) are most welcome—contact Peter Hurley (Secretary) Ph: 4363 1228 or mobile 0418 440

224 for all enquiries or to have a personal appointment time.

Choral/Cultural Day to celebrate Christmas: An invitation by Filipino Chaplaincies inviting all to Mass, 12 noon, Sunday, 29th November. Celebrated by our Papal Nuncio and Bishop Peter Comensoli. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral Parish, 23 Yardley Ave. Waitara. Followed by lunch at Light of Christ (adjacent to Cathedral grounds and OLOR School basketball court.)

If attending, for catering purposes call Bob Alipalo 0311 764 446. bob.alipalo@gmail.com or Cynthia Alipalo 0416 188835 or cynthia.alipalo@gmail.com



“He shall come to rule the earth with justice” (Ps 98:9)

David E. Fedor

Autumn is a time of transition. We have gone from the heat of summer to the cool of autumn, and winter’s chill is just around the corner. All nature enters winter’s sleep while the earth prepares for a new birth.

At this same time, our liturgical year is drawing to a close. During the final weeks of Ordinary Time, the lectionary readings remind us of dying, death, and the limits of this earthly life. We are told to overlook the faults of our neighbour (Sir 27:30–28:9, 24th Sunday A); to forgive 77 times (Mt 18:21–35, 24th Sunday A); and to follow Christ, who is our door to the throne of grace (Heb 4:14–16, 29th Sunday B). The Gospels are full of parables calling the listener to justice, mercy, and love.

In our current liturgical calendar, the celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. At first glance, this solemnity seems to focus on the second coming of Christ at the end of time: all three Gospels (years A, B, and C) speak of Christ as passing judgment, separating the good from the bad, and calling those who live by his example into the kingdom prepared for them. However, this is only part of the message of this solemnity: its real focus is who has power and how that power should be exercised. To understand this, we need to go back to the institution of the feast of Christ the King, as it was originally called.

We often think of feasts of the liturgical year as having been around for centuries. It might come as a surprise, then, to discover that the solemnity of Christ the King was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a response to events happening in the world at that time.

From about 700 until 1870, many territories of the Italian peninsula had been under the direct rule of the pope. These were known as the Papal States and were considered a manifestation of the temporal power of the pope. In 1861, Italy was unified into the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia. The Papal

States were greatly reduced, and the area around Rome (called Lazio) was eventually the only one remaining. In 1870, Rome was captured and declared the capital of Italy, and the temporal power of the pope was eliminated. With no territorial control, the popes considered themselves prisoners in the Vatican. This political dispute over territorial control of the Vatican between the Italian government and the papacy, which had begun in 1861, was commonly called the Roman Question. It was not until 1929 that the Lateran Treaty resolved the issue. The holy see acknowledged Italian sovereignty over the former Papal States, and Italy recognized papal sovereignty over the newly created Vatican State, the smallest nation in the world.

It was in the context of this political dispute (and other political crises throughout Europe) that the feast of Christ the King was born in 1925. Europe was recovering from World War I, and charismatic leaders and tyrannical movements were on the rise across Europe. The 1920s are remembered as an era of excesses and moral decay. In response to the troubled times in which he lived, Pius XI wrote an encyclical called *Quas Primas*, in which he addressed growing nationalism, moral decay, and other dangerous trends.

The pope used the title of Christ as “king” as the main theme of his letter. Referencing Scripture and the fathers of the church, he made the point that the kingship of Christ was given to him by the Father, not obtained through violence or oppression. Christ has dominion by his essence and nature. He came to freely give eternal life as the Son of the Father. His rule is one of love and service, and he calls all people to follow him.

20. ... Oh, what happiness would be Ours if all men, individuals, families, and nations, would but let themselves be governed by Christ! “Then at length,” to use the words addressed by our predecessor, Pope Leo XIII,

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When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God’s blessing and inherit the kingdom.



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 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 Thottam. 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 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).

HOLY HOUR – EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

CATHOLIC CARE 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 Christine on 4341 0584.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community

Centre. Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd. Games start at 7.30pm 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 Parish Office 4341 1073.

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 43 44 5049.

'He shall come to rule the earth with justice'

(continued)

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twenty-five years ago to the bishops of the Universal Church, "then at length will many evils be cured; then will the law regain its former authority; peace with all its blessings be restored. Men will sheathe their swords and lay down their arms when all freely acknowledge and obey the authority of Christ, and every tongue confesses that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father." [*Annum Sanctum*, May 25, 1899].

21. That these blessings may be abundant and lasting in Christian society, it is necessary that the kingship of our Savoir should be as widely as possible recognized and understood, and to the end nothing would serve better than the institution of a special feast in honour of the Kingship of Christ. ...

The institution of this feast is a 20th-century example of ritual formation. In presenting Christ as king, Pius XI calls us all to see Jesus as the true authority who

bids us to follow his lead so that we might work at creating

an eternal and universal kingdom,
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.
(from Christ, King of the Universe,
preface) 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

We're on the Web!
www.woywoycatholic.org.au

Fr Jacks November dates

Mass – Kincumber, 5pm, Saturday, 21 November

Mass – 7:30am Sunday, 22 November

Mass – 7.30pm, Wednesday, 25 November

Mass – 7:45am, every Tuesday & Wednesday



Diocese of
Broken Bay