



The Voice

16th November 2014

Dedication of the Parish Church

Psalter Week 1

ORDINARY TIME

Our Parish Church

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Nicholas Tonti-Filippini,
Maxwell Cleary.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. John Harcombe,
Deirdre Smith, Patricia
Cameron, Paula Abarquez,
Mavis Claasz.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
Beryl Allen, Evangeline Cusay,
Brother Michael Knights,
Gada Selim, Olive Brittliff,
Peter Crookes, Sr. Margaret
Wall, R.S.J. Ruth Fuller.

As we celebrate the seventh anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church, might I once again draw some of its features to your attention?

The reason I do this is that a well designed church should have a catechetical impact. We can always learn from our friends in the eastern churches, where the faith is passed on and strengthened, not so much by instruction as by taking part in the Divine Liturgy in a church designed to draw the mind to heavenly things.

Our church is built around the idea of the Christian as pilgrim. The pebble surface that begins at the pedestrian gate continues under the covered way, through the main doors and the gathering space to the pews, and is also visible around the altar, ambo and chair. As we enter the worship space, we see on the doors the words (in four languages) from the pilgrim psalm 120 (8): 'The Lord will guard your going and coming, both now and forever.'

The gathering spaces doubles as a devotional space—an area where we can engage in our private devotions. There are the Way of the Cross and chapels in honour of the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph and St Anthony.

Inside, the stained glass draws our attention to the Patron, Saint John the Baptist (the upper windows, in the colours of red

[martyrdom], blue [his baptism], and desert colours), and to our worship in the community of saints and the angels (especially the faces and the angels' wings).

The altar, ambo, chair and font form a set, made from Persian travertine and highlighted in Roman travertine. They are the focal points of the building, according to what is happening, and they emphasise the unity of sacramental action. It is around these that we gather at various important events on the journey, especially when we assemble on Sunday.

The exact centre of the church is just in front of the altar steps, in the centre. In church-building tradition, this is called the *omphalos* or "navel", where really important events take place. The priest stands there to distribute Communion; marriages and ordinations take place there.

The pilgrim route which we mostly follow (in and out the main doors) is not the way in which we finish our journey. We have a special set of funeral doors, like those in mediaeval monasteries, and after the Mass or Service of Christian Burial, the body is taken through these doors to the hearse waiting outside.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Let us go re - | joi - ing to the | house of the | Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Parish Christmas Hampers: Lists of various hampers for you to choose from are on display. Please take note of each hamper's code. Single items can be left in the red bins. No cigarettes, alcohol or perishables please. Hampers will be collected at all Masses the weekend of 6/7 December.

Note: This is a separate collection from St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas collection.

St. Vincent de Paul Gift Appeal: A large bin next to the table in our gathering area is for your generous donations of toys for children and gifts for adults. No perishable items please.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cash Appeal: This special collection at all Masses the weekend 6/7 December.

Children's Liturgy Roster 23/11/14: Therese Carroll (L). Geraldine Baxter (L).

Thank you: The Pyper Family thanks St. John the Baptist Parish family for their prayers, comfort and support at the passing of their beloved Noel.

Volunteers Party: Parish volunteers are invited to help us to celebrate the way in which parishioners share their time and their gifts for the sake of the Gospel with a party in the Walter Baker Parish Hall from 1.30pm, Friday, 5th December. RSVP for catering purposes to Parish Office.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster 23/11/14: Craft Ladies Group.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/11/14: Maria Wickens. Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan.

Haydn's Requiem plus works of Mozart presented by Central Coast Chorale and Orchestra with Sydney University graduate Chamber Choir in our church, Sunday, 23rd Novem-

ber, 2.30pm. Further details on flyers in gathering area.

Coffee, Tea and Chat: A group of seniors meet in the Leo Mahon room 3rd Monday of each month, due this Monday, 17th November, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Bus Trip to Nelson Bay Wednesday, 26th November. Leaving 8.30am. Stopping for morning tea. Cost \$15. Contact: Susie Casey 0403 417 639 or 4344 1743.

Woy Woy Rosary Makers thank all who supported our Melbourne Cup Trifecta. This year's winner was Ken Hickey (Port Macquarie) brother of Shirley.

2013-2014 Parish Financial Report—copies available on the gathering area table.



Social Justice

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis on Migrants and Refugees

Continued from last week's Newsletter.

From the beginning the Church has been a mother with a heart open to the whole world, and has been without borders. This mission has continued for two thousand years. But even in the first centuries, the missionary proclamation spoke of the universal motherhood of the Church, which was then developed in the writings of the Fathers and taken up by the Second Vatican Council. The Council Fathers spoke of

Ecclesia Mater to explain the Church's nature. She begets sons and daughters and "Takes them in and embraces them with her love and in her heart. The Church without frontiers, Mother of all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place or disposable, indicates the way, accompanying all with patience, and drawing close to them through prayer and works of mercy.

Today this takes on a particular significance. In fact, in an age of such vast movements of

migration, large numbers of people are leaving their homelands, with a suitcase full of fears and desires, to undertake a hopeful and dangerous trip in search of more humane living conditions. Often, however, such migration gives rise to suspicion and hostility even in ecclesial communities, prior to any knowledge of the migrants' destitution. In such cases, suspicion and prejudice conflict with the biblical commandment of welcoming with respect and solidarity the stranger in need.

Pope Francis.

From the Diocese and beyond

2014 Mass for People with Special Needs 30th November, 10.30am. St. Agatha's Parish, 20 Boundary Rd. Pennant Hills. Celebrant Fr. Vince Casey. Diocesan Administrator. Lunch served after Mass. Please advise any special requirements. RSVP 23 Nov. Call Colleen/Leanne on 9847 0448 or 4332 9825

Charity Event: The Rosemaree Freeman Trophy charity cricket match was played on Sunday, 2nd November at St. Edward's College as a fundraiser for Lifeline—Central Coast. You can support the fund raising effort by making a donation at www.everydayhero.com.au/rosemaree-freeman-trophy. until Sat. 29 November. Together, we

can make a difference. If you or anyone you know needs help, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

St. Aloysius' College is an Independent Catholic School for boys in Years 3-12 conducted by the Society of Jesus and located at Milsons Point.

Applications – 2016 and 2017 Parents who have not yet made an application for their sons for Years 3 and 5 in 2016 or 2017 and Year 11 in 2016.

All applicants sit an entrance examination which will be held in February 2015. Dates for the entrance examinations are available on the College Website.

Closing date for applications is Friday 30 January 2015. Further information obtained

from the College Website: www.stalloysius.nsw.edu.au or contacting Registrar, Alicia Toogood 02 9936 5535 or email: registrar@stalloysius.nsw.edu.au.

Notre Dame Applications Still Open: Applications for the University of Notre Dame Australia are still open! Our graduates in Arts, Business, Education, Law, Medicine, Nursing and Philosophy and Theology enjoy an employment rate 10% higher than the national average.

Our unique admissions process considers the whole person and includes a one-on-one interview. Apply directly at www.nd.edu.au/applynow Information call 02 8204 4404 or email sydney@nd.edu.au

Advent: What Are We Waiting For?

Donna M. Cole

One of our most familiar home rituals involves the birthday cake. Turn the lights off, light the candle, process to the table, sing "Happy Birthday," make a wish, blow out the candles, share the cake with family and friends. As rituals go, it's pretty solid and quick. Everybody knows what it's about and what to do. The candles remind us of the life lived thus far and are extinguished with a dream for the coming year. We hold that dream in our hearts, sometimes forever.

In our home Advent rituals, we also light candles, reflect on a birth and a life lived, and look forward with hope to the future. The Advent candles are a sign of salvation, of our hopes and dreams for the reign of God. When we bless the wreath and light the candles, we do so as a family united with Christ in baptism, waiting in joy for the coming of our savior.

These candles are not extinguished with a wish but continue to burn more brightly each week of Advent, a sign of hope and a reminder of the splendor of Christ. This light leads us into the wonder of waiting. This season teaches us to wait – something the world prefers not to do. Research shows our attention span has been declining in recent years. In 2013, the average attention span (time on task without becoming distracted) of someone visiting the web was 8 seconds, down from 12 seconds in 2000. (For reference, the average attention span of a goldfish is 9 seconds!)*

In *The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life*, Joan Chittister suggests that Advent is the antidote to our distraction.

Advent relieves us of our commitment to the frenetic in a fast-paced world. It slows us down. It makes us think. It makes us look beyond today to the "great tomorrow" of life. Without Advent, moved only by the race to nowhere that exhausts the world around us, we could be so frantic with trying to consume and control this life that we fail to develop within ourselves a taste for the spirit that does not die and will not slip

through our fingers like melted snow. It is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God, Advent after Advent, that we come to realize that its coming depends on us. What we do will either hasten or slow, sharpen or dim our own commitment to do our part to bring it. (Ancient Practices Series [2009], 62)

How do we wait?

Our waiting begins with our determination to stay in the moment, to focus on what we mean as we light one candle, then the next. We commit to slowing down, even as the world around us spins to a frantic pace of Christmas preparation. We entrust our next steps to the one who is coming.

Advent is about learning to wait. It is about not having to know exactly what is coming tomorrow, only that whatever it is, it is of the essence of sanctification for us. Every piece of it, some hard, some uplifting, is a sign of the work of God alive in us. We are becoming as we go. We learn in Advent to stay in the present, knowing that only the present well lived can possibly lead us to the fullness of life. (60)

We wait by trusting in the power of ritual to draw us ever deeper into stillness and the presence of God.

The liturgical year does not begin at the heart of the Christian enterprise. It does not immediately plunge us into the chaos of the Crucifixion or the giddy confusion of the Resurrection. Instead, the year opens with Advent, the season that teaches us to wait for what is beyond the obvious. It trains us to see what is behind the apparent. Advent makes us look for God in all those places we have, until now, ignored. (59)

What do we wait for?

Christ promises a return in glory.

Then the reign of God for which we strive with every breath will come in all its fullness. This is the coming for which we wait.

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As we pray today for an increase of spiritual gifts, we are reminded that good stewardship of the Church "means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith."



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

Deadline for The Voice: 3.30 p.m. Wednesday

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 Dulkara 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.

Advent: what are we waiting for?

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

This is the fullness for which we long. This is what we really mean when the choir sings into the dark, "Maranatha." "Come, Lord Jesus, come" is one rendering of the word. But taken from the Greek, as *maran atha* – two words – "The Lord has come" is another equally acceptable translation. Then the comings – past, present, and future – all live together in one long sigh of the soul. (65–66)

We wait for what has been, for what is now, and for what will be all in a single moment of light. In this we discover the deep joy of waiting.

We learn the joy of anticipation, the joy of delighting in a sense of the presence of God all around us, the joy of looking for the second coming of Christ, the joy of

living in the surety of even more life in the future. (66)

Waiting – that cold, dry period of life when nothing seems to be enough and something else beckons within us – is the grace that Advent comes to bring. (62)

* National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine, The Associated Press [Jan. 1, 2014]; <http://www.statisticbrain.com/attention-span-statistics/>. **ML**

Donna M. Cole is associate editor of ML. She holds a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Caldwell College, Caldwell, N.J., and has a passion for liturgy celebrated and lived to the fullest. With degrees in microbiology and biology, she spends her "spare" time in biomedical research, marveling at the wonder of God revealed in the complexity of science.



Diocese of Broken Bay