



EASTERTIME

Easter Sunday

Year A

16th April 2017

Psalter Week 1

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Val Davanzo, Kevin James Easterbrook,
Thora Duffy.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bob Scholte, Wyn Regan,
Sr. Maureen Sykes,
John (Sonny) Madden,
Dorn Schumacher,
Pedro and Damiana Bulual,
- **Remembrances:**
Sergei de Souza.
- **And the sick:**
Alan Ford, Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Audrey Barsendich, Maureen Cowls,
Kath Hardy, Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Lola de Souza,
Pat Burgmann, Mary Scarf,
Gwen Strickson, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Cathrine Spratt.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Reflection

by Fr Michael Tate

Women go to the tomb as dawn is breaking. The Power of Darkness which had Jesus unjustly sentenced, cruelly tortured and buried in the pitch blackness of the tomb, is conquered by the Son-Rise of all sun rises flooding our world and the whole of human history with Divine Light and Energy.

This is the heart of our faith as Catholic Christians, which we celebrate with bon-fire (good fire) in darkness at the Easter Vigil. From that earthly element we light the Easter candle and the Exsultet is sung: 'Be glad, let earth be glad as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King.'

The resurrection itself is nowhere described in the gospels, but we do have appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus. The first appearance was to a woman, Mary of Magdala. A title given to her by the early church was 'Apostle to the Apostles' because she was the bearer of the message which the male disciples initially did not believe. But eventually they too believed that Death had been done to death because the Son

had risen.

Christ's body was transfigured by the energy of Divine Love and we can, by grace, participate in that resurrection life of Our Lord. A glorious destiny awaits us, as indeed it awaits the whole cosmos as it is to be transformed by that resurrection life recreating the whole of creation.

We could take a moment to pray that we, along with all that matters, are graced with the life-giving energy of the Risen Son and that we may join Mary of Magdala in spreading the Good News of Christ's victory over death. Alleluia!



Psalm Response

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This is the day the Lord has made; Let us re-joice and be glad _____.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. *Alleluia!*

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

Around the Parish

A very happy Easter to all and a warm welcome to our visitors. May the Risen Lord bless you during this holy season of Eastertide.

Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood; the Body of Christ is received in the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.

Public Holiday Monday 17th April: Morning Mass will be at 9.00am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Parish Office will be closed Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Thursday 20th April.

Morning Tea Roster 23/4/17 will be the Live, Pray Love Group.

Social Justice

Easter Sunday.

Pope Francis delivered the traditional *Urbi et Orbi* blessing on Easter Sunday, following Mass in St. Peter's Square on Easter Sunday, 27 March 2016.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures for ever (Ps. 135:1)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter!

Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God's mercy, out of love for us, died on the cross, and out of love he rose again from the dead. That is why we proclaim today: Jesus is Lord!

His resurrection fulfils the prophecy of the Psalm: God's mercy endures forever; it never dies...

Before the spiritual and moral abysses of mankind, before the chasms that open up in hearts and provoke hatred death, only

Easter Offering Envelopes are available in the church for your convenience for those who do not have planned giving envelopes.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 20th April, Leo Mahon room. Studying the Acts of the Apostles during Eastertide. Bring your Bible.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers. Sunday 23 April, Woy Woy Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Children's Liturgy Roster 23/4/17: Therese Carroll, Hanna El Khatib, Emma Baker.

Trip to Morpeth, Thursday, 20th April. Leaving 9am. Contact Susie 0403 417 639. Ph: 43441742.

Church cleaning Roster Friday 21st April: Veronica Jordan, Brian Jordan, Jo Salter, Pam Hickey.

an infinite mercy can bring us salvation. Only God can fill those chasms with his love, prevent us from falling into them and help us to continue our journey together towards the land of freedom and life.

The glorious Easter message, that Jesus, who was crucified, is not here but risen, offers us the comforting assurance that the abyss of death has been bridged and, with it, all mourning, lamentation and pain. The Lord...now makes us sharers of his immortal life and enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalised and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence. Our world is full of persons suffering in body and

Serra Vocations Lunch-Time Meeting will be held after 12.30am Mass, celebrated by Fr. Jim McKeon on Wednesday, 19th April at St. Patrick's East Gosford. The afternoon should be concluded around 1.30pm.

After Mass we will enjoy a light lunch (please bring a plate) refreshments provided by Serra, followed by a short meeting. Following the meeting Fr. Jim will be our guest speaker.

Please "come and see" and consider making a contribution to the encouragement and support of new and existing vocations on the Central Coast. The primary objective of Serra is to encourage all parishioners to pray everyday for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life, for the perseverance of the existing vocations, for all seminarians/novices and to attend an extra Mass each month especially for vocations. All welcome! If attending, please contact John Smith, Phone 4384 1946. Email: john.e.smith8@gmail.com

spirit, even as the daily news is full of stories of brutal crimes which often take place within homes, and large-scale armed conflicts which cause indescribable suffering to entire peoples.

To those in our society who have lost all hope and joy in life, to the elderly who struggle alone and feel their strength waning, to young people who seem to have no future, to all I once more address the words of the Risen One: 'See, I am making all things new...To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life' (Rev 21:5-6). May this comforting message of Jesus help each of us to set out anew with greater courage to blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Edward's College – Year 7, 2018 enrolments: Any family wanting to enroll their son for Year 7, 2018 at St. Edward's College is reminded that the closing date is Friday, 28th April.

Please make sure the College has received your completed application form and all accompanying paperwork by 3.00pm.

Thank you for your assistance – The Enrolment Department.

"Keeping a finger on our pulse!" St. Joseph's Kincumber will continue to host four faith enrichment days. Presentations will be reflective and prayerful on ordinary life, keeping in touch with matters of significance across the seasons and feasts of the Christian year. Presenter is Sr. Virginia Bourke, Sr. of St. Joseph. Sessions will be held on the last Wednesday of April, June, September and November. Wednesday, 27th

April: Post-Easter reflections on our inner drive to find "home" and be at "home". Sessions begin 10am, conclude 2.45pm.

Cost: \$15 given on the day. Morning Tea provided. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Booking: If you would like to attend please email on: bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au or Ph: 02 4368 2805.

To check availability of overnight accommodation, contact Sr. Ellen Daniel, Centre Manager.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Saturday, April 15

1. Gn 1:1–2:2 or 1:1, 26–31
Ps 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35
or Ps 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20–22
2. Gn 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9, 10–13, 15–18
Ps 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11
3. Ex 14:15–15:1
Psalm: Ex 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18
4. Is 54:5–14
Ps 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13
5. Is 55:1–11
Psalm: Is 12:2–3, 4, 5–6
6. Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11
7. Ez 36:16–28
Psalm: Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4
or Is 12:2–3, 4, 5–6
or Ps 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19
8. Rom 6:3–11
Ps 118:1–2, 16, 17, 22–23
9. Mt 28:1–10

Tonight's Mass has nine readings assigned to it, seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament (one from St. Paul and one from the Gospel). The Holy Saturday liturgy, in its earliest form an all-night vigil, evolved into a service on Saturday afternoon (eighth century) and then was moved to Saturday morning (10th century). It wasn't until the 1950s that Pope Pius XII's reform restored it to Saturday evening.

The return to a true vigil Mass brings us back to our roots and, beginning in darkness, illustrates for us the power of the light of Christ over darkness. The rubrics state that all the readings "should be read whenever this can be done, so that the character of the Vigil, which demands an extended period of time, may be preserved" (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, 20). An allowance is made, when "more serious pastoral circumstances demand it," to cut down the number of Old Testament readings to "at least three" (21). The instruction goes on to say that the reading from Exodus 14 is never to be omitted. Including all the readings provides an overview of salvation history leading up to the proclamation of the resurrection in the

Gospel. Most people who attend the Vigil are not in a rush, and when all of the readings and psalms are done well, they add to the depth and beauty of the celebration.

In our Gospel reading tonight we hear that Jesus "has been raised from the dead" (v 7). This is the core belief of our faith.

As then-Cardinal Ratzinger said in his 2005 Holy Saturday homily, "Every year the Easter Vigil invites us once again to immerse ourselves in the waters of Baptism, to pass from death to life, to become true Christians." In preparing and celebrating this year's Vigil, let us join ourselves to Christ and share more fully in his gift of life.

For reflection: How can reflecting on the stories of salvation history help me better understand the meaning of Easter? How does tonight's Mass call me to better express my faith in my daily life?

At Mass During the Day, Sunday, April 16

- Acts 10:34–43
Ps 118:1–23
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6–8
Jn 20:1–9 or Luke 24:13–35

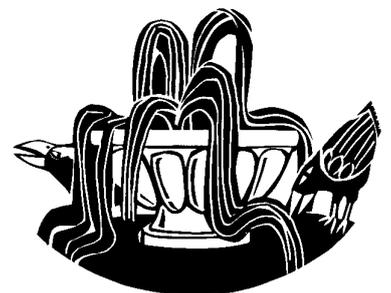
Today's reading from Acts gives us a sense of the earliest form of preaching in the apostolic community. Peter's words in the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and the first gentile to embrace Christianity, summarize the Christian kerygma: Jesus, God's anointed one, was killed and rose from the dead. For Luke, the author of Acts, this is a fulfillment of God's words spoken by "all the prophets" (v 43).

Paul tells the Colossians and us that by having a share in Christ's life through our baptism, we also have a share in his resurrection. "When Christ ... appears" (v 3) in glory, we will have a

(Continued on page 4)



Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead!
Alleluia!



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,

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256
Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.
Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.
Office Hours:
9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Deadline for The Voice:
3.30 p.m. Wednesday

Scripture Readings (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

share of that glory. By sharing in our death, Jesus gives us a share in his resurrection, for we "were raised with Christ" (v 1). Paul goes on in the next verses to call us to "put to death ... the parts of you that are earthly" (see v 5), indicating that we already share in the new life Jesus won for us, though not fully.

John tells us that it was "the first day of the week" (v 1) when Jesus' tomb was discovered empty. The imagery here is of a new era, a new creation. As life began in a garden, where sin was first committed (see Gn 3), so too death is destroyed and new life is revealed in the garden where Jesus was entombed (see Jn 19:41). But even Jesus' disciples do not immediately grasp the meaning of the empty tomb. According to our

evangelist, Mary Magdalene thinks, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb" (v 2), and Peter remains unsure, "for they did not yet understand the Scripture" (v 9). Comprehending the truth of the resurrection is beyond our grasp without God's enlightenment.

For reflection: How can I better live the new life given to me by Christ's death and resurrection? Does my belief in resurrection affect the way I live my life? **ML**

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number

SAVE THE DATE:
Troubadours Concert, CWA Hall,
Woy Woy, 29 April - \$7.pp .
**Fund Raising for Mary Mac's
Place. More next week**

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 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).
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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.
Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

CATHOLIC CARE 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.

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 HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

The Live, Pray, Love Project 'Save the Date' Cultural Day Event

Sunday 4 June 2017
Walter Baker Hall (Church hall),
cnr of Victoria and Blackwall Rds, Woy Woy

This is a day where we come together to celebrate and share with one another our cultural diversity through music, singing, dance, food and story telling or something else not mentioned here.

Here at SJB we have a wealth of so many different cultures, as the song says..."We are one, but we are many, And from all the lands on earth we come, We share a dream and sing with one voice, I am, you are, we are Australian" Lyrics from "I Am Australian"

So get some friends together and put something together for the day.
Gladys Leger 0421 312 362