



The Voice

20th April 2014

Easter Sunday

Psalter Octave

EASTERTIME

Paschal Practicalities

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Frances Phillips, Elaine Conaty, Leonardo Daroy, Robert Markwell, Mary Dolores Gatt, Sr. Maureen Sykes, r.s.m. Natalie Mrvica.
- **Anniversaries:**
Andrew Flanagan, Genevieve and Cyril Knight, Wyn Regan.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price. Arthur and Muriel Brown and the Brown family.
- **And the sick:**
Grace Williams, Sara Selim, Lola Proctor, Maureen Wardrop, Fr. Geoffrey Bugden, Alan Harland, Therese Payne, Hanaa El Khatib, Mary Leger, Wanda Grima, Beryl Allen.

I know that Easter is often celebrated in columns such as this in a way that strikes many people as platitudinous. Priests are expected to say the right thing—and, these days, that means being very careful about treading on anyone's toes. But do you mind if I risk departing from the usual?

I mean to do so by returning to what I was saying last week. I raised the subject of what a parish is and what a parish pastoral council (PPC) does in relation to that identity.

I began, you might recall, by drawing your attention to the significance of the Palm Sunday procession and to what it symbolises in the day-to-day life of the parish. Today I would like to draw some lessons about the parish from the great Feast of the Resurrection that we celebrate today.

The Fifty Days of Easter are the high-point of the Church Year, because they celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death. In practical terms this means, first of all, that we also celebrate our own baptism—the way in which we came to share in that triumph.

In practical terms this entails a way of living that is in accordance with the gospel. Easter, you see, is a very practical

feast. *Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.*

And since we have been saved, not as rugged individuals, but as members of Christ's Body and branches of the True Vine, the next practical consequence is to make the local Christian community a place where the Spirit truly works among Christians born again of water and the Holy Spirit.

Easter becomes practical when each of us works to recognise the gifts which the Holy Spirit has poured out on us. That is a point made very strongly in the days between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday, but the whole season works up to that conclusion: now that I have celebrated the work of God in me through the sacraments of initiation, what can I do to spread that Good News, so that others can come to the same fullness of life?

There are many ministries in which you can do that. One is the PPC, which helps me to put the Resurrection into action in this place. What about giving it a thought?

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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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 our Risen Lord bless you during this holy season of Eastertide.

Easter Monday and Anzac Day Public Holidays: Morning Mass will be 9.00am on Monday and Friday. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will follow Monday's Mass. Parish Office closed on both days.

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 on 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.

Bus Trip: May 7th. Gosford RSL for lunch and shopping at Spotlight. Enquiries: Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers . Sunday 27th April, 2.30pm-3.30pm. Sacred Heart Chapel.

Catechist's Meeting Thursday 24th April. 9.00am-12md in the Leo Mahon room

Liturgy Team meeting cancelled this month.

Family Ministry meeting Thursday, 24th April, 1pm Riley room

Social Justice

Easter Sunday: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, brings to birth a new world in which it becomes possible to live his peace, the peace which the world cannot give. He offers a

of the Ethel Cox Centre.

Morning Tea Roster for Sunday, 27th April after 9.15am Mass will be our Youth Group.

Volunteer Church Cleaning will be Wednesday 23rd April instead of the usual Friday due to Anzac Day. Rostered on are: Warren Sparrow, Don Anderson, Gary Martin and Linda Potestas.

Children's Liturgy Roster 27/4/14: Geraldine Baxter, Mary Wood, Elena Holmes.

Enrolment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School: An Information Evening will be held for all families considering enrolling at St. John's in 2015.

It will be held on Tuesday 29th April, 7.30 pm in the school hall, (21a Dulkara Road, Woy Woy). On Wednesday 30th April, an under 6 year old 'fun morning' and tour of the school will take place from 9.30am-11am. Enquiries: 4341 0884.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference Members and Volunteers monthly Mass 9am, Saturday 26th April .

Support Mary Macs – Fun Festival: A fundraising event will be held *this* Saturday, 26th April in Walter Baker Hall. Art and Craft Show, Plant Sale, Devonshire Tea, Cake Stall, Entertainment and the launch of Mary Macs Cookies. We need your support

From the Diocese and beyond

Divine Mercy Sunday April 27. St. Patrick's Parish, 76 York St. East Gosford. Please join us at 1pm for Adoration and Reconciliation, 2pm Mass and 3pm Chaplet.

The Good Life – discovering spirit in Australia today: A conversation with Hugh MacKay and Fr. David Ranson. Tuesday 6th May, 7.30pm-9pm. The Light of Christ Centre, end of Yardley Ave., Waitara. Doors open 7pm for refreshments and hospitality. RSVP 3 May. Ph: 9847 0448 or 4332 9825. trybooking.com/EIBA

Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner: Fr. Peter Hendricks m.s.c. will be celebrating Mass at Sa-

crucified and risen, brings to birth a new world; he also becomes the power to make the vision reality. The heart of this vision is the God who loves each of us

cred Heart Church, 2 Porter Way, Pymble on Wednesday, 23rd April. The evening will commence with Mass at 6.30pm followed by a light meal, a short meeting and the continuation of our online adult faith programme. This month we will be playing a YouTube video of Dis-calced Carmelite Father Greg Homeming speaking to a Eucharistic Convention in Auckland. His topic "The Sacrament of the Cross". It is not to be missed. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to participate please join us. For what will be an interesting evening. Everyone is welcome. Ph: Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295.

to tell family and friends. We are also calling for the donation of cakes for the cake stall on the day. Ph: Christine for details 4341 0584.

Cash Housie every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. And McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games start 7.30pm and finish 10.30pm. Cash Prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Enquiries: Rob on 0427 990 818.

New 'Vinnies' Shop at West Gosford Now Open! Spend \$20 by the end of April and you may win prizes from other local shops. See notice Board for full details.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group meeting next Thursday, 24th April, 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All welcome!

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family would like to extend prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Joseph Stanisha who was buried from our Church last week.

A Fond Farewell is extended to Joseph and Borgia (Bozica) Bukovac, long term parishioners, who are moving to Blacktown. Coffee and cake will be served in the Leo Mahon room after 9am Mass and Benediction on Easter Monday. Please bring a plate to share. All are welcome!

intensely and passionately. This God has invited us to shape our world so that all human beings share it equitably and justly, and has prepared for us happiness beyond our imagining.

Email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com

Annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa 18th May. Coach booking \$25 pp. Full details on noticeboard.

Let him easter in us...an Easter to Pentecost pilgrimage of prayer will be available for download from the diocesan website from Tuesday April 22 and is suitable for individual or small group prayer and reflection. To have the leaflet for each week delivered by email please send an email to: gail.gill@dbb.org.au with Easter to Pentecost in the subject line. For further details see flyer on the noticeboard.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Saturday, April 19

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 20

- Acts 10:34, 37–43
Ps 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6–8
Jn 20:1–9

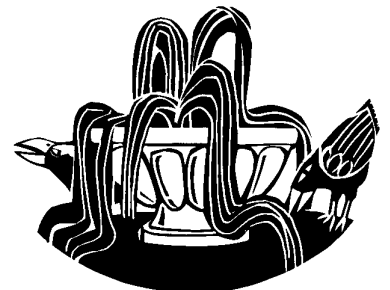
Today's reading from Acts gives us a sense of the earliest form of preaching in the apostolic community. Peter's words in the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and the first gentile to embrace Christianity, summarize the Christian kerygma: Jesus, God's anointed one, was killed and rose from the dead. 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 share of that glory. By sharing in our death, Jesus gives us a share in his resur-

(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, Umina, Ettalong, Koolewong, Tascott, Blackwall, Booker Bay, St Hubert's Island, Empire BaWoy 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 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

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

Office Staff: Helen Cameron & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.. Monday to Thursday.

9.30am – 3.00pm.. Friday

Deadline for The Voice: 3.30pm.. 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 Dulakara 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.

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.

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.

Scripture Readings

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

rection, 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. 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 115216.

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Diocese of
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