

# The Voice

31st July 2016

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Psalter Week 2



## OF YOUR CHARITY

### PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**

Amelia Laurega, Ray Dunn,  
Rufino Sta Monica, Manuela Saliba,  
Tony Sta Monica, Adele Brown,  
Bertram Norris, Lynn Goodall,  
Mark Bevilacqua.

- Anniversaries:**

Noel Barron, Michael Barron,  
Terence Curtis, Renato Carpio,  
Angelita Carpio, Matilde Carpio,  
Tirso Carpio, Paul Houghton,  
Fae Casey, Sergei de Souza,  
Sr. Patricia Snell,  
Diana & William Henry  
Whittington.

- Remembrances:**

Nora and Eli Houghton.

- And the sick:**

Rene Glase, Beryl Allen,  
Peter John Grima, Jack Moulds,  
Tracie Passlow, Cheryl Douglas,  
Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence,  
Maryanne Diorio, Cara Rodigus,  
Mary Anne Gormley, John Allen,  
Coral Williams, Irene Beck,  
Jonell Georges, Alan Harland,  
Keith Oakes, Vince Zappavigna,  
Don Boland, Albie Curtis,  
Celeste Boonaerts, Louise Dunn,  
Bryan Moroney, Jannelle Dawson,  
Nola Davies, Margaret Thoms,  
Baby Winter, Baby Blake, Ian Wilks,  
Elaine Finlayson, Helen McKeon,  
Brooke Simmons, Audrey Barsendich,  
Frank Schmidt, Nicola (Nick) Bubici.

## Stop Talking to Yourself!

Sometimes I catch myself talking to myself. Usually, it is quite interesting, seldom any contradictory remarks! It is in the form of a dialogue, but of course it is a monologue – a totally self-contained conversation.

Did you notice in today's gospel that the rich landowner is constantly murmuring to himself. He poses questions which *he* answers – to his advantage, of course, or so he thinks.

The point is obvious. He is so bound up with his property, his possessions, that there is no room in his life for real conversation with real people, *other* real people, or conversation with the Creator.

If he had talked to others about what to do with the surplus grain, he would have opened himself to the risk of discovering that there may be a claim on his wealth, a claim on his property, arising out of our common humanity – that it wasn't 'all about me'.

He may have heard the plea: 'Give us this day our daily bread.' In responding, he may have decided on a different course of action, the distribution of the surplus grain to grind into flour for the poor.

I was taught by the Christian Brothers that if a poor man is so destitute that he can't feed himself and his family, then if a rich man refuses to give him what he needs for the necessities of life, he can take from that rich man and it is not the sin of stealing – it may be a crime, but it is not a sin!

This comes from the core Catholic teaching that all the earth and its resources belong to every person as a gift.

But, whilst that is true, Our Lord was not laying the foundation for some political ideology.

Why was He really concerned for this sort of rich person? The answer is that the rich man was denying the need for conversation.

But, conversation is what makes us human: we are word animals. Anyone who has been in hospital for some time knows that it is the lack of conversation which starts to tell, particularly if there is a long period of recovery. We need mouth to mouth resuscitation.

In muttering to himself, the rich man was becoming dehumanised.

There are two dimensions of conversation we need:

With God we call it prayer. The Our Father is the conversation of the children of God with their heavenly Father;

With other people, dialogue with them might reveal something about them such that we need to respond, and of course something about ourselves, that we are built for talking with others.

Otherwise when we arrive at the moment of death, which, as in this gospel, may be at a time unknown to us, we will survive because our souls are immortal, but we will find ourselves monologuing for all eternity, and that is a Hellish existence.

We need to learn the language of Heaven and we begin that on earth.

What should we do in the light of today's gospel?

If you knew you were going to die, say, before the end of the year, and you wanted to die 'rich in the eyes of God' as the Gospel puts it, what could you do?

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### Psalms Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Happy are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

### 30-31 July Weekend

This weekend we join with Pope Francis, Bishop Peter Comensoli and the youth of our Diocese to celebrate the international World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. Our pilgrims will be participating in the outdoor Vigil Mass with Pope Francis and millions of youth on Saturday night before the official Final Mass on Sunday morning.

Visit [www.dbb.org.au](http://www.dbb.org.au) to hear from our youth as they prepare for this incredible celebration!

**Sympathy:** Prayerful condolences to the family of Mark Bevilacqua who was buried from our church the past week.

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal:** Collection will be at all Masses on 13/14 August. Envelopes available in the church for your convenience.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 5/8/16:** Philomena Curtis, Rano Spiteri, Kevin Glacken, Lisa Ann Rae.

**Love, Pray, Love Project:** On Sunday, 7th August, 2pm-5pm, Walter Baker Hall. Pope Francis Encyclical 'Laudato Si', a document extending beyond concern of climate change and concerns evangelisation and reverence of the whole world as a gift from God. Daniel Ang, Director of Evangelisation of the Diocese of Broken Bay will be the speaker. Phone Gladys Leger on 0421 312 362 if you have any queries.

**Anointing of the Sick** will be administered during 4pm Mass Friday, 5th August.

**'El Shaddai' Prayer Group:** Meetings for August are 6th, 13th and 20th. Meetings held in the Walter Baker Hall.

**Food Drive: Assisting those in need—Mary Mac's:** Sheets of helpful hints for this drive are available in the gathering area.

**Ministry to the Sick:** If someone is being admitted to hospital, please notify the Parish office for a priest to visit as due to Hospital Privacy Policy the clergy are not automatically notified.

**Sam French - Pilgrimage:** If you wish to stay updated on events of WYD, Sam French (Seminarian) will be posting regular updates on his online blog. Documenting his journey along the way at: [www.brokenbaypilgrim.blogspot.com.au](http://www.brokenbaypilgrim.blogspot.com.au)

### Returning Home Programme to commence Wednesday 10th August.

Were you raised a Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?

Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church?

Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today? If you or anyone you know can answer positively to the above questions, please join us at St. John the Baptist Church in the Leo Mahon Room, 10th August at 7.30pm, for the Information Evening. A detailed pamphlet is available from the table in the gathering area.

## The Just Word

### Call for nonviolence and a just peace:

Continued from last week's newsletter.

At the conclusion of the three day meeting, participants issued a statement calling on the Church to re-commit to the centrality of "Gospel nonviolence".

"We live in a time of tremendous suffering, widespread trauma and fear linked to militarisation, economic injustice, climate change, and a myriad of other specific

forms of violence," the statement said.

"In this context of normalised and systemic violence, those of us who stand in the Christian tradition are called to recognise the centrality of active nonviolence to the vision and message of Jesus; to the life and practice of the Catholic Church; and to our long term vocation of healing and reconciling both people and the planet."

The statement called for a range

of initiatives including: the continued development of Church; an end to the use of "just war" theory; and the continued call for abolition of war and nuclear weapons.

"In response to what is a global epidemic of violence, which Pope Francis has labelled a 'world war in instalments', we are being called to invoke, pray over, teach and take decisive action."

### Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**To Honour 150 years of the Sisters of St. Joseph** we invite you to come and explore all that Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount St. Nth. Sydney, has to offer. Our Chapel, Museum, Cafe and Gift Shop staff will be hosting an evening Tuesday, 2nd August, 5pm - 8pm with overnight accommodation available. Also, Thursday, 4th August Be our guest at Anderledy Lodge for breakfast 7am-8am followed by a guided tour.

Guided tours both days—details and times see notice board.

R.S.V.P. With preferred time of attendance.

[mmpevent.bookings@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmpevent.bookings@sosj.org.au)  
Copies of full programme available in the gathering area.

### The Christian Life: Morality, Relationships and Faith:

This Encounter course explores questions of morality such as What is Christian morality? What is informed conscience and how is it best formed? What is the relationship between the divine, natural and positive law? Other topics include right relationships; the nature of sin, virtue and holiness; as well as issues of medical ethics. Learn how the church supports life and the innate dignity of the human person. Course duration 2.5 hours. Wednesday 3rd August, 10am-12.30pm. The Entrance Parish Centre, The Entrance.

Session repeated Wednesday 10 August, 7pm-9.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary School Library, Waitara.

Presenters: Dr. Dan Fleming, Dean of Studies and Senior Lecturer in Theology and Ethics and Dr. Nigel Zimmermann, Lecturer Notre Dame University and Private Secretary to Bishop Peter Comensoli.

### CatholicCare Family Support

provide home and centre based support for families. Services provide individual support, home visits, playgrounds, group work on subjects such as parenting, domestic violence, conflict resolution, self-esteem and protective behaviours, family advocacy, counselling, community development, referral and financial assistance. Contact the Central Coast family centre for more information—Ph: 4356 2600.



# Living the Message We Preach

31st July 2016

Ron Raab

Just a few weeks after I was ordained, I gave a homily during a funeral. I did not know the person, an elderly long-time parishioner in South Bend, Indiana. After the funeral, as I was preparing to ride in the hearse, an elderly, quirky man resting on a wooden cane approached me by the car. He sported a worn, wool sports coat with a scarf hanging nattily around his neck. He whispered in a quiet voice, barely audible above the crowd, "You certainly have a way with words." I thanked him cordially. Then he leaned closer into my earshot and said, "Don't get too big for your britches."

I admit after all these years, I still hang on to the old man's advice. His influential words still shape my preaching and give direction to my homilies, not only for funerals but every time I open my mouth to give perspective and witness to God's word during the Eucharist.

I pass on this piece of advice as I listen again to the Gospels for the 14th through 19th Sundays in Ordinary Time. The shape of the liturgy and the message of these Gospels remind us neither to cling to self-importance nor to depend on our physical possessions when preaching and living the word of God. Jesus sends us out with the 72 disciples to carry little with us: no extra sacks, sandals, or money belts. With only these few possessions and a reminder of the essentials of lasting peace and emotional and physical healing, we are bound not to get too big for our britches.

I now preach among people who have few possessions and who ache for this peace and healing. Preaching is a vivid and real expression of my own conversion as I try to let go of all that gets in the way of living a simpler, less cluttered life. These Gospels shake us from our everyday, numbing patterns of life. The holy word invites us and even compels us into real action in the world. As preachers, we cannot be deaf to these Gospels, nor can we expect others to hear them without our reflecting on the way we ourselves live them out in our everyday life. On many days I ask God that I may first be changed by the Gospels and then model what I say: that my words will come from a life of integrity and honesty.

I long to make the connection that the love of God is manifest in how I love my neighbour. The Good Samaritan models for us who preach that our words must bind up wounds and become a balm of healing and reconciliation. When I preach those words, I am confronted with how my own words so often crush and

offend and separate and divide people in my daily life. Actions based on the words of Jesus in the liturgy are nonnegotiable, especially for the reader of the Gospel and the preacher of these God-given texts.

As preachers we must not think that our preaching and God's message are just for other people. I have noticed myself and other preachers in danger of falling into this real professional trap: "The message of love is for others, but not for me." The message of fidelity, kindness, and service are easy to speak about but take a lifetime to live. I have learned to be more patient with myself but also to keep the challenge alive. I am no longer worried about the structure of the homily, the acoustics of the church, and the quotations from saints, popes, and popular piety. I am no longer focused on rich sentence structures or turns of phrase. Now that I am preaching among people who have few possessions, I am no longer worried about my delivery, my homiletic style, or even consistent theology or precise exegeses. I worry whether or not I can actually live the message I proclaim, the heart of the words Jesus spoke to those who followed him and those he sent out among wolves and naysayers.

I admit that the balance of Mary and Martha's approach to Jesus' presence is quite sustaining to me as a preacher. In order to serve with words from my mouth, I must first sit at the feet of the one who hears my woes, who challenges my status quo, and who binds my wounds. If I don't make this connection, my words will be hollow and untrue. If I do not rest my heart and all of my belongings at the feet of the master, my journey will be into the depths of selfishness and self-aggrandizement.

As preachers we all must fit into our clothing. We cannot get too big for our britches in the name of the kingdom of God. We must take to heart the call to sort our belongings, to let go of our attachments, and to serve with our words unceasingly. I continue to learn these lessons, long after that first encounter with an elderly man who had the courage to put me on the correct path and send me out on the mission of preaching.

**ML**

Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as associate pastor at St. Andre Bessette Church in Old Town, Portland, Ore. He broadcasts *On the Margins*, a weekly Scripture commentary on radio KBVM.fm. Learn more at [www.ronaldraab.com](http://www.ronaldraab.com) From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



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Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

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# Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of  
Broken Bay

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,  
Umina, Umina Beach,  
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,  
Koolewong, Blackwall,  
Booker Bay, Pearl Beach,  
St Hubert's Island,  
Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,  
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point,  
Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

## St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

**Parish Office** *Ethel Cox Parish Centre*  
**PO Box 264** *Walter Baker Hall*  
**54 Victoria Road** *100 Blackwall Rd*  
**WOY WOY NSW 2256** *Woy Woy*

**Phone:** (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214

**Email:** parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

**Website:** www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Jack Robson.

**Assistant Priests:** Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.  
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

**Office Staff:** Helen Cameron,  
Raelene Spithill and Margaret Cooper.

**Office Hours:**  
9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

## Stop Talking to Yourself!

(Continued from page 1)

Look at your wealth, and if you are old enough, look at your Will. Enter imaginatively into dialogue with those in need, and, after providing for the security and dignity of those close to you, could things be re-arranged to satisfy the real needs of others?

And then, draw closer to Our Lady who was the greatest conversation partner with God: 'Be it done unto me according to Thy word.' She is constantly trying to draw us into her conversation with God.

Let us pray the 'Hail Mary', lingering on the last phrase, that we may be saved from monologuing for all eternity. Learn the language of Heaven here on earth and ask Our Lady to pray for us 'now, and at the hour of our death.' Amen.

©Fr Michael Tate

## 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 7am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am 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 9.30am.

## 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. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

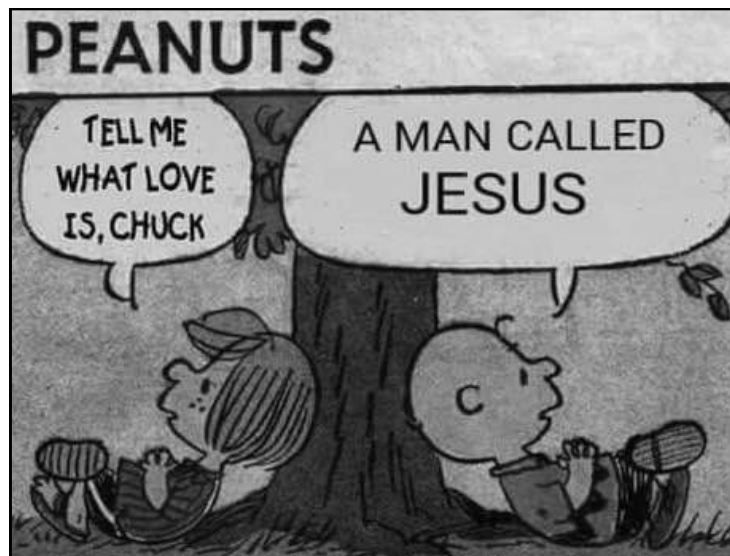
**CATHOLICCARE** Marriage & Family Relationships.

Phone: 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 HOUSE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at



Two lovely, small classes, a Year 1 and a Year 2, need a Scripture teacher.

Could you give them an hour a week to tell them more about the love of Jesus?  
It's easier than you think. Enquiries on 0411 566 622 to Susie.

Join us, won't you? For the love of God.