



ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

2nd March 2014

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 4

Lent begins Wednesday

Lent begins this Wednesday. *Ash Wednesday Masses* will be celebrated at 7.45 a.m., 10.00 a.m. (with the Parish School) and 7.30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is also a day of *fast and abstinence*.

There are now only two days in Australia on which we are obliged to fast and abstain: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting is about *how much* we eat and drink; abstinence is about *what* we eat and drink.

The only penitential abstinence required of us these days is from meat.

Fasting now entails only that we have no more than one full meal and two lighter meals.

Everyone over the age of fourteen is bound to abstain from flesh meat.

Everyone between the ages of 18 and 59 is bound to fast.

Whether one is younger or older than these groups, there is still the general obligation to do penance during Lent.

Every Friday throughout the year is a day of penance, and the whole of Lent is a season of penance. This makes the Fridays of Lent of particular significance.

We have the custom here of making the *Stations of the Cross* on the Fridays of Lent. We start this Friday, at 7.30 p.m.

There will also be Stations on Wednesdays at 4 p.m., starting on Ash Wednesday.

Because Lent is a penitential season, Catholics have long had the habit of attending *daily Mass during Lent*. Daily Mass here is at a convenient time, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Blessed Sacrament chapel is open before and after services and during office hours. *Visiting the Blessed Sacrament* is highly recommended at any time of the year, but it is especially appropriate during Lent.

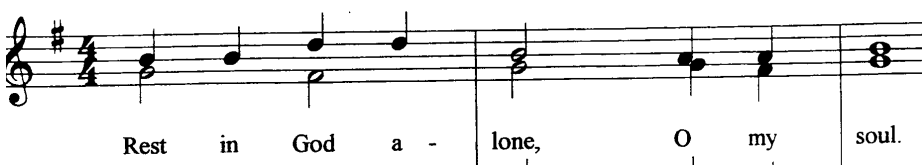
Another traditional Lenten exercise is *spiritual reading*. You will find a good range of suitable material in the CTS pamphlet rack near the main doors of the church.

What I have mentioned so far falls into two of the three traditional categories of Lenten observance: prayer and fasting. The third is *almsgiving*, and our way of observing that is *Project Compassion*. Boxes and sets of envelopes for Project Compassion are available on the table in the gathering area as you leave the worship space. Let us use them generously. After all, what we save through self-denial in Lent does not go into our bank account: it goes to the poor.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. *Alleluia!*

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Nola Barnes, Michale Thompson, Michael Cox.
- **Anniversaries:**
Frank McLenaghan, Ruth Jordan, Nick and Connie Ussia.
- **Remembrances:**
Joan Fitzgerald, All souls in Purgatory.
- **And the sick:**
Helen and David Hopkins, Mary Scarf, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, Susie Simmons, Mary Wood, John and Patricia Welsh, John Osborne, Grace Williams, Ken McLean, Lola Proctor, Maureen Wardrop, Fr. John O'Connor. m.s.c. Fr. Geoffrey Bugden.

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Around the Parish

To Park or have nowhere to park? That is the question!

Please be mindful when parking in the 'lane' beside the church grounds and do so with consideration and respect for our neighbours. By letting your passengers out before you park, you will be able to move closer to the fence line opposite the church. This will allow more room for residents to enter and exit their properties and not preclude them from doing so as happened recently. A lane is after all, much narrower than a road, and this one has only one entrance/exit. *If we are not considerate of our neighbours, they will take this request to Council which could see parking in the lane banned altogether.*

Parish Transport Service:

Persons who would like to use the bus service to attend 10.00am Mass on Ash Wednesday are asked to phone the Parish office 4341 1073 and leave your details (name, address and phone) on Monday 3rd March before 3.30pm.

Children's Liturgy Roster 9/3/14:

Therese Carroll (L). Marina Mondal (L). Rebecca Lalor (H).

Anointing of the Sick will be administered at 4pm Mass this Friday, 7th March.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group meeting 10.30 am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Reading the Gospel of the following Sunday and spending approx.20 mins. In quiet prayer.

Cancer Support Group: For those suffering from cancer or those wishing to pray for them. Next meeting is Tuesday, 4th March, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Enquiries: Phoebe 4341 6324.

Ecumenical Pancake Night is to be held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 360 Ocean Beach Road. Tuesday 4th March commencing 7pm. If coming, for catering purposes, please put your name on the list in the gathering area. This is a social event that we take part in with parishioners of the Anglican and Uniting Churches and is a very pleasant gathering. Admission is by discretionary donation.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster for 9/3/14 following the 9.15am Mass will be the Parents and Friends Group.

Bus Trip: St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Mount St. Nth. Sydney. Healing Mass 1st April. Bus leaving 8.30 am. Cost \$15. B.Y.O. lunch or buy. Ph: Susie Casey. 0403 417 639.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: The Society assists many people on the Peninsula. If you would like to learn more about this work or to join as a volunteer, please contact Peter Smith on 0425 358 376. Such work offers the opportunity to develop your own Spirituality and bring the love of God to others.

Wrapped in Love: We are about to introduce prayer shawls. This involves the knitting, crocheting, weaving of shawls which are then given to parishioners who are unwell, going through a difficult time or in need of comfort. The shawl provides a tangible reminder of God's love for us and reminds us that we are surrounded by the love of our fellow parishioners.

The craft group have willingly offered to help make the shawls. If you would like to be involved either in knitting or the donation of wool, please contact Pat Savage on 4344 2064 or if you want more information about the ministry please contact Ellen Bevan, Parish Nurse at the Parish office.

Church Cleaning Roster 7/3/14: Elena Egan, Mary McCumstie, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan.

Social Justice

Bike will benefit Homeless:

Paris: A Harley-Davidson motorbike that briefly belonged to Pope Francis has been sold for €241,500 (\$369,000), 16 times its highest valuation at an auction in Paris.

The US motorbike maker gave the 1585cc Dyna Super Glide to the Pope in June to mark its

110th anniversary and while the 77 year old never rode it, he signed it to Catholic charity Caritas Roma.

It's a record for a post-vintage motorbike, from the 21st century," said Bonhams France, adding the bike was purchased by an unidentified European Buyer.

The funds from the sale will go towards the restoration of the charity's hostel and soup kitchen, based at Rome's Termini railway station.

Bonhams said Pope Francis has another Harley-Davidson, although the famously humble pontiff is more a fan of buses. *Canberra Times February, 2014.*

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Edward's Christian Brothers' College :

Families are invited to the College Open Day on Saturday 15th March from 10 am-2 pm. Entry is via the main gate at 13 Frederick Street, East Gosford and here you will be met by current students of the College who will provide families with a 20-30 minute tour. At the end of the tour there will be time to enjoy a sausage sizzle and also tea and coffee. Enrolment packages will be available for families from non-feeder Catholic schools.

St. Joseph's Catholic College: Year 7 — 2015 Enrolments. Open afternoon/evening. Tuesday, 18th March, 2014. Time:

3.45 pm. Tour and presentations (Session 1). 5.30pm Tour and presentations (Session 2). Russell Drysdale Street, East Gosford. Phone 4324 4022. www.sjcc.nsw.edu.au

Silent Retreat—His Mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2: 41-52). St. Joseph's Retreat and Education Centre, 8 Humphrey's Rd. Kincumber South. Sunday evening 8th April—Friday morning 11th April. Presenters: Fr. Michael Whelan s.m. and Sr. Marie Biddle r.s.j. Information: Marie Fonseca Ph: 9529 2817 or 0418 265 117. or phone St.

Joseph's Retreat Centre 4368 4807.

Catholic Youth Services invite all young adults, aged 18-35 yrs every Tuesday evening (6.30-7.30pm) to St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney. **City Silence** is a weekly holy hour led by a different priest or bishop each week and animated by different musicians: it will include times of silence, reflection, scripture and song: confessions also available. Immediately following City Silence all invited to dinner at a local restaurant.

Further information visit www.facebook.com/catholicyouthservices.



Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, March 2

Is 49:14–15
Ps 62:2–3, 6–7, 8–9
1 Cor 4:1–5
Mt 6:24–34

Today's text from Isaiah is addressed to the exiles. Their experience has led some of them to believe that God has abandoned them: "The Lord has forsaken me" (v 14). Half a century in exile has broken their spirit, but the prophet tells us that God never forgets. In a tender image, Isaiah speaks for God, "Can a mother forget her infant?"; the thought was unimaginable to our prophet, but "even should she forget, / I will never forget you" (v 15). God's love for us is greater than we can imagine. In the next verse after our reading, the Lord says, "Upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you" (v 16).

Paul cautions the Corinthians against judging each other. He reminds them that at "the appointed time" (v 5), we will be judged by God. His task as Christ's servant requires fidelity to the gospel, and he believes that nothing can be held against him. Judgment will occur when the Lord comes, bringing "to light what is hidden in darkness" (v 5). As "stewards of the mysteries of God" (v 1) like Paul, we too are called to fulfill our tasks with clear consciences as we await his coming. Instead of judging others, we should focus on living our own faith worthily.

In the Gospel today Jesus calls us to trust God. We spend too much time worrying about things we cannot change, and that worry cannot "add a single moment to [our] life-span" (v 27). Using the examples of nature around him, Jesus explains that God cares for "the birds in the sky" (v 26) and "the grass of the field" (v 30). If God provides for them, then he will also provide for us, who are "more important than they" (v 26). Our focus should be to seek "the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (v 33).

For reflection: How can experiencing God's absence make me appreciate God's presence in my life? How can I learn to worry less and trust God more?

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 Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Jl 2:12–18
Ps 51:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 14, 17
2 Cor 5:20–6:2
Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

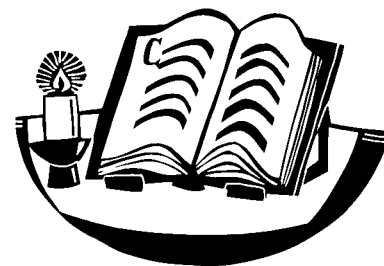
The season of Lent is an invitation to holiness. On Ash Wednesday we mark ourselves with ashes made from the palms used last Palm Sunday. These ashes are a biblical symbol of contrition, but they also remind us of our own mortality.

The words of the prophet Joel, from the fifth century BC, address a complacent people. In the verses prior to our reading, Joel calls them to prepare for the "day of the Lord" that will bring great destruction. Yet even with destruction imminent, there is cause for hope, for the "gracious and merciful" Lord forgives the repentant sinner (v 13). Joel calls for a national act of repentance: "Blow the trumpet in Zion! / proclaim a fast, call an assembly" (v 15). Everyone — "the elders ... the children ... the infants ... the bridegroom ... the bride ... the priests" — is called to cry out for forgiveness. And in response to their cries, the Lord "took pity on his people" (v 18).

Paul writes as an ambassador for Christ, imploring the Corinthians to "be reconciled to God" (5:20). Through Christ's death, we have been reconciled to God; therefore, we should not "receive the grace of God in vain" (6:1) but live with the awareness that we are "a new creation" (as mentioned prior to our reading in 5:17). "Now is the day of salvation" (6:2); let us walk in God's light.

In the Gospel Jesus warns about doing the right thing for the wrong reason. Piety and sanctity are not the same thing. Our good deeds should not be performed "in order that people may see them" (v 1). Nor should our prayers be said to impress others. And when we fast we should not make a show of it. Our actions should be motivated by our love of God and a desire to reject sin and embrace the holiness to which we are called.

For reflection: The road to holiness is a lifelong journey; what particular area am I determined to focus on this Lent? When I pray, is there a healthy balance between speaking to God and listening for a response?



Stewards of the mysteries of God
— that's what St. Paul says we
are in today's second reading.
And the first requirement, he
says, is that we be trustworthy.
Entrusted with the gift of faith,
do I share it as gratefully and as
generously as I do my time, my
talent, and my treasure?



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 264 100 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, Pamela Burton & 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 Dul-kara 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.

Chair of Peter

Paul Turner

The only piece of furniture with a feast day on the Catholic calendar, the chair of Peter is honoured each year on February 22. The chair is largely symbolic. It is a way of speaking of the authority of the one who uses it. A cathedral carries that name because it is named for the bishop's chair, the *cathedra*. A pope speaks *ex cathedra* — "from the chair" — when he gives official pronouncements. We use a similar expression when we say a judge speaks "from the bench." The furniture represents the authority of the one who speaks from it.

The day honours the tradition that Peter became the bishop of Antioch on this day before becoming bishop of Rome, an event that was formerly honoured on January 18. In fact, January 18–25 became the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity because those dates bridge the days assigned to two great Christian biblical leaders: the chair of Peter and the conversion of Paul. Revisions to the calendar combined the two feasts of Peter, and the more ancient of the two, February 22, remained.

It is doubtful that Peter actually sat in a designated chair to rule the Christians of Rome, and even more doubtful that that chair has been preserved. However, in the ninth century, Charles the Bald gave what some believed to be Peter's chair to the Vatican. It is enshrined against the back wall of the basilica beneath the alabaster image of the Holy Spirit, inside a reliquary designed by Gianlorenzo Bernini above what is appropriately called the altar of the chair.

The collect for the day acknowledges the confession of faith made by Peter, upon whom Christ built the church. His successors, the popes, occupy his "chair" and speak with his authority.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in Ministry & Liturgy magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2013 Resource Publications, Inc., 5369 Camden Ave., #260, San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay