

# The Voice

12th June 2016

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Psalter Week 3



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Tony Ryan, Mary Gaughan.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Fr. Eris Tierney,  
Fr. Paul Fitzgerald, Fred Follett.
- **And the sick:**  
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,  
Bill Hunt, Lindsay Hardy,  
Rene Glase, Peter John Grima,  
Jack Moulds, Rosemary Anderson,  
Maryanne Diorio, Tracey Passlow,  
Bruce Spence, Frank Schmidt,  
Keith Maiden, Kate Stinson,  
Mary Ann Gormley, Beryl Allen,  
Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn,  
Coral Williams, Irene Beck,  
Jonell Georges, Clara Rodigus,  
Ralph Weate, Keith Oakes,  
John Allen, Anne Singleton,  
Don Boland, Celeste Boonaerts,  
Cheryl Douglas, Albie Curtis,  
Vince Zappavigna, Louisa Dunn,  
Bryan Moroney, James Mulquinney.

## Women and Jesus

A while ago, I heard on the news of the trial in Saudi Arabia of a woman who had been raped. The man was convicted and sentenced, but so was she! She was to suffer over 100 lashes of the whip for allowing herself to be in a situation in the company of a male not a near relative. Her conduct threatened the strict demarcation deemed necessary in that society.

The same strict rules applied in Jesus' time, with the added dimension that at times a woman could be 'unclean'. Her touch could contaminate a male and render *him* 'unclean'. The boundary had to be maintained.

Jesus was the great boundary-breaker when it came to women.

Why is the Pharisee shocked at the scene of a woman anointing and kissing Jesus' feet as he lay at table?

One element was the Pharisee's embarrassment because he had omitted the courtesy of having Jesus' feet washed before reclining at table. She remedied the insult.

But the main sense of shock was that Jesus allowed this woman to *touch* him. A taboo was being shattered. He was in grave peril from this deliberate contact.

But instead of repudiating her, Jesus observes that it is simply the overflow of love of a forgiven woman, and he won't reject her gesture.

The old rules which segregated and quarantined women for fear of what

they might do to men are superseded by the presence of Jesus. This is a sign of the reign of God.

Has the Church got the message – the Gospel message? Does it live it out to the fullest extent possible?

St Luke reinforces this message in the next passage which portrays Jesus 'preaching and bringing the good news of the reign of God'.

And he did so with a band of travelling companions who symbolised what the reign of God looks like as it shapes a human community.

And who were they? Many women, three of them named, travelling with Jesus and twelve men, not their relatives. This would have been scandalous. This was boundary-breaking behaviour. This was utterly counter cultural.

We have to recover the evident truth that Jesus enjoyed the company of women. Very confident in his own identity, he was completely relaxed, talking with them, allowing them to touch him. In other words, he would quite naturally engage in the most outrageous behaviour, subverting the codes which had demeaned, quarantined and even demonized women over the centuries.

It is wonderful that Pope Francis is so completely in tune with this Gospel passage, even washing the feet of women on Holy Thursday (much to the

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### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* God first loved us and sent his Son to take away our sins. *Alleluia!*

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## Around the Parish

**Charitable Works Fund:** There will be an extra collection at all Masses this weekend. Our quota this year, over 3 appeals is \$35,498. The present two appeals have raised \$13,679, leaving a balance of \$21,919. The fund supports five agencies to make a difference in the lives of children and families.

**Memorial Mass for Fr Bill Meacham,** 9am, Monday 13 June (public holiday) at our church. Fr Jack to celebrate. Morning tea to follow in the Leo Mahon room. There will be no Exposition or Benediction.

**WYD 2016 Krakow Fund Raising:** Raffle, Chocolate sales and guessing jar at all Sunday Masses next weekend 18th/19th June to raise funds for our youth journeying to Poland.

**Cuppa and Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday, 19th June, 11.30am-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided. Phone Bernard on 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**Bus Trip** to St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Nth. Sydney for 11am Mass with parishioners from East Gosford Parish. Wednesday, 29 June. Leaving 8.30am. Cost: \$15. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639 for all bookings, enquiries and payments.

**World Youth Day Pilgrim Blessing Mass:** The WYD blessing Mass is to publicly acknowledge and formally bless the diocesan pilgrims prior to leaving on their WYD pilgrimage. At this Mass for all pilgrims, leaders, chaplains, supporters, pilgrims will receive the pilgrim pack and representative T-shirts for the event. We also invite all community leaders and pilgrim family members to join in this joyous event., Tuesday, 28th June. Mass 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Yardley Avenue, Waitara. RSVP: youth@dbb.org.au for catering.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 17/6/16:** Elena Egan, Anisha Burns, Christina Thorson, Philomena Curtis.

### Message from the Bishop

“Our Diocese of Broken Bay is blessed to have some of the most beautiful beaches and waterways in the world. This recent devastating storm has deeply affected many of our people from the Central Coast right through to regions of north Sydney, especially in Narrabeen and Collaroy. Our prayers are with those impacted profoundly by this weather. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Police, NSW SES, NSW Fire and Rescue and all who have worked tirelessly, as always, to assist those affected and to ensure the ongoing safety of residents and families. We keep in our prayers the many affected throughout the east coast of Australia, especially the families and friends who have lost loved ones.”

**Most Rev Peter A Comensoli**

**Children’s Liturgy Roster 19/6/16:** Geraldine Baxter, Joanna Baxter, Jenny Fitzgerald.

**St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal** will be held the weekend of 25/26 June.

## The Just Word

### Outrageous Inequality:

Pope Francis, in a message to the World Economic Forum held in Davos, denounced in the strongest terms the growing poverty and ever-increasing inequality in our world today. Underlining the same theme, Oxfam International recently published a report entitled **An Economy at the Service of the 1%**. The report claimed that the wealthiest 62 persons in the world now own as

much as all the poorest half of the world combined. Since 2010, the poorest half of the world has seen its wealth reduced by a billion dollars (41%) while the 62 ‘a super-rich’ have increased their wealth by half a billion dollars. What is worse, this inequality is growing year by year. We are supporting an economic system whose structures and rules are designed to benefit those who have most. The Executive Director of Oxfam International

says, “We cannot continue to permit the hundreds of millions of people suffer hunger, while the economic elite absorb the resources that could help these people to escape from this situation. Today, one in every nine people is hungry and one billion people survive on less than \$1.25 a day.

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## From the Diocese and beyond

**Proclaim 2016: 1-3 September 2016.** This exciting national conference on New Evangelisation hosted by Broken Bay Diocese is expected to draw more than 500 participants from across Australia to discuss, exchange and learn fresh ways in which parishes can become evangelising communities of the 21st century. [proclaimconference.com.au](http://proclaimconference.com.au)

Register at the early Bird rate until 27th June—valid for 3 day conference ONLY.

Adult Religious Groups (exc GST) \$399 for 3 days. Adult Non-Religious Group (incl GST) \$440.

\*Further information about Catholic GST Religious Group available at

[catholic.org.au/gst-religious-group/catholic-gst-religious-group](http://catholic.org.au/gst-religious-group/catholic-gst-religious-group)

### St. Cecilia’s Primary School—

**Centenary Celebration:** Please join us for our celebration of 100 years of Catholic education at St. Cecilia’s Wyong. The following are some special events that will occur: 24th June Back to Old School Day 26th August: Grandparents Day, Old School Games and Student Art Exhibition.

22nd November: Time Capsule and School Celebration.

26th November: Burying of new capsule and community Celebration.

For further details please visit Facebook Page (St. Cecilia’s—100 years). Updates can be found on this page. Please ‘like’ the page and ‘share’ with family and friends who may be interested. For those not active on Facebook, information can be obtained on the schools

Website:[www.scwdbb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.scwdbb.catholic.edu.au) or contact school office 4353 2922. Please note the Back to Old School Day is the 24th June.

**Counselling:** CatholicCare Family Relationships Counselling provides counselling to adults, young people, couples and their children at all stages of the relationship cycle including pre-marriage, marriage (including de facto relationships), separation and remarriage. Counselling supports the establishment and maintenance of strong positive family relationships as well as counselling about care, welfare and development of children of the relationship. Contact Central Coast family centre for more information. Ph: 4356 2600.



## 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 12

2 Sm 12:7–10, 13  
Ps 31:1–2, 5, 7, 11 R. see v.5  
Gal 2:16, 19–21  
Lk 7:36—8:3 or 7:36–50

The prophet Samuel, in confronting David about his double crime of murder and rape concerning Uriah and Bathsheba, indicts David for his sins. By having Uriah killed and violating Bathsheba, David has “done evil in [God’s] sight” and “despised” the Lord (v 9). This episode shows us that no one is above God’s law. David learns that sin has consequences; the prophet tells him, “the sword shall never depart from your house” (v 10). But it also shows that God is ready to forgive even the greatest sinner who repents.

Paul tells the Galatians and us that salvation comes “through faith in Jesus Christ” (v 16). Salvation is a gift, not something we can earn by our good works. The law leads to death, he writes. For through the law we come to understand our own sinfulness and therefore our need for God’s mercy. Being “crucified with Christ” (v 19), we have a share not only in his death but also in his resurrection, for “Christ lives in me” (v 20). Finally, Paul writes, if salvation can be acquired through the law, “then Christ died for nothing” (v 21).

The anonymous sinful woman in Luke’s text today is an unlikely visitor to the house of a Pharisee. Later tradition equates her with Mary Magdalene, but this does not seem to be Luke’s intention. She approaches Jesus with a deep awareness of her own sinfulness and experiences forgiveness. Simon the Pharisee, on the other hand, is blinded by his understanding of religion, which excludes sinners like her from God’s grace and mercy. Jesus compares the behaviour of his disappointing host, who “did not give me water for my feet ... give me a kiss (or) ... anoint my head with oil” (vv 44–46), with that of the woman, whose actions have “shown great love” (v 47) and lead to her experiencing God’s forgiveness.

**For Reflection:** When have I experienced God’s loving forgiveness in my life? Do I, like Simon the Pharisee, believe that some people are undeserving of God’s forgiveness?

## External Solemnity Birth of St. John the Baptist, June 24

Is 49:1–6  
Ps 138:1–3, 13–15. R. v.14  
Acts 13:22–26  
Lk 1:57–66, 80

John the Baptist’s birth — six months and a day before Christmas — is a major milestone on the road of salvation history. The Gospels present John as the forerunner of the Messiah. Luke in particular places John and Jesus side by side. The announcements of their births, their nativities, and their being given names are presented alternately — John, then Jesus. But Jesus is always the greater figure.

In Isaiah, the mysterious Servant of the Lord speaks of having been called in the womb by God. Like the prophet Jeremiah, his mission is part of the fabric of his being. It is an awareness of a lifelong mission in service to the Lord. Though frequently frustrated, the Servant is called to speak God’s word and to be “a light to the nations” (v 6).

In Acts of the Apostles, Paul is preaching in the synagogue of Antioch in Pisidia. He proclaims that Jesus, a son of David, was sent by God as our saviour in fulfilment of his promise. Paul speaks of how John the Baptist prepared people for the coming of Jesus by announcing a call to repentance. Paul’s homily in the synagogue serves as an invitation to the people of Antioch to also repent and believe.

The name John means “Yahweh has compassion.” This name, given to the child by the angel before he was born, indicates the importance of the child: he will be the one who announces God’s good news of the coming of the Messiah, the ultimate act of divine compassion. Like the Servant in Isaiah, John has been designated before his birth for God’s mission. The mysterious events surrounding his beginnings in Luke’s text indicate that “the hand of the Lord was with him” (v 66), as the evangelist writes. Elizabeth and Zechariah may not fully understand God’s plan, but they cooperate with it.

**For reflection:** Do I have a sense of having been called by God for a mission? How have I experienced God’s compassion in my life and shared it with others?




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Like Nathan in today’s first reading, we sin when we begin to feel entitled and act as if what we have is ours by right, when we forget that everything we have is an unmerited gift from God. But God is gracious and forgiving — even when we use His gifts wrongly or squander them thoughtlessly — if, like Nathan, we confess our guilt and ask His pardon.

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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.

**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, 3.30pm; 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).

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

**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 HOUSIE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

# Women and Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

dismay of some clerics in the Vatican).

The question is the extent to which Pope Francis may incorporate his understanding of the Gospel into the structures of the Church.

There is another element. We know that Peter and others had left their fishing cooperative to follow Jesus who was obviously not engaged in the carpentry trade. How were they to survive on the mission?

His band of followers included rather well-to-do women with funds and contacts which enabled the mission to continue. Without their financial aid, Jesus could not have conducted his mission in the way he wanted to.

The gospel record is clear and the church needs to take it to heart.

Jesus accepted women to an outrageous degree, overturning all the norms of society.

Jesus depended on women to carry out his mission as an itinerant preacher of no fixed address.

Jesus not merely preached the reign of God. He imaged it in his band of traveling companions, both female and male.

He was, He is the Saviour of all human beings without distinction based on race, ethnicity or gender. He is truly the Saviour of all humanity. He is the Saviour of the world.

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