



## CHRISTMAS TIME

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

# The Voice

4th January 2015

Epiphany of the Lord

Psalter Week 2

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Marie McCaskie, Bill Hari,  
Fred Truman, Madge Byers.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Michael Hill,  
Fr. Kevin McGovern,  
William McDermott,  
Abdon Benlot Andagan,  
Dr. Walter Baker,  
Brother Elgar Murphy.
- **Remembrances:**  
Nola and Kevin Garnett.
- **And for the sick:**  
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,  
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,  
Evangeline Cusay, Ruth Fuller,  
Gada Selim, Peter Crookes,  
Sr. Margaret Wall R.S.J.  
Maureen O'Brien, Clare Wren,  
Patrick, Sophia and Elise Fir-  
man (Triplets born 8/11),  
Bruce Spence, Irene Beck, Betty  
Foster, Mary Dwyer, Victor  
and Wanda Grima.

## Christmas and Mission

Christmas ends next Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord—a feast which also (abruptly) introduces us to the public life of our Lord, and to the reflection on that public life that we call “ordinary time.”

Christmas is about the generosity of God. St Paul, in the second reading of the Dawn Mass of Christmas, writes to Titus of ‘the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind.’

It is also about our response to that generosity. Here is a short report on some parish responses this Christmas:

- ◇ First of all, there were the Christmas hampers. At the last count, more than 170 were distributed, making a difference to the Christmas of 190 adults and 72 children..
- ◇ On the third Monday of December, seven volunteers joined twenty of our “coffee and chat” friends for a special Christmas celebration.
- ◇ 200 “companions” of Mary Mac’s Place were given a special Christmas lunch on the Monday before Christmas.
- ◇ Our leaving collection on Christmas Day raised \$2,650.35. This will be distributed to Mary Mac’s Place, to feed the local hungry and homeless, and to

those who can support Christians in the Middle East—we can do a little to help them in this time when they are under great pressure.

We should remember that the first to hear the “glad tidings” of Christmas were the poor and the marginalised - the shepherds - and that Mary and Joseph were soon to become refugees. When we extend Christmas cheer to their modern successors, we are acting in the spirit of the gospel.

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Just before Christmas, our main telephone number failed. This meant that the normal message service for Christmas Masses failed to operate over the whole Christmas period—it seems that our problem occurred too late for Telstra to do anything about it. Apologies to parishioners and visitors who failed to get through with their enquiries.

At the time of writing, the problem has still not been addressed. Calls are being automatically rerouted to the emergency mobile, used normally for sick calls. This is better than nothing, but it means that, outside office hours, if the priest with the mobile is saying Mass (for example), the call is not answered. Please be patient.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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### Psalms Response

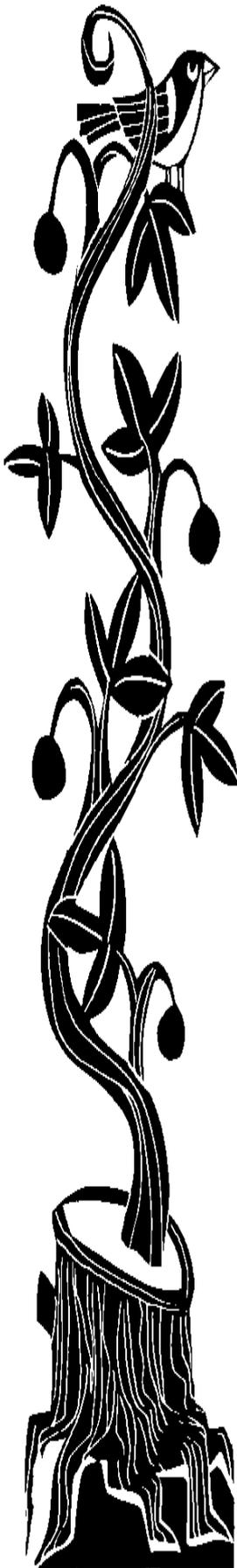
© Colin D. Smith cfc



### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to adore the Lord. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



As you are aware, the Church has entered the second half of the process for the Synod on the Family. Pope Francis has explicitly asked that the Church world-wide be involved in this on-going consultation phase. To this end, we received last week the preparatory document (*Lineamenta*) for the fourteenth Ordinary General Assembly, *The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World*, to be held in October 2015.

I want to make this document—and a series of questions drawn from it—available to our people, especially our married couples and families for their consideration, and to encourage as many as possible to make a contribution. I understand the Diocese received over 500 responses for the previous *Lineamenta*, and I hope we could do so again.

To assist in this regard, can I encourage you to complete the survey at the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/family-synod-2015>.

Finally, can I encourage you to pray for our families and for the Synod throughout the year ahead.

Most Reverend Peter A. Comensoli  
Bishop of Broken Bay.

## The Just Word

### 1 January 1901: Foundation of the Commonwealth of Australia:

On January 1901, Australia became a separate and sovereign nation in accordance with the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act*, passed by Parliament in Britain. Under this Act the six Australian colonies came together to form the **Commonwealth of Australia**. The act incorporates what we know as the **Australian Constitution**, which established the Australian Government, set out its powers, structure and some procedures, and defined how the states relate to the Commonwealth, including their rights and obligations.

The text of the Constitution was hammered out in a series of conventions held during the 1890's and attended by representatives of the six colonies. Each colony then held a referendum to approve the text.

### Official Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, and to you we turn and trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may our families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in Gods' plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

**Urgent – Volunteer Drivers for Parish Bus** needed to join a roster transporting parishioners to and from Mass on weekends. Must have an LR license. Please contact parish office 4341 1073 if you can help.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 9/1/15:** Christine French. Pam Hickey. Michael French. Julie Vanderputt.

**Bus Trip: Featherdale Wildlife Park:** Wednesday 7th January. Leaving 8.30 am. Bus \$15 plus park entry fee. Contact Susie 0403 417 639/ 4344 1742.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday 8th January, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

**Faith Based Conversations:** Getting good at talking about your Faith to family and friends takes practice (and grace). Come along and make a new friend and talk about your faith. Leo Mahon room. Saturday, 10th January, 10.30am-11.30am. Morning tea included.

**Cash Housie:** Every Saturday night 7.30pm, Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd., Woy Woy. Come along and enjoy the fun and friendly atmosphere at our own parish operated bingo night. 50 games from 7.30pm-10.30pm. Prizes are all \$100, some \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 jackpot. Celebrating 60 years continuous service. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

**Piety Stall** now selling quarterly 'Living Faith' booklets. \$2 ea. Columban Calendars for 2015 also available.

Australians can be proud that, however stormy the discussions were at these conventions, the birth of their nation was the result of peaceful negotiation and democratic decisions.

*(The Australian Constitution) represents the most remarkable outcome of an equally remarkable period of Australian history, when freely elected Australians were able to produce a Constitution that was democratically endorsed by their fellow citizens. This was an achievement unparalleled in comparable democracies...*

The model of government that emerged from these conventions was a **federal system**, which divides various powers between a central government and the six states. Each state has its own constitution and parliament. The process of defining the new nation and enacting its foundational document became known as **Federation** and the Constitution com-

bined elements of federal government. US, Australia is a constitutional monarchy—a nation in which the reigning British Monarch is also Australia's head of state. In the monarch's absence, these powers are exercised by the Governor-General. Our Government also reflects the concept of the **separation of powers**—the doctrine that no one branch of government should have too much power. Thus:

- ◇ Laws are debated and passed only by the **legislature** (or parliament)
- ◇ Laws are enacted and upheld by the **executive** (the prime minister and ministers).
- ◇ Laws are enforced and decided on only by the **judiciary** (the courts).

*Greg Cravern, Conversations with the Constitution, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2004*

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## Epiphany of the Lord, Sunday, January 4

Is 60:1-6  
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Mt 2:1-12

The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that Christ came to save all people. The magi represent those who come to know God through nature. The Second Vatican Council's *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)* teaches that God was first made known "in created realities" (3). The magi read the sky and are led to find the light of the world. Herod's advisors turn to the Scriptures and learn that the Messiah is to be born "in Bethlehem of Judea" (Mt 2:5). But Herod's response is not "to do him homage" like the magi (v 2); he seeks to destroy the child. While Herod is "greatly troubled" by the birth of the child, the magi are "overjoyed" (v 10). Our response to God's revelation is key to our salvation.

Today's text from Isaiah is often interpreted through the lens of the story of the magi. Writing five centuries before Christ's birth, our prophet, Third Isaiah, envisions a time when Sion, God's mountain, will be a place where the nations of the world will encounter the Lord. "Your light has come," he says to his people, "the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (v 1). Writing some years after the exile, our prophet has a strong sense of universalism: God desires to save all people. We are called to walk in God's light.

Paul writes to the Ephesians of God's mystery, which "was made known to me by revelation" (v 3). This is a new message, "not made known to human beings in other generations" but now made known "by the Spirit" (v 5). In Christ this mystery has been revealed: "the Gentiles are coheirs ... in the promise of Christ Jesus" (v 6). Christ came for all. It is up to us to accept or reject him.

*For reflection:* What is my attitude toward those who seek God in places other than the church? How can I better carry Christ's light to the world in this new calendar year?

## Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 11

Is 42:1-4, 6-7  
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10  
Acts 10:34-38  
Mk 1:7-11

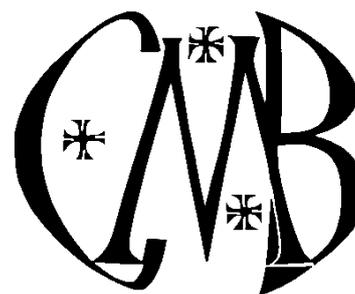
Welcome to the year of Mark's Gospel. Beginning today, most of our Sunday Gospel readings will come from Mark, the oldest Gospel. Today Mark narrates the baptism of Jesus, which serves as the beginning of his public ministry. Mark presents us with John the Baptist, Jesus's forerunner, a prophetic figure painted in Old Testament imagery. John's message announces that Jesus is "one mightier than I" (v 7), who will "baptise you with the Holy Spirit" (v 8). Following Jesus's baptism by John, a heavenly voice confirms what Mark also tells us in verse 1: Jesus is God's "beloved Son" (v 11).

For the early church, Jesus was the fulfillment of today's text from Isaiah. He is God's "servant [and] chosen one" (v 1). Jesus's ministry, as narrated by Mark, lives out the description in Isaiah: he opens "the eyes of the blind" and sets prisoners free, bringing light to "those who live in darkness" (v 7). Jesus's acts of healing the lame and expelling demons bring freedom to those who are oppressed. This is a sign that God's spirit rests on him.

In Acts, Simon Peter is speaking in the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius. His visit to the house of a gentile is a major step forward in the spread of the gospel. Before this episode, baptism had been conferred only on fellow Jews, but with the conversion of Cornelius and his household, the doors of the gospel are opened to the whole world. Peter announces that Jesus was "anointed ... with the Holy Spirit and power" and "went about doing good" (v 38). This message is meant for the whole world because he came to save us all.

*For reflection:* Do I try to live out my baptismal call in my daily life? Do I know anyone who, like Cornelius, is open to hearing the word of God? How can I bring it to him or her?

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The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Saviour?

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## 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 Walter Baker Hall  
54 Victoria Road 100 Blackwall 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, Raelene McLenaghan & 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 Dulkara 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.

**CATHOLICCARE** 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.

## Collect

Paul Turner

The collect is the prayer that concludes the introductory rites of the Mass. The priest addresses the people, "Let us pray," signaling the purpose of the silence and the words that follow. Then he offers the prayer of the day, concluding with a formula to which everyone responds, "Amen."

The silence is important. During this time everyone is to "become aware of being in God's presence," so that they "may call to mind their intentions." Everyone prays "together with the Priest" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 54) — exercising the common priesthood of the baptised. If you have come to Mass with particular needs, this silence is the time to call them to mind.

As the priest offers the prayer, he is "collect-ing" the thoughts of the people, who themselves have been "collect-ed" together from their homes for this celebration at church. Although it is sometimes called the "opening prayer" of the Mass, it is more traditionally called the "collect."

The words express the character of the celebration. This is especially clear on occasions

such as a wedding, a saint's day, and liturgical times such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. People attentive to the words of the collect will discover that the priest may be articulating the purpose of the event.

At other times the words are more generic. Many of these prayers were composed from the sixth to the eighth centuries. Some of them were written for particular liturgical days and are still being used on or near those days more than 1,000 years later.

The collect is addressed to God the Father, and it is offered through Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit. The priest extends his hands while he prays, using a gesture popular in Christian prayer since the earliest times.

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 © 2014 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.



Diocese of Broken Bay