



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Monsignor John Walsh,
Simon Lo Schiavo, Angela Toohey.
- **Anniversaries:**
- Fr. Patrick (Paddy) O'Rourke,
Marcus McNamara, Bill Raper,
William Arahill, Andrew Flanagan,
- **Remembrances:**
Agnes Arahill, Ellen & Tom Molloy,
Molly Molloy, deceased members of
the McNeil family.
- **And the sick:**
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
Bill Hunt, Lindsay Hardy,
Rene Glase, Peter John Grima,
Jack Moulds, Rosemary Anderson,
Tracey Passlow, Maryanne Diorio,
Bruce Spence, Frank Schmidt,
Keith Maiden, Kate Stinson,
Mary Ann Gormley, Beryl Allen,
Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn,
Coral Williams, Irene Beck,
Jonell Georges, Cara Rodigus,
Ralph Weate, Keith Oakes,
John Allen, Don Boland, Albie Curtis,
Celeste Boonaerts, Cheryl Douglas,
Vince Zappavigna, Louisa Dunn,
Bryan Moroney, Lisa Hill,
James Mulquinny, Cate Stinson,
Janelle Dawson, Nola Davies,
Margaret Thoms, Baby Winter,
Baby Blake, Ian Wilks.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

10th July 2016

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Psalter Week 3

Margaret Thatcher once claimed that the Parable of the Good Samaritan showed Jesus' endorsement of the benefits of capitalism! The Baroness' logic ran that the hero of this famous story is the one who could afford to pay for the victim's care. She surmised that the reason the Samaritan had the wherewithal to do such a charitable act was because he worked hard and saved his money wisely. Her Ladyship said this central Christian parable was a justification of her government's policies demanding that unemployed people work for social security and be educated about saving their pennies.

Politicians should stay away from biblical interpretation and theology. It has a habit of saying the opposite of what they think or want it too. Like many people, Lady Thatcher reads this parable in terms of charity and even then she is not really right. Jesus, however, says it is a lesson in mercy. The difference matters.

It is not by accident that the phrase 'as cold as charity' is still current. Deciding on whom we will be kind to, just based on our 'warm fuzzies' and the glow of our purses, may make us feel good; but it will result in a very wintry experience for the not-so-lucky recipient. When we 'do' charitable things, we can often remain powerful and untouched by the situation of those our money helps.

St Thomas Aquinas, however, calls charity the mother of all virtues. He argues it is more concerned with the feelings of the heart than external action. Aquinas maintains that charity enables us to sort through our desires, to see what we really want – whom we actually love; it helps us use the other virtues to act accordingly. Christian charity is not a feel-good moment; it is a life-changing

experience. Understood this way, the Good Samaritan can be a great example of charity, but quite differently from that outlined in the Gospel according to Margaret!

For Jesus, nonetheless, he is a model of mercy. The Good Samaritan is not 'good' because he has the money to act on what he sees. His greatness is that he has eyes to see it at all. To really see it. The priest and the morality-teaching levite pretend it's not happening and walk on the other side of the road. But the most unlikely, the least liked person in Israel – a Samaritan – has the view of mercy.

Christian tradition teaches us that mercy and justice are intertwined. Thomas Aquinas says that mercy helps us hear, and justice calls for us to do something. The Samaritan does what he can at the scene of the crime and then he takes the victim with him. He not only sees, but judges and acts. In doing so, he breaks nearly every religious and social law in the book; but it doesn't matter. The virtues of mercy and justice enable us to see all sorts of things more clearly, even civil and religious laws that inhibit the justice of God.

This entire episode in Luke's Gospel is about the movement from an individualised faith, which can think that it is just 'me and Jesus against the world', to a faith that goes out to the world acting mercifully and justly. This parable is about what we see, whom we love, and what we want to do about it.

The example of the Good Samaritan should enliven our charity, mercy and justice; and it should challenge us to see clearly who needs to be carried with us on the Gospel road.

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Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Monday Morning Mass 11th July: Prayerful Congratulations to our newly ordained Fr. Matthew Boland who will celebrate morning Mass this Monday with Fr. Jack as our concelebrant.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Lucy and Elizabeth Mercer, Felix Clear, Charlie McLenaghan, Samantha Keighran, and Leila Hourigan who were baptised last weekend.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday, 18th July, 1pm-3pm. If you would like to join us, we will pick you up. phone Bernard 4341 6343.

Coffee 'n Chat, sandwiches, scones and good companions.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 15/7/16: Bill Cantley, Maria Wickens, Kathleen Cullen, Christina Thorson.

Children's Liturgy Roster 17/7/16: Anne Marie Tonkin Frances Giunta, Isaak Giunta.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group meeting Thursday, 14th July, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

Holy Door Mass will be celebrated 11am, Tuesday, 12th July, by Fr. Roman at the Cathedral Waitara. Parishioners are welcome to attend. East Gosford bus is full and our own parish bus is not available unfortunately and you will have to use your own transport.

Thank You: Our young pilgrims would like to extend a huge 'Thank You' to parishioners and sponsors for the successful fund raising for World Youth Day in Poland.

We extend our thanks to sponsors, Everglades Country Club, Tonkins Drysdale and Marg Channing of M+S Photography. Please pray for the pilgrims for a blessed and fruitful pilgrimage.

WYD Raffle winners:

1st Prize: Therese Carroll
2nd Prize: Ian Wilks.
3rd Prize: Mary Wood.
4th Prize: Del Matheson.
5th Prize: Val Stinson.
Guessing Jar: John French.

World Youth Day—Departing/candles: On Tuesday, 28th June our World Youth Day Pilgrims were blessed by Bishop Peter Comensoli ahead of the journey to WYD Krakow 2016 this week. During their pilgrimage we will keep the DBB WYD Candle alight to remind us of those from our community who are on pilgrimage. Please be sure to keep them in your prayers and you can follow their Journey via www.dbb.org.au

Fr Jack will be celebrating 6pm Mass this Sunday 10th July and will give our WYD Pilgrims. a departing Blessing.

The Just Word

PaTH youth plan comes with risks: While being welcomed by some observers, the Coalition Government's announcement in the Budget of a new youth jobs internship plan has raised concerns about exploitation of young people.

Catholic Social Services Australia said reworking the "work-for-the-dole" scheme—titled Youth Jobs paTH: Prepare, Trial, Hire—to help some 100,000 people under 25 to secure jobs, is a welcome attempt to get vulnerable young people into employment. But the focus on making payments to employers of \$10,000 after only six months' engagement is misguided.

"It may result in young people, already a highly vulnerable workforce cohort, being terminated at the end of the six month period, resulting in workforce churn," said CSSA chief executive Marcelle Mogg. "Payments of \$10,000 to employers effectively create a cut-price labour force that is open to exploitation by disreputable employers."

Find out more:

Read the ACOSS Poverty Report
www.acoss.org.au/poverty-2

Read the Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot:

<http://www.anglicare.asn.au/research-reports/the-rental-affordability-snapshot>

Read the 2013 Pastoral Letter Time for a New Start:
www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/pastoral-letters/278-2013-time-for-a-new-start-a-call-to-increase-allowance-payments

Read the encyclical *Laborem Exercens*:
w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_14091981_laborem-exercens.html

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 or 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

Faith Enrichment Day: St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber South. Sr.Virginia

Bourke RSJ graduate theologian. Tuesday, 19th July. "The Will of God: We're in it !" Session begins 10am concludes 2.30pm with breaks for morning tea/lunch. Morning tea and a sandwich lunch provided. Cost \$25 or donation. If attending, book on bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au Or Phone 4368 2805.

Fulfilling International Mission for Skilled Volunteers: Communities in East Timor, PNG, Kenya, Kiribati, Samoa and elsewhere are asking for teachers, health and community development workers, administrators, agricultural workers and others. You can assist to mentor local workers in your field of expertise. This will provide opportunities for those

of an Australian education; improve the operations of organisations in vital sectors of local communities and so assist poverty reduction.

For 55 years Psalms Australia assisted such communities to recruit, prepare and support Australian Catholics who volunteer to share their lives and skills. We have increasing numbers of requests from communities who believe in this approach, more than anything else, assists their self-reliance and sustainable development.

Want to know more?

Information Session will be held on Sunday 24th July, 10.30am at Aquinas Academy (141 Harrington St. The Rocks) RSVP joey@palms.org.au or call 95518 9551. If you can make it, we would love to hear from you.

Readings Today & Next Sunday

10th July 2016

Bruce Janiga

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 10

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 17

Dt 30:10–14
Ps 68:14, 17, 30–31, 33–34, 36, 37
Col 1:15–20
Lk 10:25–37

Gen 18:1–10
Ps 14:2–5
Col 1:24–28
Lk 10:38–42

The Book of Deuteronomy, presented as a collection of farewell speeches given by Moses to the Israelites just before his death, serves as a source of legislation for biblical Israel. “Deuteronomy” means “second law”; the book is a second edition of the Law found earlier in the Torah. In today’s reading Moses exhorts the people to keep the Law, which “is not too mysterious and remote” (v 11). This Law is to be internalized, not written on stone tablets but “in your mouths and in your hearts” (v 14).

Writing to the Colossians, Paul calls Christ “the firstborn of all creation” (v 15). Christ reconciled us to God “by the blood of his cross” (v 20), and so we share in the promise of the new life given in the resurrection. As “head of the body, the church” (v 18), Christ sanctifies us by his blood. Because of this we share in his life. Sharing in that life, we must strive to conform our lives more fully to his by loving our neighbour.

The “scholar of the law” who questions Jesus in today’s Gospel knows the answer to his own question; he questions Jesus to test him (v 25). The commandments calling us to love God and love our neighbour are central to the practice of the Law of Moses and were taught as such for centuries. The question of the identity of one’s “neighbour” is another issue. For some, the word only referred to fellow Israelites; for Jesus, anyone who is in need is our neighbour. The scholar would not consider a Samaritan — someone detested by the Jews — as his neighbour. Samaritans were so despised that even after Jesus’ parable, the scholar still doesn’t use the term; he merely calls him “the one who treated him with mercy” (v 37).

For reflection: Is God’s law something internalized in my life, or is it a set of rules found in a book on a shelf? Is there a “neighbour” in my life whom I need to love in a better way? What prevents me from loving as I should?

Abraham’s visitors, interpreted by many Christian commentators as the Trinity, give him an opportunity to practice his hospitality. The author tells us that it was the LORD (v 1) who appeared to him, but Abraham does not seem to recognize his identity; he refers to him as “sir” (v 3). His offer of “a little food” (v 5) turns into an elaborate feast. This text illustrates that he has become a man of means and that he is a generous host. The passage concludes with the promise of a son born to Sarah within a year. We should not view this as a reward for Abraham’s generosity but as another episode in the working out of God’s promise to Abraham made earlier in Genesis.

Writing to the Colossians, Paul says that he unites his sufferings with those of Christ “on behalf of his body, which is the church” (v 24). God has chosen to make known in Paul’s day “the mystery hidden” so that Jew and gentile alike might come to know the message and person of Christ, who died for our sins.

The story of Martha and Mary in Luke’s text shows us two types of disciples. Martha is the disciple who is busy with all the chores of hospitality. In some ways she is like Abraham and Sarah in today’s first reading. But Mary “has chosen the better part” (v 42) in focusing on listening to the Lord’s words. The message is not that we should avoid the obligations of hospitality but that we are called to have balance in our lives. There is a time for work and a time for listening. Too often a hostess fails to visit with her guests because she is too busy worrying “about many things” (v 41). Martha runs the risk of missing the better part.

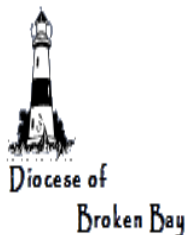
For reflection: What is my attitude toward the “stranger among us”? Do I strive to have a sense of balance in my life between Christian deeds and contemplation? What would my life be like if one of those dimensions were lacking?



The good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbour’s need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges His hearers — and us — to go and do the same!



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



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.

Fr Jack's Dates for July/August

Sunday, 10th—6:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, 16th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, 17th—7:30 a.m. Mass

Sunday, 24th—9:15 a.m. Mass and 6:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, 30th—5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, 31st—7:30 a.m. Mass

Sunday, 7th—9:15 a.m. Mass and 6:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, 21st—6:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, 27th—5:00 p.m. Mass

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

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.