



# The Voice

13th July 2014

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 3

ORDINARY  
time

## Funeral Planning

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Noel Barron, Todd Chidgey.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Manson Stanislas,  
Edward Boylan, Stephen Piki,  
Michael Brittliff, Juliana  
McLeish.
- **Remembrances:**  
Bon and Eileen Andersen,  
Melvée Carkeek, Albert David  
Snell, Sr. Patricia Snell, r.s.j.
- **And the sick:**  
Mary Harrison, Lola Proctor,  
Therese Payne, Vince Ashley,  
Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,  
Fr. Geoffrey Bugden,  
Irene Beck, Silvana Anzalone,  
Alan Harland, Therese Payne,  
Mary Leger, Hanaa El Khatib,  
Grace Williams, Wanda  
Grima, Grace McNeaney,  
Clare Cooper, Beverley Purser,  
Cissy Tuilekutu.

Some of you may remember that, some time back, the Parish introduced a way of indicating your funeral wishes while you are still alive. If you did not hear about it then, or if, perhaps, you need a small reminder, I would like to raise the subject again.

A document is available from the Parish office, called "Funeral Information". In it you can indicate your preferences. It is not unknown that there can be disagreement within families when a member dies. Different members can allege that each of them was told something different about the preferences of the deceased. Sometimes this can arise because the deceased was trying to keep everyone happy and to minimise family strife (and by the very tactics thus ensuring that this would in fact take place); sometimes the differences can arise from personal prejudices – this member no longer practices the Faith; that member does practise; another has become an atheist, and so on. Or the argument can be about cost (which way is the cheapest?). One certain result is that your preferences can be ignored while other egos take over. Some of the preferences you can indicate concern: the form of the ceremony (Mass? Prayer Service?); burial or cremation; the readings, hymns, etc.

You can also write down information that you think would be useful to the priest or deacon presiding at the Mass or Service and preaching the homily.

When it comes to planning the funeral service, remember that this is not the job of the funeral director. There are matters within his competence which we leave to his expertise, but he should not stray into those which are the province of the Parish. That is why, when a family member dies, you should contact the priest first. (If he has given the Last Rites, you are halfway there.) The timing of a funeral obviously has to respect your convenience and the funeral director's availability (and that of the people at the cemetery or crematorium), but it should also take account of the clergy.

A Catholic has the right to be buried according to the rites of the Church. It is sad how often practising Catholics are buried or cremated in an offhand secular way, either because the children no longer practise, or because it is cheaper. Make your wishes clear now. Come into the Office and pick up a copy of "Funeral Information". If you need help in choosing readings and hymns, we can arrange to meet.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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### Psalm Response

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*Not too fast*

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruit-ful harvest.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



**Our prayerful congratulations** to Father John Hill who celebrates fifty years of faithful ministry and service this Friday, 18th July. We offer prayers of thanksgiving for his dedication and the continued support of his ministry.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 13/7/14:** Frances Giunta. (L) Brenda Sweet. (L) Grace Douglas. (H).

**Church Cleaning Roster 18/7/14:** Judy French, Don Anderson, Elena Egan, Maria Wickens.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our faith community and pray for Jake Berrigan, Zachary Quilkey and Zoe Winner baptized last Sunday.

**Morning Tea/Coffee** after 9.15am Mass this Sunday will be served by the Parish Pastoral Council. Our thanks to the council for replacing 'El Shaddai' who are unable to come as rostered.

**Coffee/Tea/Chat:** A group of seniors meet monthly in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday, 21st July, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Please ring Parish office if you know of a member of your family, a

friend or member of the parish who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

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

**Cash Housie/Cash Bingo:** Come along, try your luck and enjoy the friendly atmosphere every Saturday night. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games 7.30pm-10.20pm. Selling commences 6.30pm. Hall opens 5.30pm. Prizes: \$100, \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 Jackpot [Reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within specified number of calls]. Prizes subject to sales. Games: 50 games, 3 books of tickets; Bk 1-20 games, Bk 2 -20, Jackpot Bk 10 games. Coast: 1—all night \$8, 3 all night—\$24, 4 all night—\$32, 6 all night—\$48. (all combinations of books available).

This is the original fundraiser since the 1960's in Ettalong and continues to raise essential funds for the parish.

Transport: Busways bus stop right outside the door. Extras: Kiosk and bingo pen & dabber

shop available. Tea and coffee free—help yourself in the kitchen. Dinner (Chinese take-away) can be ordered at the venue.

**Thank You from the Boland Family:** We would like to thank Fr. John, Fr. Tom, Fr. Stephen and all parishioners for their prayers and support on the occasion of Matthew's Solemn Profession. It was a very special night.

**Parish Bus Service Urgent need for volunteer Drivers** to join a roster transporting parishioners to and from Mass on weekends. Must have LR license. Please contact Parish office 4341 1073 if you can help.

**Baptismal Preparation:** Parents seeking to have their baby baptised are required to attend a talk about the significance of the ceremony. Important issues are raised and the participants view a brief film which complements the talk which has been given. The meeting takes less than an hour and occurs on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Parishioners who would like to be part of the group that presents the preparation talks are asked to contact Don Anderson on 4342 3357. This can be a rewarding experience for presenters, as they get to meet many very fine parents.

## Social Justice

**Economic Justice and War:** Pope Francis linked the economic system to war in a recent interview, *"The world economic system is madness...a system that in order to survive must make war, as great empires have always done. But since you cannot have a Third World War, you have regional wars. And what does this mean? That arms are made and sold, and in this way the idolatrous economies, the great*

*world economies that sacrifice man at the feet of the idol of money, obviously keep their balance sheets in the black."*

Read more on [goo.gl/GWIZ7F](http://goo.gl/GWIZ7F) According to Ben Doherty in the SMH June 16, over the last five years, Australia has increased its imports of arms by 83%. It is now the seventh largest importer of major weapons in the world after India, Pakistan and China. It is

the USA's biggest customer. The government has committed to spending \$12.4 billion buying a further 58 new F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft. With the USA turning its military attention to Asia, this region of the world is now involved in a new arms race into which Australia is being drawn. [goo.gl/ljekm9](http://goo.gl/ljekm9) **Columban Institute Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice.**

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner:** Fr. David Ranson, Administrator of Holy Name, Wahrenonga and Senior Lecturer in the Sydney College of Divinity, will be celebrating Mass for Serra at Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble on Thursday, 24th July at 6.30pm followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Everyone is welcome. Please remember to pray everyday for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life, for the perseverance of existing vocations and for all seminarians. Ph: Terry Scanlan 0438 887 295 or email [terry-scanlan@bigpond.com](mailto:terry-scanlan@bigpond.com) if you would like to attend.

**Youth of Broken Bay invite you to join in the 2014 Vinnies Community Sleepout:** Saturday July 26 from 6pm to 9am on Sunday July 27 at The Light of Christ Centre, Waitara [end of Yardley Ave Waitara]. To register go to [www.gofundraise.com.au](http://www.gofundraise.com.au) then search for 'Youth of Broken Bay' and join the team.

# The Rock of my Ages

Ron Raab

I entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in August 1978 in Cascade, Colorado. It was my first experience living away from the Midwest. I loved the mighty beauty of the Rocky Mountains, the breathtaking views from the novitiate property, and the smell of the many pine trees. I also found in the mountains and in my time in the yearlong program of prayer and discernment a rich and deeper experience of God. I wanted to stay on the mountaintop forever.

Sometime during that year, I found a small, red rock that seemed to form itself in my hands. I clung to this reddish brown stone in my moments of prayer. I wanted to be reminded not only of the holy place in Colorado but of my experience of prayer sitting on the hillsides. So I carried the rock back to graduate school after the novitiate year. I displayed the free memento alongside my Bible in my room. It became part of my daily prayer and surrender to the next phase of formation.

So I have carried that rock with me for 35 years. I still keep the rock next to my Jerusalem Bible. I sit with the rock now in my hand when I feel disconnected from the earth, when I do not feel I belong to anyone, when I have my moments of disbelief and worry. I want to remember the days when I found a new awareness that God made me exactly who I am.

As I reflect on the series of Gospels from the 17th Sunday until the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time, I remember the rock and my experiences with Christ Jesus. I too found a treasure buried in a field. I even wanted to take the field with me. In fact, I did leave everything to buy the field, to enter into priesthood. I still search for the great pearl when I feel so alone and lost. I cast into the mercy of God my own net filled with small nuggets of regret, loss, and shame, but God seems to reveal to me the very heart of kingdom love and forgiveness every time I fret or worry. I

hold the kingdom of God in my hand; I see it in a small red rock.

I place myself in the deserted place where Jesus's heart was moved with pity and he cured the sick. I hear his command every day to give hungry people some food — not only in the Eucharist itself but from our food pantry. I see the hungry in the middle-aged man wanting to become clean from crystal meth and in staff members who just want to talk. My experiences of priesthood teach me that there is enough love and mercy, enough hope and beauty, to go around to feed every person. When I feel lost among people's hunger, I cling again to the sacred rock.

I especially cling to the rock with my sweaty hands when I feel trapped in turbulent waters of self-doubt as I enter into relationships with people who most need healing. When we see Jesus so near, even walking on the waters to get our attention, fear invades our lives and hearts. We are in fact only human. When I hold fast to the rock when storms surround me, I ache to hear in my deafness, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." The words of Peter are often on my lips even on dry ground, "Lord, save me."

I hold the rock in my hands especially when I want to change Jesus's mind about something in my life or about the suffering I encounter among people. I take this rock and shout out to the Canaanite woman who persuaded Jesus to cure her daughter. I want those scraps for a friend who just lost his mother, for a woman who wails with mucus running down her nose, having lost her son. I want to hold on to something during the sheer and gut-wrenching grief of people. Peter reminds me to hold tight. Peter's life was filled with uncertainty in one moment and great faith in the next. Jesus promised him a key to heaven. His entire life became the rock on which Christ




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May our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred — or sixty — or thirty-fold!

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*(Continued on page 4)*

## 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](mailto: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 Dulakara 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.

## The Rock of my Ages

(continued)

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built the promise that he would be with us in real presence for all who hunger. Somehow, I want Christ's presence for every person. I want the certainty that the rock brings, that the foundation of the church will be a safe place for every person to stand upon.

I moved back to Colorado last year. I carried back to the Rocky Mountains a piece of the rock. I still have it next to my Bible on a stand next to my bed, both anchoring my fears even in the nighttime. The sacred rock has traveled with me, has been calm in storms, and has reminded me to persevere. Now in my new role as pastor, I pass on to the next generation how the unchanging

nature of the Scriptures and even the rock have formed me into a believer and a minister among people who most need to stand on steady ground. **ML**

Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as pastor of the Tri-Community Catholic Parish in Colorado Springs, Colo. He broadcasts a weekly Scripture commentary, On the Margins, 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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Broken Bay