



The Voice

8th February 2015

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 1



World Day of the Sick

Next Saturday, 14th February, memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the twenty-third World Day of the Sick. Here are some excerpts from the Pope's Message for the Occasion:

This year's theme invites us to reflect on a phrase from the Book of Job: 'I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame' (Job 29:15). I would like to consider this phrase from the perspective of "sapientia cordis" - the wisdom of the heart.

This "wisdom" is no theoretical, abstract knowledge, the product of reasoning... It is a way of seeing things infused by the Holy Spirit in the minds and hearts of those who are sensitive to the sufferings of their brothers and sisters and who can see in them the image of God. ...

Wisdom of the heart means serving our brothers and sisters... Today too, how many Christians show, not by their words but by lives rooted in genuine faith, that they are "eyes to the blind" and "feet to the lame"! They are close to the sick in need of constant care and help in washing, dressing and eating.

Wisdom of the heart means being with our brothers and sisters. Time spent with the sick is holy time. It is a way of praising God who conforms us to the image of his Son, who "came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mt 20:28). Jesus himself said: "I am among you as one who serves."

Wisdom of the heart means going forth from ourselves towards our brothers and sisters. Occasionally the world forgets the special value of time spent at the bedside of the sick, since we are in such a rush ... For this reason, I would like once again to stress "the absolute priority of 'going forth from ourselves towards our brothers and sisters' as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God's completely free gift" (Evangelii Gaudium, 179).

Wisdom of the heart means showing solidarity with our brothers and sisters while not judging them. Charity takes time. Time to care for the sick and time to visit them. Time to be at their side like Job's friends... Yet Job's friends harboured a judgment against him: they thought that Job's misfortune was a punishment from God for his sins. True charity is a sharing which does not judge, which does demand the conversion of others; it is free of that false humility which, deep down, seeks praise and is self-satisfied about whatever good it does.

Even when illness, loneliness and inability to work make it hard for us to reach out to others, the experience of suffering can become a privileged means of transmitting grace and a source for gaining and growing in sapientia cordis ..

FRANCIS

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased**
Maryanne Carroll.
- **Anniversaries:**
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Welch,
Peter Hope, Mary McKay,
Jack Booth, Patrick Dolan,
Michael Gamble,
Jack Crookes, Fr. Carol Grew,
Kath Sykes, John Donnelly.
- **Remembrances:**
All Souls in Purgatory.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham,
Lola Proctor, Grace Williams,
Alan Harland, Ruth Fuller,
Evangeline Cusay,
Peter Crookes, Terry Curtis,
Maureen O'Brien,
Mary Dwyer,
Charles Knowles.
Victor and Wanda Grima,

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Around the Parish

Greetings from my family and friends. They assure you of their prayers and love. Thank you for your support and prayers during my holidays. I am glad to be back. I wish you all God's blessing.
Fr. Stephen.

Lenten Discussion Groups: During Lent our Parish encourages parishioners to come together in groups to pray and reflect on the significance of the season. A prepared program of prayers, readings and reflections is followed over the six weeks period and it is an opportunity for parishioners to deepen their understanding and spiritual involvement in the lead up to Easter Sunday. Parishioners who would like to join a group, *it is essential* to notify the Parish office 4341 1073 by Wednesday, 11th February.

Attention All Readers and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Would you please advise Dorothy Fulton 4341 7610 or the parish office 4341 1073 if you no longer wish to be rostered on these two Ministries. Likewise, anyone wishing to join either of these Ministries, please phone one of the above

Children's Liturgy Roster 15/2/15: Geraldine Baxter, Christine French.

Josephite Associates meeting Wed. 11th February in the Leo Mahon room. New members welcome! Enq: Betty 4341 8849.

Palms for Burning: Please bring last year's palms for burning and leave them in the baskets provided in the gathering area.

Bus Trip—Pokolkin Hunter Valley Sausage Sizzle. Leaving 8.30am Wednesday, 25th February. \$25. Morning tea and lunch provided. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Catechists: God has blest us with one teacher for Umina Public School, but we still need another. Please pray for a generous soul to volunteer and also remember the children in your prayers as they begin their Scripture classes. Enquiries: Susie 4369 6235.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Leaders and helpers are reminded that a meeting will be held in the Leo Mahon room Thursday, 19th February

Ecumenical Pancake Night 2015: This Year's pancake night will be held on Tuesday, 17th February at Ettalong Uniting Church Hall, Picnic Parade (opposite Sarongs Dress Shop) commencing 7.30pm.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 13/2/15: Christine French, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Michael French.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Jack Eichhorn, Grey Ayrton, Braxton Van Gorp and Lucas Wetton who were baptized last Sunday.

Project Compassion: Your donations to Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set envelopes and give generously this Lent.

Lectio Divina in Lent: Lectio Divina will meet each Thursday in Lent in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 10.30am beginning the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, 19th February.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday 12th February, 11am. Leo Mahon room.

Faith Base Conversations: Getting good at talking about your faith to family and friends takes practice (and grace). Come and make a new friend and talk about your faith. Leo Mahon room, Saturday 14th February, 10.30am-11.30am. Morning tea provided.

Social Justice

For 2015, The Project Compassion theme is **Food for Life:**

Food is essential for all life, yet many of the world's poorest people do not have food security. That means they live from day to day, uncertain of how to afford or how to access their next meal. Without food, the rest of life is impossible to contemplate: how can you plan for the future or educate your children when you fear you will be

hungry?

As Pope Francis says: *'It is a well known fact that current levels of production are sufficient, yet millions of people are still suffering and dying of starvation. This is truly scandalous.'*

Project 2015 will throw a spotlight on food security, focusing on issues and the ways in which Caritas is empowering the world's poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life—measures that relieve them

of the burden of food insecurity and allow them to develop new, improved income streams for a better future.

As part of Project Compassion, 2015 stories will be shared from Fiji, Niger, Indonesia, Peru, Nepal and Australia to show how Caritas Australia helps people to grow and access food for life. For more information: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion/about

From the Diocese and beyond

A Presentation by Alzheimer's Australia: The psychological and social aspects of moving into care—the impact on the family, choosing a good residential facility and sharing care with family/friends. This is very topical at the moment considering many of us have aging parents or we may be even planning ahead for ourselves. There will be time for questions, so come and join us for the morning. All are welcome. There is no charge for this event.

Tuesday, 17 February, 10am-12 noon. The Railway Room, Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills. (Vehicular access via city View Rd.).

A Course on the Creed: What do Christians believe? What gives meaning and purpose to our lives? Our answers to these questions are found in the Creed, the Church's profession of faith. But what do the articles actually mean? As followers of Christ it is important for us to understand

these articles so we can live a serious Christian life in today's secular world.

In this course we will look at the fundamental truths of the Faith as professed in the Creed. Duration 8 hours. St. Patrick's Primary School Library, East Gosford. Monday 9 February to Monday 2 March. 7-9pm each night. Presenter: Andrew Wood. Cost \$80 per student (paid in full on the first night) Visit www.stjohncentre.com or contact Andrew Wood 0449 574 527.



Ministering beyond the Threshold

Ron Raab

I ministered among people with HIV/AIDS for most of the first 20 years of my priesthood. My religious community never assigned me to such a ministry; I just happened to live at a point in history when I could not avoid being involved with people facing such a horrific illness. As I look back to those years, I would never have dreamed when I was ordained that a disease would become one of the major influences of my early priesthood.

I began sifting through people's complications of HIV/AIDS in Colorado Springs, Colorado, around 1985, and I have mentioned some of those experiences throughout the years in this column. I got involved because the director of the county health department was a parishioner. I gave him permission to put my name on a list of clergy who were willing to offer spiritual guidance. At that time, that list was very short.

I remember a young man who came to my office for the first time. He stood at my office door and said, "I have tried to speak to three other priests. Would you at least listen to me?" I still hold on to that question as one of the most formative questions of my priesthood.

People grappled with many issues of fear when this disease that no one understood first appeared in the United States. One example of such fear – which brought me into the circle of care – was the many religious people who would not enter a hospital room to comfort a person who was sick. Clergy would stand outside the door of the patient's room and just yell toward the person in bed. I thought that if I could promise to listen to a young man in my office, then I should also listen in a hospital room. I broke the barrier of the threshold many times. I cannot believe now how groundbreaking that gesture was at the time.

I was young and ignorant of the complications people were facing from their diagnosis. However, I could struggle with the grief, the loss, and the fear of dying. I learned quickly the gut-wrenching reality of people of my generation who were dy-

ing. I learned to listen for the first time in my life. I stood silently along bedsides with prayer in my soul, healing oil on my fingers, and much fear in my own heart.

I refer to this story again as I reflect on the Gospels for the Second through Sixth Weeks of Ordinary Time. I listen to these texts again with great amazement. I am struck by how connected disease is to the beginning of Jesus's ministry on earth. I find the connection startling, yet consoling.

Jesus asks his disciples – and every person in our day – "What are you looking for?" He then calls his disciples from their place of work as fishermen. He tells them that he will make them fishers of men. He is saying that people are our priority.

Immediately after Jesus calls his disciples, he encounters an unclean spirit. I am so intrigued that the unclean spirit is the one to name Jesus for who he is: "the Holy One of God." This new teaching of authority radically identifies Jesus with the most marginalised people of his day. The people around Jesus were astonished.

Jesus is teaching us that weakness, vulnerability, and powerlessness will be our greatest teachers. In fact, grief, fear, and pain will begin to open us up to faith. In our suffering, we will find God.

Jesus continues ministering by entering the house to see Simon's mother-in-law. He reaches out his hand to her. This intimate encounter still teaches us how to live our ministry in the world. We need this personal touch, this intimate encounter, to bring to people who are ill and marginalised the love and healing of Christ Jesus. Jesus goes on to cure all the sick, the demonic, and those whom people were forbidden to touch.

A leper then kneels in front of Jesus. "If you wish, you can make me clean." I see before my eyes the young man who came to the threshold of my office door. Jesus is moved with pity, "I do will it. Be made clean." It was the leper who spread the



Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of sharing in its blessings."

See 1 Corinthians 9:23



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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.

Ministering beyond the Threshold

(continued)

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word of who Jesus was and what he could do. The person filled with physical poison revealed to healthy people the miracles and presence of Christ Jesus.

People flocked to Jesus. They even brought a sick man to him by opening up a roof to lower their friend down. Everyone knew what Jesus could do because the people who were sick were the teachers. Jesus forgave sinners, and he still says, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."

I learned so much about the healing power of Christ by walking through the threshold of those hospital rooms. This is the risk for us all today – to bring our ministry and the Eucharist itself to the many rooms where people live in fear, doubt, isolation, and pain. Jesus invites us

to enter the threshold of suffering and to discover his love for every person in need.

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

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. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



Diocese of
Broken Bay