



# The Voice

18th May 2014

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Psalter Week 1

## EASTERTIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR  
THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
James McDevitt, Clare Givney,  
Brother Coman Sykes, f.m.s.  
Paul Fahey, Rita Balzen.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Reg Hogan, Dorn Schumacher,  
Ellen McGinley, Trevor Spear,  
Kevin Bemrose.
- **Remembrances:**  
Arthur, Muriel and John  
Brown and the Brown family.
- **And the sick:**  
Grace Williams, Vince Ashley,  
Lola Proctor, Alan Harland, Fr.  
Geoffrey Bugden, Beryl Allen,  
Therese Payne, Hanaa El  
Khatib, Mary Leger, Wanda  
Grima, Anne Singleton,  
Louisa Dunn, Beverley Purser,  
Grace McNeany.

## Charitable Works Fund

Next Sunday we have the third Charitable Works Fund collection for this financial year. Let me explain how we as a parish are placed with regard to our assessment and the uses to which money collected is put.

The CWF is a centralised fund for the support of charitable and pastoral works that deserve our support, precisely because they are beyond the capacities of the individual parish and need to be undertaken at the diocesan level.

These include CatholicCare, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (for taking the Gospel to Catholic children in state schools), St Lucy's and St Edmund's Special Schools and other diocesan agencies.

CatholicCare has now taken over the administration of Mary Mac's Place, here on the Peninsula, but its chief work is the provision of help to families and children. A Early Learning Centre will shortly open in the grounds of St John the Baptist School. They already exist at Waitara, Lake Munmorah, Forestville and Terrigal. There are also Before and After School and Vacation Centres, Family Day care, in Home Care, and much besides.

The funds are raised in a number of ways, including bequests, but mainly by impos-

ing on parishes an annual assessment.

This financial year our assessment was \$49,495.00. So far, our two collections have raised \$12,396.20. This leaves us to find \$37,098.80, and a likely annual shortfall of over thirty thousand dollars.

Over past few years I have been able to meet the shortfall from the Ancillary Fund. This was a fund created to hold donations that had attracted a tax deduction. The money held there represented the percentage deduction for contributions designated for the parish school, before the responsibility for the funding of Catholic schools was taken over by the Diocese. It remained the property of the Parish, but it could not be used for parish (non-deductible) purposes. As the CWF is tax-deductible, the best way to use it seemed to be meeting the annual CWF shortfall.

Now that money is gone. The Ancillary Fund is no more. Shortfalls in future will have to be met from ordinary parish revenue. Can you imagine the difference to parish life that will be made by a loss of thirty thousand dollars? Please be generous next Sunday.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Easter: the best for us	3
Directory	4

### Psalm Response

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50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS  
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

## Around the Parish

**Charitable Works Fund envelopes** available in the church for your convenience. C.W.F. Collection next weekend.

**Bus Trip** to Wyong Creek to chocolate factory and Little Creek cheese factory then to lunch at the Club. Wed. May 21st. Cost \$15 for bus trip. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 25/5/14:** Leif Spicer (L) Marina Mondal (L) Megan McMinn (H)

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 23/5/14:** Maria Wickens. Brian Jordan. Veronica Jordan. Warren Sparrow.

**Morning Tea/Coffee Roster 25/5/14** will be members of our Parish Council.

**Catechists** meeting Thursday,

22nd May. 9am-12md in the Leo Mahon room.

**Liturgy Team** meeting Thursday, 22nd May, 7.30pm in Parish Office.

**Family Ministry** meeting Thursday, 22nd May, 1pm Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 18/5/14:** Kylie Spicer (L) Marina Mondal(L) Meggan McMinn (H)

**Coffee/Cake and Chat** afternoon for those living alone meet this Monday, 19th May, 1.30pm-3pm in the Leo Mahon room. Transport available. Phone Bernard 4341 6343 if anyone would like to join the group.

**Rosary Making Group** celebrate thirty years of their ministry this Tuesday. Please keep them in your prayers and new volunteers are welcome to join our

group making rosaries and scapulars for the Missions.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Please ring Parish office if you know of a member of your family, a friend or parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

If some one 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** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. and McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sale from 6pm. Proceeds benefit the parish. Enquiries Jordan 0417 898 668.

## Social Justice

**Healing a global wound:** The Catholic Church teaches that all people have the right to live a dignified life in their homeland. Tragically, over 45 million people around the world are displaced, This festering wound typifies and reveals the imbalances and conflicts of the modern world. War, natural calamities, perse-

cution and discrimination of every kind have deprived millions of their home, employment, family and homeland.

**The right to seek asylum:** The Catholic Church teaches that anyone whose life is threatened has the right to protection. Whether because of persecution, armed conflicts, natural disasters, or economic conditions that

threaten their lives or physical integrity. It is the element of persecution, threat or danger, or being forcibly displaced that gives rise to a right to seek asylum rather than to migrate through ordinary channels. [www.acmro.catholic.org.au](http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au)

*Love your neighbor as yourself  
(Matthew 22:39)*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Ecumenical Service for the Renewal of the Tri-Diocesan Covenant:** This year's Ecumenical Service of Worship to renew the Covenant signed in 2008 by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is to be hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, Thurs. 29th May, 7.45pm, St. Peter's Anglican Church, 47 William St. East Maitland. Free buses will operate. Bus will depart St. Patrick's Church, East Gosford at 5.45pm. Return journey 9.15pm BYO dinner to eat on the bus (and perhaps a snack for the return journey). Please be part of this important ecumenical gathering.

**Pope Francis in the Holy Land:** Pope Francis will journey to the Holy Land 24-26 May. Motto for the pilgrimage is "So that they may be one". This pilgrimage will focus on the meeting with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople

and heads of the Churches of Jerusalem. This is to renew the commitment to unity expressed by Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople 50 years ago in Jerusalem. Follow the unfolding of this historic pilgrimage at [popefrancisholyland2014.lpg.org](http://popefrancisholyland2014.lpg.org)

**Torah Study for Christians:** Join Rabbi Gad Krebs in exploring the Book of Numbers. Topic: Rebellion and leadership in the wilderness: what are the lessons for today? Wed. 28th May. 6pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills (enter City View Rd.) RSVP 9847 0488. [registrations@dbb.org.au](mailto:registrations@dbb.org.au)

**Conversation Series:** All are invited to this presentation on 30th May, 7.30-9pm (Coffee/tea from 7pm) at St. Agatha's School Hall, Pennant Hills. Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald will be discussing his experiences of inter-religious relations with Geraldine Doogue, Australian journalist and broadcaster well known for her work on "Compass" RSVP

23rd May. Book via [www.trybooking.com/EKWF](http://www.trybooking.com/EKWF)

**Potpourri** presented by Central Coast Chorale. An abundance of joyous choral music. Sunday, 25th May, 2.30pm. St. Patrick's Church, East Gosford. Full details on notice board. Leaflets on table.

**Come and Try Craft. Mosaicing and Board Games:** For people who are blind or have low vision. You will be in company of others with similar interests and vision related challenges. Join us for a cuppa and a social morning. Monday, 26th May. 10 am-12pm.

**Jesus and the Shroud of Turin-Serra** Vocations Mass. Fr. Barry Nobbs Celebrant. Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble, Thurs. 22nd May. Mass 6.30pm, followed by a light meal, a short meeting and continuation of online adult programme. This month we will be playing a YouTube video from the Vatican "Jesus and the Shroud of Turin". Ph: Terry Scanlan 0438 887 295. Email [terry\\_scanlan@bigpond.com](mailto:terry_scanlan@bigpond.com) if attending.

# Easter: the best for us

Ron Raab

I celebrated my 25th anniversary of priesthood six years ago during the Easter season. My friend Leslie traveled from Kabul, Afghanistan, where she lived and worked on international children's issues. She arrived just in time to celebrate with me in Portland, Oregon.

Leslie was the parish council president where I served as a deacon in 1982-1983 in South Bend, Indiana. Leslie testified on my behalf on ordination day at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday, April 9, 1983. I have carried her voice of support throughout all these years.

Leslie gave me a special gift when I was ordained, a bottle of Scotch whisky to keep for my 25th anniversary. I carefully wrapped the bottle in bubble-wrap and wrote on a piece of masking tape: "To be opened: April 9, 2008".

During her visit, I gathered about 25 friends around the dining room table in the rectory. I presented the bottle, still securely wrapped in its original bubble-wrap. Leslie and I opened the package with care and excitement. We tore off the wrapping and opened the yellowed box delicately. She uncorked the bottle as if it held all the hopes and memories of the past. People stood around the table in awe that our friendship had lasted and also that the bottle had survived nine moves across the country.

Leslie and I poured a small amount of Scotch into each glass. Leslie held up her glass and spoke of the day she presented me to the bishop. She spoke beautifully about my life and my years of priesthood. We laughed and cried at the same time. She toasted our friendship and our persistence in working among people in poverty. She toasted every person around the table and all of our efforts to enter into issues of life, from hungry children overseas to our homeless folks in our urban parish in Portland.

Leslie's toast was a holy moment. The toast was not about the alcohol, but about our

lives of faith and service. I glimpsed my priesthood story in resurrection light. For just a moment, I saw my sin combined with my good works. I viewed my selfishness combined with my relationships. I caught a hint of my inner struggles to reach out to people on the margins of society. This was sincerely an Easter moment for me and for my friends who witnessed it with tears in their eyes around our dining room table.

I always look forward to the Easter season because I often lose sight of my life in God's love. Even though I realize with my entire being that God wants the best for me and the best for all people, sometimes my struggles seem to win out. My perspective is skewed when I am in pain or when suffering is never alleviated for other people. I ache for this perspective of hope all year around. I wait again for the miracle of the Easter season.

The Easter season Gospels remind me that our pain does not have the last word. I am always eager to hear the story of the disciples locked up in a room because of fear. They clung to their experience of loss after viewing Jesus's death. However, something new was waiting for them. Christ appeared without a key. Christ released them from hiding, from the utter control that death held over them. I see this miracle time and time again when I hear about our parishioners who finally find housing, a room of their own for the first time. They unlock their own door to find shelter, relief, and satisfaction. They find their dignity again when they feel safe and secure. This miracle of freedom continues in our day and time, the miracle that turns our fear into self-respect.

I hear again in the Easter season that people gather around a table and tell stories about how life used to be and how life is today. People in recovery from addictions show me how Easter joy is rooted in the honest truth and purpose of life. The good shepherd invites us all, as we are ready, to finally surrender to love, found in Christ's

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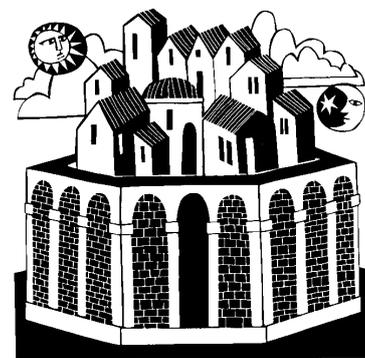



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"Those who have faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells His disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

*See John 14:12*

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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  
P.O. Box 264  
54 Victoria Road  
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre  
100 Blackwall Road.

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, Margaret Cooper & Raelene McLenaghan

*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.

## Easter: the best for us

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

mercy and forgiveness, no matter our past mistakes. People tell stories about the chaos and ravages of addiction. Miracles happen when love is shared one day at a time.

I realize that my own surrender to love is most difficult. I often need Leslie and other friends to remind me that the Easter season invites us all again to live the love we profess. My heart is often cramped in doubt, exactly like the disciples on the seashore. Jesus appeared to them and waited for them to recognize him. I long to be fed in full recognition of Christ's loving presence.

I know I am not alone in needing the Easter season. I have now been ordained 31 years, and I have moved around the

country 10 times. My ministry is still among people who need to be reminded that love abounds over suffering and death. Leslie is still working for the global needs of children in poverty. She reminds me at Easter that we are all still loved into serving beyond our human skills and talents.

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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Diocese of  
Broken Bay