



LENT

5th Sunday in Lent

Year A

2nd April 2017

Psalter Week 1

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Bernard and Elva Fitzgerald,
Leslie Sugden, Kim McDonald,
Eli Houghton, Bernard McKenna,
- **Anniversaries:**
Frank Savage, Bob Scholte,
Alan Player, James Alphonsus Player,
Pretoria Anne Player.
- **Remembrances:**
Paddy Donaghy.
- **And the sick:**
Alan Ford, Kevin Houghton,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Alan Harland, Tracie Passlow,
John Allen, Audrey Barsendich,
Maureen Cows, Kath Hardy,
Chev Shangi, Beryl Allen, Mary Scarfe,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Lola de Souza,
Pat Burgmann, Gwen Strickson,
Mary Scarfe, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Vince Ryan. Anne Singleton,
Cathrine Spratt, David Hiscock.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Rage against Death

When he heard of the fatal illness of Lazarus, Jesus decided to leave the safety of the far side of the Jordan and travel to Judea – a place of vulnerability and mortal danger.

Why? Why undertake such a perilous mission for Lazarus in the first instance, but also for you and for me, for the whole of humanity.

This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, bordering on anger. He is raging against something. What?

He is raging against the seeming finality of death, against that border marked by the grave, a border he intends to cross.

It was his mission to overcome the apparent final dominance of death. The raising of Lazarus is a demonstration of His power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

We hope eventually to share in the fruits of that power. In the meantime there are at least two ways in which we can place ourselves in this Gospel passage.

At times, you and I are Lazarus. You and I and the whole of humanity need to be liberated, sometimes from the tombs which we construct for ourselves. At other times we need to be freed from grave situations, deadening experiences brought about by others.

At some stage, we will hear the voice of Our Lord. We will be, we are, called by name as was Lazarus: 'Michael, or Mary, emerge from your tomb!' Strangely enough, sometimes it is more comfortable to pretend not to hear that voice. Am I, are you, willing to take the risk of starting life afresh?

The second situation in which we can

place ourselves in the Gospel story is with those gathered around the tomb.

Did you notice that our Lord himself did not set Lazarus completely free? You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but it is only the start.

Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past.

This is where Our Lord needs assistants. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of *others* which enabled Lazarus to walk, not shuffle, to walk as a liberated son of God.

You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience, who has suffered some event which has drained them of life.

So, at any particular moment we may be summoned like Lazarus, or commanded like those gathered around the tomb of someone else.

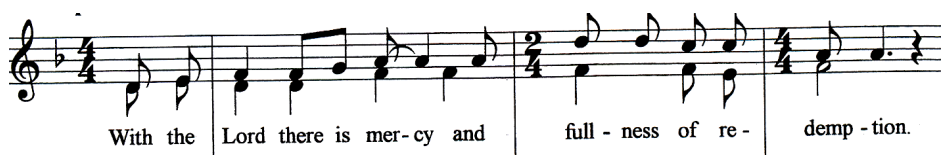
We get the courage to respond because it is the summons or command of the One who definitively conquered death, the One who in today's Gospel proclaims: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life, the one who believes in me, even if they die, will live.'

Lord, we believe in you. We will take the step from the situation in which we find ourselves entombed. We will help liberate others already helped by your grace. We are your faithful people moving towards the celebration of your victory over death. We believe that you are the Resurrection and the Life.

©Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*



Around the Parish

Fr. Jack's Retirement commences this Sunday as he celebrates his last Mass with us at 9.15am. Our prayers and thoughts are with him. We thank him for his service to our Parish and wish him a happy, peaceful and healthy retirement. Your generous donations have allowed us to present Fr Jack with an accommodation voucher for his next Hawaiian holiday in May.

Easter Sunday Ecumenical Service: Join Fr Tim at the Umina Beach Surf Club at 6am. All welcome.

Passion or Palm Sunday next Sunday, 9th April is the solemn beginning of Holy Week. Instead of the normal Gospel, the Passion of Christ is read.

Stations of the Cross followed every Wednesday at 4pm and every Friday at 7.30pm during Lent.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday evening, 7.30pm-8.30pm.

Volunteers required to cut palm fronds this coming Friday, 7 April, after morning Mass. Please notify Parish office if you can help, & bring your gloves and secateurs.

Easter Chocolate Paschal Lambs on sale in Piety Stall. \$8 each.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday, 7th April.

Morning Tea Roster 9/4/17: The Craft Group.

Chrism Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, 11th April at 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The Parish bus will leave 5.30pm from the parish grounds. Those wishing to travel by bus, please phone the Parish office 4341 1073 and leave your name.

Holy Thursday 7pm Mass is the best day to bring in your Project Compassion box or envelopes to the church. There will be baskets in the church for you to put them. Alternatively, bring your contribution to one of the Easter Masses.

Good Friday Envelopes donating to support the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing financial assistance to schools, medical centres, parishes and orphanages, welfare projects and poor Christians and it helps to preserve the sacred shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

Holy Thursday, Evening of the Lord's Supper, Thursday, 13th April, 7pm. Interested parishioners wishing to participate in the Washing of the Feet are asked to phone the Parish Office.

Second Bus Trip to Morpeth: Thursday, 20th April, leaving at 9am. Contact Susie Casey on 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.

Children's Liturgy Palm Sunday 9/4/17: Christine French, Michael Dixon, Rebecca Beisler.

Confirmation 2017: A Parent Information night will be held this Monday, 3rd April in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Rd. Woy Woy at 7.30pm. Children aged 7 years and over are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Readers: Please put your name on the list in the Servers Sacristy if you are available for the various services during Holy Week.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers. Sunday 23rd April, Woy Woy Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 6th April, Leo Mahon room. This is the last one before Easter. Bring your Bible. We resume on the 20th April to study the Acts of the Apostles.

St. John the Baptist Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 7/4/17: Mabel Torres, Linda Potestas, Pamela Burton, Tom French.

St. John's Little Angels Playgroup meets every Thursday from 9.20am in the school hall of St. John the Baptist Primary School. Playgroup is an informal, casual setting allowing for children to play, interact and have fun with their parents, grandparents or carers. We welcome anyone to come along and have a coffee and a chat. It's a great way to spend a morning. Please contact Aoife Tansey Field on 0413 495 354 if you require any additional information.

Rosters: Easter roster for junior & senior servers available in the servers sacristy.

Social Justice

Rising Poverty 'a national shame': Continued from last week's Newsletter.

"Our report shows those doing it the toughest are overwhelmingly people living on the \$38 a day Newstart payment, 55 per cent of whom are in poverty. This is followed by families on Parenting Payment (51.5%). The majority of whom are

lone parents with children.

"This report is a further wake-up call to the Government to address the inadequacy of the lowest income support payments system. It is also a reminder that housing remains the biggest cost of living issue for households and must be addressed as a policy priority." Dr. Goldie said our political leaders often seem more con-

cerned with providing the next tax cut than with reducing poverty and inequality.

"Successive budgets have cut income support payments to those with the least, including low-income families despite persistent and increasing child poverty in Australia.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Joseph's High School, NSW Class of '67: Searching for Class of '67 (including secretarial course) students. You are invited to a get together at Breakers Country Club, Dover Rd. Wamberal, 3rd June at 11.30am. We extend a warm welcome to the students of Classes '66 and '68 to join us on this occasion. Seeking photos. memorabilia. Contact

Denise (nee Crawford).
denisem385@gmail.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend-relationship enrichment for married couples 19-21 May at Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Bill and Ardel Sharpe on 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

Parenting and Relationship Education: Catholicare provides a range of parenting and relationship education programs including one-to-one and group programs to assist couples and parents increase their knowledge and skills in a range of areas. Contact Central Coast family centre for more information. Ph:4356 2600.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

5th Sunday of Lent, April 2

Ez 37:12-14

Ps 129. R. V.7

Rom 8:8-11

Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones serves as a message of hope for the people in exile. God intends to renew them and bring them "back to the land of Israel" (v 12). The Israelites in exile feel as though they are dead, but in the vision God promises to "put my spirit in you that you may live"; God intends to give new life to a broken people: "I have promised, and I will do it" (v 14). This scene is one of the few Old Testament texts that foreshadows the promise of resurrection and the gift of eternal life.

Paul reminds the Romans and us that since God's Spirit dwells in us, God "will give life to [our] mortal bodies" (v 11). Christ's resurrection foreshadows our own sharing in eternal life. "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," he says earlier (v 1); we "are in the spirit" (v 9), and that spirit will bring us life.

The raising of Lazarus is the seventh "sign" or miracle performed by Jesus in John's Gospel. As a sign, it shows us that Jesus has power over death. Raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus foreshadowed his own resurrection; John's readers would see the connection. Jesus assures Martha, "Your brother will rise" (v 23), but she thinks this will happen "on the last day" (v 24), a common belief in contemporary Judaism. But Jesus has something else in mind. "Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (v 25). Lazarus will rise today, but he is not resurrected; he is restored to his old life. John refers to him as "the dead man" who comes out of the tomb "tied hand and foot with burial bands" (v 44), unlike Jesus, who will leave his burial cloths behind (see 20:5) because he has passed from death to life. The new life of the risen Christ is God's promise to each of us.

For reflection: Have I ever experienced "being brought back to life" by God? How does my belief in the resurrection help me face personal loss in my life?



When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives — our gifts as well as our sufferings — can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

See John 11:4



Holy Week & Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday (13 April) 7:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (14 April) 10:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross (at SJB Primary School,
21a Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy)

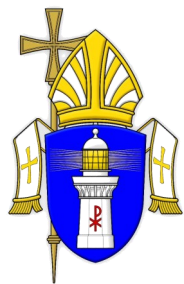
3:00 p.m. The Lord's Passion

Easter Vigil (15 April) 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (16 April) 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Easter Monday (17 April) 9:00 a.m.

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,

Cnr 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
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill

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 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).

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).

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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.

Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

CATHOLIC CARE 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.

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 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

BINGO Marathon

Easter Saturday – 15th April 2017

100 Games, \$100, \$150, \$180 Prizes and a chance of winning \$2,000 jackpot
(game 50 reverts to \$1,000 if not won in certain calls, game 100 unlimited).

\$48 for 6 tickets in 50 games (\$96 for 100 games)

2.30pm to 10.30pm at Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy.

Free Catering during half time break 5.30pm

Free Tea and Coffee all day.

Operated by Woy Woy Catholic Parish Housie,

Enquiries: Rob 0427990818 or wwcphousie@hotmail.com

FACEBOOK/Woy Woy Bingo

prizes subject to ticket sales.

Think! About your choices Gambling More, enjoying it less?

For free and confidential information and advice about problem gambling,
please contact Gambling Help 1800 858 858 www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au