



# The Voice

6th April 2014

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

Psalter Week 1

## LENT

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Bishop Michael Putney, Roy Somerville, Jim Grainger, Maureen Condell, Gabrielle Tesoriero, Sean Fitzpatrick, May Cray, Irene Kinkade, Anne McGarvey.

• **Anniversaries:**

Frank Savage, John Healey, Eve Stanislas, Peter Tregent, Geertruida Voormeulen, Mary Bourke, Laurine & Catherine Francken, Pope John Paul II.

• **Remembrances:**

Mary Emery, Sergei de Souza..

• **And the Sick:**

John and Patrica Welsh, John Osborne, Grace Williams, Sara Selim, Ken McLean, Lola Proctor, Maureen Wardrop, Fr. John O'Connor, m.s.c. Fr. Geoffrey Bugden, Johnny Feillafe, Alan Harland, Therese Payne, Hanaa El Khatib, Mary Leger.

## Lazarus and Initiation

Today is the day for the third "Scrutiny". Once again the elect seek from God the grace of true conversion and the congregation present at that Mass seek it with them.

The themes of the last two Sundays were water and light; today, we approach our conversion in the spirit of those who at Easter are going to experience rising with Christ from the dead.

The raising of Lazarus is the last sign of the six that occur in the "Book of Signs" in John's gospel (chapters 2-11). The seventh sign, of course, is the resurrection of Jesus himself. Each sign points to the glory of Jesus (in the "Book of Glory" that makes up the rest of the gospel).

So how does the resurrection of Lazarus point to Christ's resurrection? The principal point is in the differences: Lazarus came back to *this* life and *would die again* (at the very beginning of the Book of Glory, 12:9-11, the chief priests are planning to kill, not only Jesus, but Lazarus also). Jesus, on the other hand, did not return to this life, but in his human nature laid hold of that eternal life that was his by right

as Son of God: *for we know that Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more, death shall no longer have dominion over him* (Rom 6:9).

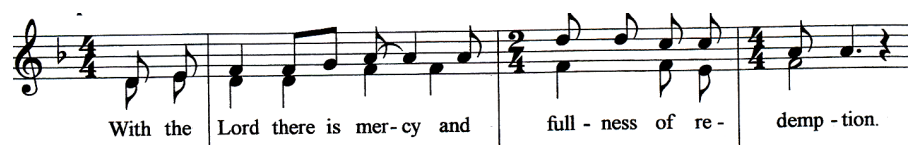
It is a share in this risen life of Christ that is promised to those who rise with him in Baptism. Ezekiel, in today's first reading, uses resurrection as a metaphor for return from exile: *I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel.* The baptised person is an exile: his home is elsewhere. When we find our way home, even our bodies will share in the glory of Christ: *if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.*

Sin is like an illness, cured by Christ's resurrection and our baptism into him. Like Lazarus, we fulfil at Easter Jesus' mysterious words today: *'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

### Psalms Response

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### 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!*

### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
Directory	4

## Around the Parish

**Parking improves but not nearly enough:** Early in March, I requested that those who park in the 'lane' beside the church do so in a manner courteous of our neighbours and some of you have heeded the call, *thank you*. Others have been slower to comply and have not moved the passenger side of the vehicles closer to the fence line when parking. This discourtesy, coupled with a larger vehicle such as a 4-wheel drive, encroaches even further on the limited space in the 'lane' and makes for disharmony between neighbours and church. *If we are not considerate of our neighbours, they will take this request to Council which could see parking in the lane banned altogether.*

Fr. John Hill.

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation**  
Thursday, 10th April, 7.30pm.

**Chrism Mass** Tuesday, 15th April at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 7.30 pm.

Refreshments will be available from 6–7pm at the Christ of Light Centre and request parishioners to be seated in the church by 7.15pm – this allows for the hour of fast prior to communion (at approx 8.30pm). *Note:* There will be no refreshments after Mass as previously provided. Parish bus will leave our church at 5.30pm.

**Parish Bus Service** operating for Lenten and Easter events. All bookings to be made through the Parish Office 4341 1073 before 2pm Monday 14th April.

**Volunteers needed** to cut palm fronds (for Palm Sunday) this Friday, 11th April. Notify Parish office if you can help and bring your gloves and secateurs.

**Chocolate Pascal Lambs** \$8 each, available in Piety Stall.

**Thank You:** Christine Burge, the project officer for Mary Mac's, would like to extend a big 'Thank You' to the Woy Woy Parish for the donation the parish gave towards the running of Mary Mac's at Christmas time. As many would be aware the governance of Mary Mac's is changing to Catholic Care but will retain the same ethos of past years. I am hoping the parish will continue to support Mary Mac's to assist those in our community who maybe homeless or a risk of homelessness or just doing it tough. Volunteers are always welcome. If you have not visited this valuable service in our community you would be most welcome. Enq: Christine 4341 0584 or 0417 671 973.

**Support Mary Macs—Fun Festival.** A fundraising event will be held on Saturday, 26th April in Walter Baker Hall. Art and Craft Show, Plants Sale, Devonshire Tea, Cake Stall, Entertainment and the launch of Mary Macs Cookies. We need your support to tell family and friends. We are calling for donation of cakes for the cake stall on the day. Ph: Christine for details 4341 0584.

**Enrolment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School:** An Information Evening will be held for all families considering enrolling at St. John's in 2015. It will be held on Tuesday 29th April, 7.30 pm in the school hall. (21a Dulkara Road, Woy Woy). On Wednesday 30th April, an under 6 year old 'fun morning' and tour of the school will take place from 9.30am–11am. Enquiries: 4341 0884.

**Josephite Associates** meeting Wednesday, 9th April, 10am, Leo Mahon room. New members welcome. Ph: Betty 4341 8849.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday, 10th April, 11am, Leo Mahon room.

**The Disciples of Jesus Covenant** invite you to join them for a 'Celebration Meal', on Saturday 12th April, 6pm in the Walter Baker Hall. This is an open event for all, regardless of age, are welcome to attend.

You will be asked to contribute to the meal by way of a main, dessert or side dish which will be allocated to you after you RSVP. [youngadults.doj.sydnorth@gmail.com](mailto:youngadults.doj.sydnorth@gmail.com) or contact Evelyn Cisneros for more information 0426 816 627

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 11/4/14:** Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Christine French. Michael French.

**Morning Tea Roster 13/4/14** will be our Craft Ladies Group.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 13/4/14:** Christine French (L) Marianne Bowyer (L) Meggan McMinn (H).

**Easter Servers Roster** available now in the servers sacristy.

**100 game Bingo Marathon**, Easter Saturday 19th April. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy. Hall opens at 12.30pm, selling 1.30pm, games 2.30 – 5.30pm, then 7.30-10.30pm. Free BBQ and catering half time. Cost is 2 times normal Sat. night. Prizes all \$100 and \$150, game 50 is \$2,000 in certain number of calls, game 100 is \$2,000 unlimited. Contact: Rob 0427 990 818. [wwcphousie@hotmail.com](mailto:wwcphousie@hotmail.com)

## Social Justice

**Gifts for Free...and they don't cost a cent!**

- **The Gift of Listening** – but you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- **The Gift of affection** – be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- **The gift of laughter** – clip cartoons. Share articles and funny

stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you".

- **The Gift of a written note** – it can be simple: Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- **The gift of a compliment** – a simple and sincere, "You look great in red" "You did a super job", or "That was a wonderful meal", can make someone's day.
- **The Gift of a Favour** – every

day, go out of your way to do something kind.

- **The Gift of solitude** – there are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- **The gift of a cheerful disposition** – the easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say 'Hello' or 'Thank you'.
- **The Gift of Your Friendship.**

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Diocesan World Youth Day 2014 Celebration and Pilgrim Reunion.** Fr. Paul Durkin, with the Diocesan Youth Team invites all young people, particularly all past Broken Bay WYD pilgrims, to join the 10.30am Mass, Sunday, 13th April, at St. Agatha's

Catholic Parish, 20 Boundary Rd. Pennant Hills as we reflect upon the theme given to us by Pope Francis for this year's World Youth Day, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Mt 5:3). For those who would like to continue the

festivities, we will book a table at Hotel Pennant Hills, 352 Pennant Hills Rd. where you can purchase a meal and catch up with old friends. A children's play area available. RSVP 9th April. [youthministrydbb.org.au](http://youthministrydbb.org.au)



# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 5th Sunday of Lent, April 6

Ez 37:12-14

Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

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 be-

hind (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?



## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, April 13

### *The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem*

Mt 21:1-11

### *At the Mass*

Is 50:4-7

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Phil 2:6-11

Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

The Passion narratives are considered the oldest part of the Gospel tradition to have been preserved in writing. Matthew's text, proclaimed this year, is based on an earlier version found in Mark's Gospel, but our evangelist emphasizes certain themes throughout his own Gospel. Key for Matthew is that Jesus' death is the fulfilment of God's plan foretold by the prophets. "The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him," Jesus says (26:24). Several times in today's reading we hear that what happens fulfils what was foretold by the prophets.

For the evangelist, Jesus also acts as a prophet himself, predicting that Judas would betray him, Peter would deny him, and the disciples as a group "will have your faith in me shaken" (26:31). It is ironic that Jesus, who has predicted his own suffering and death, is mocked by his opponents for being a false prophet (26:68). Their

*(Continued on page 4)*

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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*

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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 264 100 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 & Margaret Cooper  
Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan  
Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday  
9.30am – 3.00pm., 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 Dul-kara 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.

**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.

**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.

## Scripture Readings

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

very actions fulfil his prophecy.

Jesus' innocence is another theme in our text. The Sanhedrin "kept trying to obtain false testimony" (26:59), but unsuccessfully. His innocence is confirmed by Judas (27:4), Pilate's wife (27:19), and Pilate (27:23).

Jesus' identity as Son of God, pronounced earlier at his baptism and transfiguration, is another issue that arises in his hearing before the Sanhedrin (26:63) and in the taunts of the witnesses to the crucifixion (27:40, 43). Finally, after witnessing Jesus' death and the apocalyptic events accompanying it, Jesus' executioners affirm,

"Truly, this was the Son of God!" (27:54).

Reflecting on the story of Jesus' passion, let us pause and reflect on the fact that it was God's will for Jesus, the innocent one, to suffer and die for our sins in order that we might be saved.

**For reflection:** Today begins a week we call Holy Week. How can I respect its sanctity in light of my own obligations to work, family, and friends? **ML**

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. 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