



The Voice

22nd March 2015

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

Psalter Week 1

LENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**
 Paula Saulaki, Jozef Ejsymont,
 Catalina Ramirez,
 Joel Hayden Brown.
- Anniversaries:**
 Keith Booth, Eli Houghton,
 Marie Lise Goetz,
 Alan Player, Bruno de Souza,
 John Anthony Snell,
 Anna Mee-Rahn Kim,
 Leo Martin, Iris McNeil,
 Andrew Flanagan.
- Remembrances:**
 Nora and Paul Houghton.
- And the sick:**
 Fr. Bill Meacham, Ruth Fuller,
 Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
 Evangeline Cusay, Lila Emery,
 Peter Crookes, Mark Church,
 Mary Dwyer, John Mortimore,
 Charles Knowles, Irene Beck, Pat
 Welsh, Grace McNeaney, Terry
 Curtis, Beryl Allen,
 Ralph Weate, Madge Wood,
 Peter Kenneth Thorson,
 Meli Ladd and Lola Proctor.
*(Lola will move into a nursing home
 soon and wishes to thank all parish-
 ioners for their past and continuing
 prayers).*

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Changing of the Guard

The Bishop's letter about clergy changes was distributed at all Masses last weekend, but some of you may have missed out, or else you might want a further explanation of the context. So here goes.

The changes take effect on Low Sunday (the Sunday after Easter); the practical details of when who moves out and who moves in will be settled among the parties concerned.

In effect the last Sunday here for both Fr Stephen and me will be Easter Sunday.

Of course, a lot of people wanted Fr Stephen to stay on here, but the Bishop and he have agreed that it would be better that his first local pastorate should be in a new parish.

He has been appointed to Toukley as Administrator for twelve months and then, if everything goes well, will be appointed as Parish Priest there. Toukley is a big parish, and it has a Mass Centre at Lake Munmorah (with associated primary and secondary schools). Some people have argued for a separate parish at Lake Munmorah and others have opposed this; part of his job will be to explore its feasibility.

Another member of his congregation (the Apostles of Jesus) is waiting for a visa to enter Australia, and he will eventually join him at Toukley; meanwhile, the assistant priest currently there will stay on to help.

He has a big job to do, and I am sure that you will support him with your prayers.

The new Parish Priest here will be Father Jack Robson, whom many of you may already know. He knows the Central Coast well. He was advised for reasons of health to retire some time back, but the Bishop has enticed him back into service with the promise of *two* curates: Frs Timothy Swami and Philip Thottam, Fransalians from India. Fr Jack will thus be able to administer the parish while the others can (as it were) do the leg work. I know that you will welcome them all.

There is one other appointment to complete this series: Fr Vince Casey, former Vicar General and Diocesan Administrator, has been appointed Parish Priest of Warnervale. I am not yet aware of who will be his Assistant (he will need one).

As for me, during Easter week I slip quietly into retirement. I recognise that the process has reminded some people of Dame Nellie Melba (with her many farewells) but in the circumstances I think the process has worked out rather well.

Meanwhile, let us celebrate Easter well, together!

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Cre - ate a clean heart in me, O my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Around the Parish

Passion or Palm, next Sunday 29th March is the solemn beginning of Holy Week. The 9.15am Mass opens with the Procession of Palms, which begins outside the main doors; the other Masses with a Solemn Entrance, including a blessing of the palms. Instead of the normal Gospel, the Passion of the Lord is read.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated this Thursday, 26th March at 7.30pm.

Chrism Mass will be celebrated Tuesday 31st March, 7.30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The Parish bus will leave 5.30pm from the R.T.A. building *not* the parish grounds. Those wishing to travel by the bus, please phone the parish office 4341 1073 and leave your name.

Volunteers needed to cut palm

fronds for Palm Sunday *this coming Friday* after morning Mass. Please notify Parish office if you can help and bring your gloves and secateurs.

Readers Roster for Holy Week and Easter now available in the Servers Sacristy for those who did not receive theirs via email.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 27/3/15: Pam Hickey, Warren Sparrow, Jan Rutherford, Paul Rutherford.

Children's Liturgy Roster 29/3/15: Christine French, Alecia Amaral, Jenny Riddiford.

Catechists meeting Thursday, 26th March, 9am in the Leo Mahon room. Term One has been a busy time in Scripture classes as the children prepare for Easter. They are

keeping all the parishioners in their prayers during the holy season.

Family Ministry meeting Thursday, 26th March, 1pm in the Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

St. Vincent de Paul Members and Volunteers monthly Mass Saturday, 28th March 9am.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family extends its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Carlo Bevilacqua who was buried from our church the past week.

Rosary Group meet every Tuesday from 9am-12mid in the Walter Baker Hall making rosaries and scapulars to send to the Missions. Come and join us. All welcome!

The Just Word

21 March Harmony Day:

From the Australian Government's Harmony Day website:

Harmony Day is an Australian Government programme and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Since 1999 Harmony Day has been widely celebrated across schools, childcare centres, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies. The message of Harmony Day

is: Everyone belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home—from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Facts and Figures

Around 45 per cent of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was born overseas.

- People from over 200 countries make up the Australian community.

- More than 300 languages are spoken in Australian homes.

- Apart from English the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Tagalog/Filipino, Spanish and Hindi.

- More than 60 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

For more information:

www.harmony.gov.au

From the Diocese and beyond

World Youth Day, Krakow 2016 Diocesan Launch March 27, 7pm at OLR Cathedral Waitara: World Youth Day (WYD), the largest gathering of young Catholics in the world, takes place every three years. In 2013, more the 3.7 million people, from across 175 countries, attended WYD in Rio de Janeiro.

At the conclusion WYD Rio, the Holy Father Pope Francis announced that the next international gathering would take place in Krakow, Poland 2016 - the home of the founder and patron of WYD, Pope Saint John Paul II.

The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay is approaching this next WYD with great excitement and enthusiasm. Bishop Peter A Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay, is calling for 500 young pilgrims to join him in the experience of a lifetime. "Engaging youth in the life of the Church is a great passion of mine," says Bishop Peter. "One of our key opportuni-

ties to draw young people into a deeper relationship with their faith is through participation in a World Youth Day experience." To launch the Broken Bay pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2016, the Diocese is hosting a Festival on 27 March, with expectations of close to 1000 participants, drawing from our schools and parishes from Manly and Peninsula, to the regions of Northern Sydney and the NSW Central Coast. Celebrations will begin with a mini-WYD experience with Bishop Peter in Our lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara, accompanied by music, dancing & catechesis (teaching). WYD will come alive from 7pm with a 'WYD Polish Festival' at the Light of Christ Centre, an extraordinary experience of live music, pilgrimage information stalls, talks by past WYD pilgrims, fundraising experts, and tons of fun with traditional Polish culture, music, dancing and food!

Everyone from around the Diocese is invited - all ages, Parish, Youth, School and community groups are all welcome!!

Understanding the Old Testament:

How much do you know of the Old Testament stories, or the background and meaning of the texts? This study combines video lectures from Yale University Sessions facilitated by members of the Biblical Apostolate of our Diocese. No tests or assignments—just good conversation amongst friends. All materials supplied. All welcome. Starting Date: Weekly every Thursday from 16th April, ending 2nd July. 10.30am-12.30pm. Lecture Room, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 239 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. RSVP: By Friday 10th April. Email: registrations@dbb.org.au or call 9847 0448 or 4332 9825.



Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

5th Sunday of Lent, March 22

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

Jeremiah, living during some of Israel's darkest days, the Babylonian Exile, prophesies a time when God will renew the earth and its people: "Days are coming ... when [the Lord] will make a new covenant" (v 31). In the prior covenant, God's law was written on stone tablets, but "they broke my covenant" (v 32). Now God's law will be written "upon their hearts" (v 33); it will be internalised. The prophet anticipates that God will once again lead them back to the Promised Land and renew their relationship: "I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (v 33).

The author of Hebrews speaks of Christ's sacrifice as the "source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (v 9). In light of the sacrifice of his death, Jesus is "declared by God high priest" (see v 10), whose task is to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people. But unlike the other high priests, who repeatedly offer sacrifices for the sins of the people, Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice once and for all. Through his death, he reconciled us with God and established the new and eternal covenant. In Jesus's death and resurrection, the new covenant foreseen by Jeremiah is established.

In today's Gospel some Greek-speaking Jews ask Philip to introduce them to Jesus. Our evangelist does not narrate a mere meeting but uses this request to introduce the beginning of Jesus's "hour," his *kairos*: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified," Jesus says (v 23). Earlier in the Gospel, Jesus had anticipated this hour, but from this point he embraces it. It is a time of significance, the time he has waited for and the reason he came into the world. In this "hour" Jesus will experience death and then resurrection, inaugurating the new covenant that binds the people to God in a new way, leading to our salvation.

For Reflection: How does having God's law written on my heart help me in my spiritual life? Has this Lent been a time of renewal for

me? How can I best make use of these last weeks to grow spiritually?

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, March 29

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

The Procession
Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16
Psalm 24 or 47
or
The Solemn Entrance
Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16
or
The Simple Entrance

At the Mass

Is 50:4-7
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Mark's version of the Passion, perhaps some of the oldest gospel writing, emphasises Jesus's suffering. Mark's audience is thought to be the Christians in Rome sometime in the late 60s or early 70s. A significant event, the destruction of the temple by the Romans, occurred in AD 70. The emphasis on suffering would be appropriate for a community facing persecution itself.

Mark tells us that after holding their own examination of Jesus, "the chief priests with the elders and the scribes" (v 1) decided to present Jesus to Pontius Pilate, who represented Roman authority in Jerusalem. It is Pilate who can condemn Jesus to death, the outcome they are seeking.

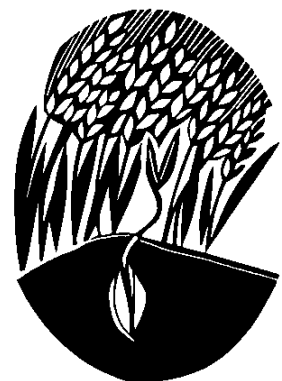
Mark's account of the hearing before Pilate is sparse, but he tells us that "Pilate was amazed" (15:5) by Jesus's lack of self-defence. Offering to release Jesus as part of a Passover amnesty, Pilate encounters the animosity of the leaders. "The chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas" instead of Jesus (v 11). And though Pilate believes Jesus is innocent — "What evil has he done?" (v 14) — he takes the path of least resistance by handing "him over to be crucified" (v 15).

Mark tells us that Pilate "had Jesus scourged" first (v 15), sparing the details, and then briefly describes the soldiers' mockery of Jesus: dressing him as a false



"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." In what way is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

See John 12:26



(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 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.

Scripture Readings

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

king, they "kept striking his head ... and spitting upon him" (v 19). The repetitive action of the soldiers heightens their contempt for Jesus.

At the scene of the crucifixion, we are told that three groups mocked him: "those passing by" (v 29), "the chief priests, with the scribes" (v 31), and "those who were crucified with him" (v 32). Only after his death narrative do we hear of the faithful women who were present (v 40); Mark paints a scene in which Jesus is rejected by all. Jesus even cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (v 34). Immediately following the death, the Roman centurion announces what we were first told in Mark's opening verse, "This man was the Son of God" (v 39).

Though our reading ends with Jesus's death, we know there is another chapter.

Next week, on Easter, we will encounter the one who suffered and died as the one who conquered sin and death.

For Reflection: How does the annual reading of the Passion impact my spiritual life? Is there a specific detail that speaks to me more this year than in the past? **ML**

Fr 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
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