



The Voice

30th November 2014

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

Psalter Week 1

ADVENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Negunda Mago, Alice Buggy, William Burrell, Lawrence Moore.
- **Anniversaries:**
Sheila Mortimore, Muriel Fietz, Beverley McMahon, Chris Mortimore, Yusman Kurniawan, Eileen Meyer, Barry Langdon, Thomas and Annie Peachey.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor, Grace Williams, Alan Harland, Evangeline Cusay, Gada Selim, Brother Michael Knights, Peter Crookes, Ruth Fuller, Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J. Maureen O'Brien, John Purser, Clare Wren, Patrick, Sophia and Elise Firman . (Triplets born 8/11.)

Hail and Farewell

Parish newsletters are at a disadvantage at times when the big papers can “hold the front page.” We rely on volunteers to put in a great deal of the information, to print the result, and to fold it. So if the “breaking news” comes in on Thursday or Friday, it just has to miss out (or rather, we have to miss out) - which often makes the parish administration looking rather foolish. So here I gather together three bits of information, one of which you will certainly have heard about by rumour or in the press, another which you may have just heard last Sunday at Mass (or half heard), and a third that I am confident you will read about here for the first time.

- Yes, we finally have a bishop. We have waited long enough (over twelve months)! His installation Mass (at the Cathedral on the morning of 12th December) is at a very inconvenient time, but I suppose there are reasons. Bishop Comensoli is aware of this, and he hopes to arrange some Masses around the Central Coast during Advent, for opportunities to meet people. He will be on (well deserved) holidays in January, so all this will be arranged in a hurry. Further details as they come to hand.
- We are losing Fr Stephen. Replacing the Administrator of Warnervale parish became very difficult—the priest there had to return to his religious order and

suitable priests are in short supply. So Fr Stephen will take his previously arranged holidays during January and will take up duties as administrator at Warnervale on 3rd February. We shall miss him. I was hoping that he might in good time succeed me as parish priest here, since I was sure that his stay had exposed him to the “local culture” (as it were). The emergency that occurred, combined with some sort of misunderstanding, seems to have ruled this out. I must confess to being very disappointed.

- When I was informed of this move, I decided that a short-term future with yet another new curate, plus a new school principal and vice-principal, was more than one could reasonably expect of me at this stage. I therefore brought forward my retirement plans and informed the Diocesan Administrator that I wished to retire by the end of January. This I did without any idea that the announcement of the new bishop was imminent, but my decision has been confirmed (in my mind, at least) by the realisation that the new bishop was born in the year in which I was ordained. Time to move on. I hope to be still useful to the Church and to work for a smooth transition, but I need a change of pace.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Advent has a twofold character—as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; as a season when the remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time, Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

Blessing of the Jesse Tree after 9.15am Mass in the Leo Mahon room this Sunday.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word require helpers. Contact Christine French 4341 4548.

Church Cleaners URGENTLY REQUIRED: At least six more helpers are required.

Our team clean on Friday morning from 8.30am for around 1-1½ hours. The more volunteers we have the less commitment upon all so please consider helping.

To volunteer or for further enquiries, please call Christine French on 4342 4548.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 5/12/14: Sally Doyle, Jo Salter, Kevin Glacken.

Christmas Hampers will be collected 6/7 December.

Acolytes, Senior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Please take a copy of a Memorandum available in Altar Servers Sacristy.

Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Please indicate on roster available in the Sacristy if you wish to serve at one of the Christmas Masses.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday 5th December.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cash Appeal: A special collection at all Masses next weekend 6/7 December. The need is great and your support is sought in giving what you are able to. All monies are used to support local families on the Peninsula.

Parish Nurse: We seek your feedback about the parish nurse project by completing the survey that can be found on the table in the gathering area.

Volunteers Party: Parish volunteers are invited to help us to celebrate the way in which parishioners share their time & their gifts for the sake of the Gospel with a party in the Walter Baker Parish Hall 1.30pm, Friday, 5th December. RSVP for catering purposes to Parish Office.

Cancer Support Group for those suffering from cancer or those wishing to pray for them meet this Tuesday 2nd December, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Enq: Phoebe Glacken on 4341 6324.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster for 14/12/14: ‘El Shaddai’ Prayer Group.

Prayer for Conversions Tuesday 2nd Dec., 1.20pm-2.20pm. Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Bishop Peter Comensoli-Installation at the Cathedral, 12 December—Mass at 11a.m. Bus available, leaving 9:30 a.m. Diocese would like to know numbers attending even if driving yourself. Please call Parish Office to advise if attending &/or to book a seat on the bus.



The Just Word

Wealth must serve humanity not rule it:

Pope Francis has used his message to the World Economic Forum in Davos to urge business and political leaders to be more aware of their responsibility toward others, particularly the most frail, weak and vulnerable, and to ensure that humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it.

Oxfam was at the same forum: “Oxfam is concerned that, left unchecked, the effects are potentially immutable, and will lead to ‘opportunity capture’ - in which the lowest tax rates, the best education, and the best healthcare are claimed by the children of the rich.. This creates dynamic and mutually reinforcing cycles of advantage that are

transmitted across generations.” Statistics show the scale of rising wealth concentrations is a serious and worrying trend. For example:

- Almost half of the world’s wealth is now owned by just one per cent of the population.
- The wealth of the one per cent richest people in the world amounts to \$US110 trillion, 65 times the total wealth of the bottom half of the world’s population.
- The bottom half of the world’s population owns the same as the richest 85 individuals in the world.
- Seven out of 10 people live in countries where economic inequality has increased in the last 30 years.
- The richest one per cent in-

creased their share of income in 24 out of 26 countries for which there is data between 1980 and 2012.

- In the US, the wealthiest one per cent captured 95 per cent of the post-financial crisis growth since 2009, while the bottom 90 per cent became poorer.
- This massive concentration of economic resources in the hands of fewer people presents a significant threat to inclusive political and economic systems,” writes Fuentes-Nieva Galasso. Instead of moving forward together, people are increasingly separated by economic and political power, inevitably heightening social tensions and increasing the risk of societal breakdown.

From the Diocese and beyond

Praise and Worship Night—Young Adults 18-35 yrs-Sacred Heart Parish, Pymble: Join young people from across the Diocese coming together to celebrate our faith through music, testimony and preaching. A free BBQ dinner will be provided from 6.00pm before our night begins. Friday 12th December, 6pm BBQ for a 7pm-9pm event. RSVP: youthministrydbb.org.au

“The Way” Reflection Day—A Movie Presentation: Friday 5th December, 9.30am-1.00pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. Registration and information Ph: 9847 0448 or 4332 9825. Email: registrations@dbb.org.au R.S.V.P. Wednesday 3.12.14. More detail see notice board.

Diocesan Ecumenical Celebration of Advent: Our Diocese is inviting all members of the Christian Churches on the Central Coast to join together for an Advent Ecumenical Celebration Wed. 3rd December, 8pm St. Patrick’s Church, 76 York St. East Gosford (parking available in the grounds). Please be part of this opportunity to gather as fellow Christians as we prepare to celebrate the Lord’s birth.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

1st Sunday of Advent, November 30

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Cor 1:3-9
Mk 13:33-37

Advent is a time of remembering and a time of waiting. We remember Christ's birth into our world, and we watch and wait for his second coming. During the first weeks of the season, our focus is on the latter. It is only in the final days of Advent that our focus shifts to commemorating his birth in Bethlehem.

The Book of Isaiah is attributed to three different authors writing at different times. In the final part, the section called Third Isaiah, we encounter a prophet living among the people returned from exile. He and his people are anticipating a glorious restoration of the nation and God's return to them. "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down" (v 19), he implores, hoping that God will once again dwell in the midst of the people. For us this hope is fulfilled in Jesus, God with us.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to "be watchful [and] alert!" (v 33). This message had a greater sense of immediacy in the early days of the church because many believed that Jesus's return was imminent. Obviously, they were mistaken. But we are still called to live lives of watchfulness in anticipation of his return. We share in the mission of the church to transform the world as God's reign unfolds in anticipation of the parousia.

Paul and Sosthenes greet "the church of God that is in Corinth" (see vv 1-2) with "grace ... and peace" (v 3). They go on to thank God for the spiritual gifts given to the Corinthians "as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v 7). The gifts are given by God for the good of the church.

For reflection: As we await Christ's return, how can I use my spiritual gifts for the good of the church? Do I use the season of Advent to reflect on Christ's return?

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

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 7

Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
2 Pt 3:8-14
Mk 1:1-8

Today we hear from the prophet known as Second Isaiah. Beginning in chapter 40 the tone of the book changes, as does the perspective. A book that formerly presented words of judgment and doom to the people of Judah and Jerusalem now turns to prophecies of "comfort" (v 1), addressing the exiled people in Babylon. The prophet announces that their "guilt is expiated" (v 2) and calls them to "prepare the way of the Lord" (v 3), who comes to deliver them and bring them home to Jerusalem. "Here is your God!" (v 9), the prophet cries out.

In Second Peter we are encouraged to live in anticipation of the Lord's return, conducting ourselves "in holiness and devotion" (v 11). God desires "that all should come to repentance" (v 9), and so what seems like a delay is an opportunity for us to reform our lives, a message echoed by the prophets of the Old Testament and John the Baptist.

For Mark, the ministry of John the Baptist is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (v 3). Today's Gospel is unusual in that while it anticipates Jesus's presence, he is not yet present. We hear from the precursor, John, who is presented in imagery echoing the prophets of biblical Israel: "clothed in camel's hair, ... [feeding] on locusts and wild honey" (v 6). John calls us to "prepare the way of the Lord" (v 3). Joan Chittister, in her book *The Liturgical Year*, reminds us that "it is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God ... that we come to realize that its coming depends on us" (62). As we wait, let us prepare by transforming our lives with the power of God's love, that we may welcome him when he comes.

For reflection: What can I do to help prepare the way of the Lord? Has there been a time in my life when I experienced God's patience with me before I repented? How can this insight help me in my relationship with others?



We are the servants of God,
each with his or her own task.
We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.



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.

Advent Preface

Paul Turner

As the new liturgical year begins, people will hear one of two Advent prefaces to start the eucharistic prayer of every Mass. Both of these prefaces were newly composed after the Second Vatican Council in order to enrich the community's prayer. Earlier, there were no special prefaces for Advent. The first option is prayed until December 17 each year, when the second preface takes over.

During the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, Advent opens with New Testament readings about the second coming of Christ, and the first Advent preface repeats this theme. It speaks of the coming of Christ in human flesh and his return in glory and majesty. It looks for the day when the faithful may inherit the great promise for which they hope. It calls to mind many Scripture passages, such as Romans 8:19, which says that all creation eagerly awaits God's revelation.

The second Advent preface accompanies the final period of the season, the last full week before Christmas. At daily Mass, the

Liturgy of the Word includes Gospel readings that tell of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The second Advent preface tells about the prophets who foretold his coming and the longing that Mary had for him. It even mentions John the Baptist, whose birth, preaching, and death foreshadowed Jesus. It says we rejoice so that Christ may find us watchful in prayer when he comes. The second Advent preface calls to mind passages such as 1 Peter 4:7, which warns that the faithful should be serious in their prayer, as the end of all things is at hand.

The entire eucharistic prayer offers thanks to God, and the Advent prefaces announce how grateful we are at the coming news of our salvation this Christmas.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2014 Resource Publications, Inc., 5369 Camden Ave., #260, San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.



Diocese of
Broken Bay