



# The Voice

9th March 2014

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

Psalter Week 1

## LENT

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**  
 Kevin Hore, Jon Bruxton, Kenneth McDonnell, John "Jack" Leddy, Mary Parker, Margaret Prestige.
- Anniversaries:**  
 Archbishop Eris O'Brien, Father Peter Shiel, Alan French, Lucy de Souza, Luisa Piccarreta.
- Remembrances:**  
 Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- And the sick:**  
 Helen and David Hopkins, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, Michael Cox, Susie Simmons, John and Patricia 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.

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## Silence and Prayer

The desert in which Jesus dwelt for forty days was characterised by silence. A desert is not necessarily a place of sand and spinifex; it is simply *deserted* – human beings do not live there. There is no human noise.

Perhaps that is why so many of us fear silence. The noise levels of society seem to be increasing. We are not comfortable without sounds; indeed, a new word has reached the *Oxford Dictionary*: *fomo*, or "fear of missing out". If we turn off our mobile, or some other electronic device, or leave home without it, we may be left "out of the loop" – a fate worse than death.

Could we, this Lent, try out the benefits of silence? And could we begin with the Mass? There are many opportunities for silence at Mass, and most of them are neglected.

There should be a pause: (a) when we are invited to confess our sins; (b) after "Let us pray" before the Collect and the Prayer after Communion; (c) after the First and Second Readings; (d) after the homily; (e) after each intention

in the Prayer of the Faithful and before "let us pray to the Lord"; (f) after Holy Communion.

We should relish these silences. We are at Mass to pray, not to get it over with.

It is really a matter of digestion. The most enjoyable meals – and the ones least likely to lead to indigestion – are those in which we take our time. The good host(ess) does not follow each course immediately with the next one; we need time to digest each; in any case, conversation paces the meal. Similarly we do not rush through the first reading, the responsorial psalm, the second reading and the gospel without stopping.

Could I ask readers to respect this (including at weekday Mass)? Give us time to reflect on what we have heard – to digest the word of God. Don't be afraid that you're holding things up. Sometimes, standing at the ambo, the few seconds you allow may seem an age to you – but not to those who seek God in the silence. Pause before

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## Around the Parish

**Caritas Australia:** Your donation to Project Compassion is helping Caritas Australia end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This week we meet Maristely who lives with her family in a favela (slum) in Brazil. When they first moved to Sao Paulo, favela houses were made of cardboard, there was no electricity or water, and sewage ran down the street. Caritas Australia's partner, the *Movement for the Defence of Favela Residents*, is changing lives across 40 favelas in Sao Paulo by helping families gain access to clean water, electricity and connected sewerage. Across the favelas, there is a dominant culture of violence. The program also promotes peace so youth can attain education and employment; rather than joining local gangs. Please donate to Project Compassion today.

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

**Lectio Divina** Prayer Group meeting every Thursday in Lent at 10:30 am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

**Sympathy:** St. John the Baptist Parish family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of John "Jack" Leddy who were buried

from our church the past week.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 16/3/14:** Kylie Spicer (L). Frances Giunta (L). Carol Yates (H).

**To Park or have nowhere to park? That is the question!**

Please be mindful when parking in the 'lane' beside the church grounds and do so with consideration and respect for our neighbours. By letting your passengers out before you park, you will be able to move closer to the fence line opposite the church. This will allow more room for residents to enter and exit their properties and not preclude them from doing so as happened recently. A lane is after all, much narrower than a road, and this one has only one entrance/exit. *If we are not considerate of our neighbours, they will take this request to Council which could see parking in the lane banned altogether.*

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 14/3/14:** Christine French, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Michael French.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our faith community and pray for Cooper Batton and Eden Valenti who were baptized last Sunday.

**The Return of the Prodigal Son:** You are warmly invited to a book club reading of Henri Nouwen's

"The Return of the Prodigal Son". Nouwen's reflection on Rembrandt's painting of the parable found in chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, evokes a powerful drama homecoming, affirmation and reconciliation. This reading experience will explore these rich themes with the reflective aid of a copy of Rembrandt's masterpiece, and an exploration of the parable. Please join us for a good, friendly discussion. Books and refreshments supplied. Tuesdays 1,8,22 and 29th April, 7.00 pm-8.30 pm in the Leo Mahon room. To register, please phone the Parish Office 4341 1073 or write your name on the list found in the gathering area. RSVP 25th March.

**Bus Trip - St. Mary MacKillop Place.** North Sydney. Healing Mass 1st April. Bus leaving at 8:30am. \$15. BYO lunch or buy. Contact Susie Casey on 0403 417 639.

Please Pray for the **Catechist Ministry** as they ask God's blessings on their teachers and helpers and beseech the Holy Spirit to inspire others to join them in their work.

**Josephite Associates** meeting Wed. 12th March, 10 am, Leo Mahon room. All welcome to join our prayer group. Ph: 4341 8849.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday 13 March, 11am, Leo Mahon Room.

## Social Justice

### 8 March International Women's Day:

The UN theme for International Women's Day 2014 is *A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women.* In 2014, March 8 will be the day for Women's Day Live—a live multi-venue benefit concert igniting a global movement to empower women and girls. It is hoped that this historic global celebration will

spark a new generation of global advocacy and social action, raising millions of dollars for the causes of women and girls. Unleashing their potential now is essential to meeting some of the world's toughest challenges: poverty, environmental degradation, escalating violence and global terrorism.

Some of the world's greatest artists and visionaries will join in a

live broadcast, while millions of people interact online and celebrate from local stages and venues.

The world can't afford to leave half of its people disengaged and disempowered. Gender inequality isn't just corrosive and unfair: it's economically inefficient. A clean, prosperous world needs to engage women and girls, and the men who love them. A.C.S.J.C.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Getting to Know Your Saint:** March 27th –30th March. Presented by Kath Evans with Sr. Pat Egan r.s.j. Come and hear Kath's journey with St. Mary MacKillop. Time to reflect on both St. Mary and Fr. Julian Tenison Woods. Come aside and experience the beauty of the surroundings of Kincumber South. Arrive 4pm Thursday, 27th March. Conclude 9 am Sunday. Day visitors \$75 per day. Application direct with your \$50 deposit to St. Joseph's Spirituality & Education Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber Sth. Ph: 4368 2805. Email: [bookings@stjosephskincumber.org.au](mailto:bookings@stjosephskincumber.org.au)

**Receptionist:** Part-time(5 days/wk, 8am-1pm) is available at the front

desk of the Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills. Ph Isobel Robertson on 9847 0504. Applications close Friday, 22.3.14.

**International Women's Day—8 March 2014:** International Women's Day is a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, the present and the future. The theme of the Australian National Committee has chosen for International Women's Day is *Ending Poverty for Women and Girls through Economic Empowerment.* 70% of the global poor are women. Although women perform two-thirds of the world's work, they earn less than 10% of the world's wages. Women are

far more likely than men to live in poverty because of the discrimination and lack of access to education. For more information please visit: <https://unwomen.org.au/iwd/theme-and-resources>.

**National Pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop"** From 22nd October to 1st November 2014. This pilgrimage offers you the opportunity to reflect on your own life as you walk with St. Mary MacKillop the journey of her life. The pilgrimage take us to Melbourne, Penola, Adelaide, North Sydney and then home. For a brochure and further information contact Sr. Therese Leydon 8912 4845. Website: [www.marymackillop.org.au](http://www.marymackillop.org.au)

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 1st Sunday of Lent, March 9

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19

Mt 4:1-11

The Book of Genesis tells us that sin is a result of human choice; it is not something created by God. After creating “the man,” the Lord God places him in a garden, surrounded by trees “delightful to look at and good for food” (2:9). But there is also the forbidden tree, the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” introducing free will into the picture. When the man and woman eat from this tree (3:6), they are disobeying God, opening the door for sin to enter the world.

Paul views Christ as a second Adam. Through Adam “sin entered the world, / and through sin, death, / and thus death came to all” (v 12), since we are all sinners. But through Christ’s obedience, by God’s grace, “acquittal and life came to all” (v 18). Sin is powerful, but God’s grace is even more powerful. Christ’s sacrifice makes us righteous, restoring our relationship with God.

In the Gospel, Jesus’ temptation immediately follows his baptism, at which he had been identified by a heavenly voice as “my beloved Son” (3:17). The devil challenges his identity, tempting him to prove it by working miracles: “If you are the Son of God, / command that these stones become loaves of bread” (4:3). Matthew tells us that Jesus, after his 40-day fast, “was hungry” (v 2) — perhaps one of the greatest understatements in the Bible. But Jesus knows that there is more to life than food. “*One does not live on bread alone*” (v 4), he replies to his tempter. The devil then tempts him to test his trust in God and offers him power over the nations of the world “if you will prostrate yourself and worship me” (v 9). Jesus’ reply to each temptation is based on the Scriptures; he shows us that he lives by “every word that comes forth / from the mouth of God” (v 4).

**For reflection:** Do I strive to live by God’s word? In my spiritual life, do I focus more on my own sin or on God’s grace?

## 2nd Sunday of Lent, March 16

Gn 12:1-4

Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

2 Tm 1:8b-10

Mt 17:1-9

The call of Abram is the beginning of Israel’s history as a people. Already an old man, he follows God’s command to “go forth ... to a land that I will show you” (v 1). His faith in God becomes a model for future believers, and he and his descendants will share in God’s promised blessing. For the Christian, Jesus, who is a “son of Abraham” (Mt 1:1), will bring about the fullness of God’s promise to bless “all the communities of the earth” (Gn 12:3).

The author of Second Timothy — either Paul or a later Christian writing in his name — calls us to “bear your share of hardship for the gospel / with the strength that comes from God” (v 8). Discipleship has a cost, but God “saved us and called us to a holy life” (v 9). This means that our lives should give witness to our faith even if, like Paul, we have to suffer.

The transfiguration of Jesus, coming just after he sets his sights on Jerusalem (see Mt 16:21), serves to reaffirm his identity as God’s Son first announced at his baptism. The “high mountain” (17:1) is reminiscent of Mount Sinai, where Moses had encountered God. Matthew tells us that Jesus was transfigured in the presence of his disciples (v 2); both his face and his clothes take on a bright appearance. The imagery here is that of a heavenly being. The appearance of Moses and Elijah, two major prophets of biblical Israel, reinforces the image of Jesus as a prophet, another theme in Matthew’s text. But the voice from the cloud identifies Jesus as more than a prophet: “This is my beloved Son” (v 5). Jesus’ disciples will only understand this revelation in the light of his death and resurrection.

**For reflection:** How can I, like Abraham, be a source of blessing for others? What do I see as the cost of my discipleship?

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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What temptations lure us  
from the path of discipleship?  
Possessions? Pride? Power?  
Oh Lord, create for us a clean  
heart and renew a steadfast  
spirit within us!

*See Psalm 51*

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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, Pamela Burton & 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 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.

## Silence and Prayer

(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

the responsorial psalm: we are being asked to respond to God's word; we need a few moments to reflect on the challenge, so that we can respond honestly.

Now that we take up the two collections at the Preparation of the Gifts, we have time to pray silently after Communion – when, instead being distracted by having to find our envelopes, we can reflect on the Food we have just received. It once was Catholic piety that the congregation remained for a time after Mass to make a Thanksgiving. Few do that now, and more's the pity; although there is, of course, the argument that we also need to spend time with other

members of the Body of Christ, with whom we are now in deeper communion. To make this thanksgiving within Mass, before we disperse, makes the best of both worlds – we are allowed time to “digest” the Nourishment we have received, and to mingle in charity afterwards.

And could we resume the practice of pausing in the Prayer of the Faithful? What the reader does is, not pray in our name, but announce an intention for which we are invited to pray; we should be able to do this individually, in silence, before we are invited to bring those prayers together in our common response.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

We're on the Web!  
[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of Broken  
Bay