



The Voice

6th July 2014

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 2

ORDINARY TIME

Ordinary Time Resumes

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Vincenzo Detommaso,
John Osborne.
- **Anniversaries:**
Eugene Avar, Bill Raper,
Marcus McNamara, William
Arahill, Janine Vlahovitch,
James and Elizabeth Carr,
Andrew Lee Seong-Soon,
Anna Kim, Bruce McKeon.
- **Remembrances:**
Agnes Arahill.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Fr. Geoffrey
Bugden, Vince Ashley, Lola
Proctor, Alan Harland, Beryl
Allen, Therese Payne, Hanaa
El Khatib, Mary Leger, Wanda
Grima, Louise Dunn, Beverley
Purser, Grace McNeany, Sil-
vana Anzalone, Grace Wil-
liams, Irene Beck, Cissy Tuile-
kutu, Clare Cooper.

To be accurate, Ordinary Time resumed the day after Pentecost Sunday. The weekday readings for Ordinary Time have been in possession ever since. Today, however, is the day when the Sunday readings of Ordinary Time resume, because the first two Sundays after Pentecost are celebrated as solemnities - of the Trinity and of the Body and Blood of Christ - and have proper readings.

Since the beginning of Lent, we have skipped Sundays 9 to 13. So where are we with the readings?

First of all, we need to remind ourselves how these Ordinary Time Sunday readings run. The synoptic gospels are read in a three year cycle; this year (called "Year A") we read from the gospel according to Matthew. There is no cycle for the first reading, which is taken from the Old Testament prophets; it is chosen to throw light on the gospel reading of the day. The second reading is also read in a three year cycle, but independently altogether of the other readings; instead of being from one book only (like the gospel), it is taken every year from a number of New Testament epistles.

Then we need to look at the gap in the second and third readings between the readings before Lent and those after

Easter (where we are now). In Matthew's gospel, we have jumped from chapter 7 to chapter 11; in St Paul's Letter to the Romans, we have skipped from chapter 3 to chapter 8. So, within the structure of Matthew, we last heard Jesus speaking just as he was concluding the Sermon on the Mount; we have missed completely his second "sermon", that directed to the apostles before their first mission; and today we hear him speaking during the period of activity that followed that address. In Romans, we have missed St Paul's arguments about faith, original sin, the universal need for salvation and the role of baptism; today we begin a series of reflections on the Spirit.

We now read from Matthew more or less consecutively until the end of the (church) year; we read from Romans for the next eleven Sundays; that is followed by readings from the Letter to the Philipians and the First Letter to the Thessalonians. Apart from First Corinthians, Romans gets the biggest slice over the three year period, but that is only fair: it has had a big influence on Christianity (think of Martin Luther and the Reformation!), so it is only proper that we give it a lot of attention.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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I will praise your name for— e - ver, my King and my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Fr Hill's 50th Anniversary of Ordination—Luncheon on Sunday, 20 July 2014, Woy Woy Leagues Club from 12.30pm.

3 course meal—Adults \$35 (children's meal available \$12). Money & final numbers were required by last Friday. *Please phone Parish Office urgently should any alterations need to be made.*

Fr Hill will be celebrating Mass at 9:15am on the day with a morning tea afterwards for those unable to attend the luncheon.

Mysteries of Gregorian Chant:

On 12th July the Royal School of Church Music Australia will hold a workshop "Mysteries of Gregorian Chant" in our Church. The workshop will be led by internationally-renowned chant scholar Dr. Neil McEwan AM FRSCM long-time director of music at Christ Church St. Laurence, Sydney. The workshop will explain the history of the chant as well as giving an introduction to interpreting the notation with examples relevant to today's liturgy. The afternoon will begin with registration at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start. The afternoon will conclude with

afternoon tea followed by the Vigil Mass at 5pm. This is a must-do for all those who treasure the musical heritage of the Christian traditions. Fees are \$30 for non-members and \$20 for members with music supplied. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the music ministry of the parish.

Urgent—Volunteer Drivers for Parish bus needed to join a roster transporting parishioners to and from Mass on weekends. Must have an LR license. Please contact parish office 4341 1073 if you can help.

Sympathy: For those who would like to send a sympathy card to Fr. Stephen Hume, the address is C/0 Diocesan Office, P.O. Box 340, Pennant Hills. 1715.

Children's Liturgy Roster 13/7/14: Alecia Amaral (L). Marina Mondal (L). Elena Holmes (H).

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 11/7/14: Christine French. Melissa Krall. Christina Thorsen. Michael French.

El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings in July are 12th and 19th.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster 13/7/14: after 9.15am Mass will be our 'El Shaddai' Prayer Group.

Parish Bus Service: All patrons using the service for Masses, trips and coffee/Tea & Chat must contact the Parish office to alter their schedule or request for service.

Baptism: We welcome into our faith community and pray for Billie Maree Toogood baptized at 9.15am Mass last Sunday.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: The Society assists many people on the Peninsula. If you would like to learn more about this work or to join as a volunteer please contact Peter Smith on 0425 358 376. Such work offers the opportunity to develop your own Spirituality and bring the love of God to others.

Josephite Associates meeting Wednesday, 9th July 10am in the Leo Mahon room. New members welcome. Phone Betty 4341 8849.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group meeting Thursday, 10th July, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

The Just Word

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday 7th July: **Cultural awareness boosts school attendance:** Communities in the Dubbo area wanted to boost local teenagers' school attendance and develop cultural awareness. Our volunteers helped set up a didgeridoo pro-

ject, taking groups of teenage boys out bush. The boys learnt how to collect wood, prepare it for painting and waxing and to play the finished instrument. It's a lot of fun and encourages the boys to feel proud of their rich cultural heritage. Also, the positive adult interaction is

helping to build trust and resilience. School attendance has improved and the project now runs as part of a permanent program.

Indigenous Community Volunteers. www.icu.com.au

From the Diocese and beyond

Latin Mass will be celebrated at St. Cecilia's Church, Wyong on Sunday 13th July at 3pm.

50 Year School Re-union for girls who attended Stella Maris College, Manly between 1960 and 1964 (Intermediate year 1962 and Leaving year 1964) will be held at Dee Why on Saturday, 8th November, If you are interested to catch up on 'old' friends, please contact Vilma Smith (boros). Ph: 9913 3490. tonvil5@optusnet.com.au

"In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" - National Pilgrimage. From 22nd October to 1st November. This pilgrimage offers the opportunity to reflect

on your own life as you walk with St. Mary MacKillop the journey of her life. The pilgrimage takes us to Melbourne, Penola, Adelaide, Nth. Sydney and then home. For a brochure and further information contact Sr. Therese Leydon on 8912 4845. Website www.marymackillop.org.au

Pilgrimage to the saints and martyrs of England, Wales and Scotland: Two week pilgrimage this September. It will be led by Fr. Ted Tyler, Parish Priest of Upper Blue Mountains. The theme of it will be the heroic martyrs and saints before, during and since the Reformation. For instance, we shall visit Tyburn and the sites of the martyr-

doms of St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher, as well as Canterbury with St. Thomas a Becket, York with St. Margaret Clitherow (the "pearl of York"), Bl. John Henry Newman and many other places. Email Fr. Ted frejtyler@live.com

Achieving Pregnancy Naturally: The Billings Ovulation Method can assist you in having the baby of your dreams. If you have been trying to have a baby without success, our teachers can provide essential information, which will give you the best chance to achieve your pregnancy naturally. For a free information leaflet, call Billings LIFE on 1800 335 860.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 6

Zec 9:9-10
Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Rom 8:9, 11-13
Mt 11:25-30

The words of the prophet Zechariah, written centuries before Christ, are filled with hope as he encourages Israel to look to the future, when Jerusalem will be restored to its true glory as the city of God. At that time all people will come to acknowledge the God of Israel as the God of all the earth. In a verse reflected in the Palm Sunday story, we hear of “your king ... riding on an ass” (v 9), entering Jerusalem amid shouts of joy and gladness. This king will eliminate weapons of warfare and “proclaim peace to the nations” (v 10). This hope, long anticipated by Israel, begins to be realised in the person of Jesus, to whom “all things have been handed over” (Mt 11:27).

Paul reminds us that we have been given a share in “the Spirit of Christ” (v 9). This means that we can anticipate victory over death, because “the one who raised Christ from the dead / will give life to your mortal bodies” (v 11). We share in the life of the Trinity through our baptism, and God’s spirit dwells in us, guiding us to lead holy lives. Ours is a spirit of adoption, Paul writes in a later verse, allowing us to call God “Abba, Father” (v 15).

It is to this Father that Jesus gives thanks and praise in today’s Gospel. His words remind us that knowledge of God is not something acquired by “the wise and the learned” (v 25) through their own efforts, but something revealed by God “to little ones” (v 25). It is our trust in God that leads us to this deeper relationship as we come to know that we are God’s children. Jesus has a unique relationship with “the Father” (v 27), a term found five times in today’s reading, and because of that he is able to reveal the Father to us.

For reflection: In what ways have I come to know God in my own life? How can Zechariah’s hope be translated into action in today’s world?

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.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 13

Is 55:10-11
Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Rom 8:18-23
Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Rain in the Bible is a sign of God’s blessing. The Israelites were dependent on the weather for survival. There is no river that waters the country like the Nile does in Egypt. The Jordan is below sea level and is not an adequate source of water. They depend more on the rain. Isaiah speaks of the efficacy of God’s word in today’s reading. Using the image of rain, which waters “the earth, / making it fertile and fruitful” (v 10), he tells us that God’s word will achieve “the end for which I sent it” (v 11).

Agriculture was very much a part of Jesus’s world, and images of sowing and reaping are often found in his teaching. In today’s parable—found in all three synoptic Gospels (see also Mk 4:1-20; Lk 8:4-15)—Jesus compares God’s reign to the act of a sower sowing seed. Although the same type of seed is planted in various locations, only some of it produces a harvest. Frequently called “The Parable of the Sower,” the emphasis of the parable, based on Jesus’s own interpretation, is on the various types of ground where the seed is sown. He challenges us to hear the word and understand it (v 23), producing a good harvest. We must be open to receiving the word and allowing it to take root in our lives.

Paul’s letter to the Romans uses another familiar image, that of an expectant mother: “All creation is groaning in labor pains” (v 22). History continues to unfold, and the followers of Jesus endure suffering. But this suffering is temporary, for just as a seed sprouts to new life, so too we will one day experience “the redemption of our bodies” (v 23), when God’s reign is fully realised.

For reflection: How does my life benefit from the gift of God’s word? Is there something in the “soil” of my life that needs to be changed before I can bear an abundant harvest?



“Let all Your works give
You thanks, Oh Lord, and
let Your faithful ones
bless You,” says the
psalmist. Stewardship is
this “attitude of gratitude”
for the many gifts God has
given us.

See Psalm 145



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
P.O. Box 264
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
100 Blackwall Road.

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 Dulakara 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.

Presentation of the Creed

Paul Turner

Sometime during the third week of Lent, catechumens who were "elect" for baptism this Easter celebrated the presentation of the Creed. In this ceremony the community recites the Creed for the elect to hear, so that they might then reflect on it as their main preparation for baptism. On Holy Saturday, they demonstrated their faith by returning the Creed to the community during the preparation rites.

The presentation of the Creed is an oral proclamation. In the early days of the church, many people were illiterate and could not read the Creed. Furthermore, those who knew it feared that non-Christians would not understand it without proper catechesis. Hence, the Creed was never written down. It was always communicated by heart.

Before the Second Vatican Council, the baptism of infants included the presentation of the Creed. This was removed from the ceremony because infants are incapable of hearing, understanding, memorising, and reciting the Creed.

Today either the Nicene or the Apostles' Creed is to be presented to children of catechetical age and to adult catechumens. The ceremony happens on a weekday, not a Sunday, because the scrutinies take precedence on three Sundays of Lent. The presentation does not happen until after the first scrutiny, so that the elect may be more spiritually prepared to receive it.

If the presentation of the Creed is scheduled in your community during the third week of Lent, it is a good idea to attend. The elect need to hear the creed from the community. They can only do that if the community is there to hand it on. In this simple way, you can contribute to the final preparation of catechumens for their baptism as Christians.

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 © 2013 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