



The Voice

21st December 2014

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B

Psalter Week 4

ADVENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Anniversaries:**
Richard Quigg, Wetta Potter,
Iris McNeil.
- **Remembrances:**
J. and Lily Mortimore,
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price,
Denning family.
Mabel Catherine Snell,
John Anthony Snell.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
Evangeline Cusay, Gada Selim,
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).
Bruce Spence, Irene Beck.

Bishop's Visit

I think we all agree that the Bishop's visit to the area last Sunday was a great success.

Because of circumstances beyond his control, the installation ceremony had to take place on Friday 12th December—not a good day or time for most, even for those who were able to get to the Cathedral.

He planned to compensate for this by visiting as many places as possible before Christmas. We were lucky that our church was chosen for this area.

It was a pleasure to welcome neighbouring priests, deacon and parishioners. The Bishop was able to meet many local Catholics.

Our El-Shaddai group again excelled in the quantity and quality of the refreshments offered in the Leo Mahon Room after the Mass. Thanks to them and to those who assisted with the morning tea.

Thanks also to those who served the Mass, the sacristans, and to the members of the choir who came along to help our organist and cantor.

Fr Stephen and I had some time with the Bishop after the ceremony.

The Bishop is of the opinion that he needs more time before making or confirming

further pastoral appointments in the Diocese.

The Bishop will leave Fr Stephen here until Easter, while he considers the possibilities for parishes in need of pastoral care (including Warnervale).

Fr Stephen's appointments beyond that will be matter for further consultation between him, his religious superiors and colleagues, and the Bishop.

I, for my part, have agreed to withdraw my resignation and to stay on until Easter, while things are sorted out.

So the farewell arranged for 28th December will have to be cancelled, at least for the time being.

So thanks to all those who were praying about this. Keep praying for a good outcome.

And pray for vocations. Vocations and ministry are ecclesiological issues—by which I mean that our understanding of them is conditioned by our understanding of the Church. If there is confusion rife about the Church, it is harder than ever to recognise and accept a vocation. Those who are called by God need our prayers more than ever.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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response.

I will sing for ev - er of the good - ness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord:
May his will for me be done. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Welcome! A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our parish this Christmas.

It is good to have you with us. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our Parish, please ask Fr Hill or Fr Stephen, or phone 4341 1073 or visit our parish website at www.woywoycatholic.org.au for information on parish programmes and ministries. We wish you a holy and happy holiday. Please visit us again.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: Vigil 5pm, 7.30pm and 10 pm. (Carols at 9.30pm)

Christmas Day: 7.30am and 9.15am. *Note: No evening Mass.*

Parish Bus Transport Christmas Masses: All parishioners to phone parish office to book their seats.

Parish Office will be closed Thursday 25th and Friday 26th December and re-open Monday 29th December.

Morning Mass Public Holiday Friday 26th will be 9.00am

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the church for those who do not have weekly envelopes.

Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood: the Body of Christ is received on the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.

Thank You: The St. Vincent de Paul Society on the Peninsula wish to thank the parish for their very generous response to the Christmas Appeal. An amount of \$6,928 was raised! This will enable the Society to continue to assist the poor and marginalized in our community. We have also received a large amount of food and toys which will be made into hampers and distributed to those in need. Joan Murphy and Ken Hall.

Bus Trip – Featherdale

Wildlife Park: Wednesday, 7th January. Leaving 8:30 a.m. Bus \$15 plus park entry fee. Contact Susie 0403 417 639/4344 1742.

Children's Liturgy and Church Cleaning Rosters available for collection in the Leo Mahon room.

Children's Liturgy finished last Sunday and will recommence 8/2/15.

St. Vincent de Paul Members and volunteers monthly Mass Saturday, 9am 27th December.

Christmas Mass Rosters for readers, senior and junior servers available in Servers Sacristy.

Cash Housie: Every Saturday night 7: 30p.m. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Come along and enjoy the fun and friendly atmosphere at our own parish operated bingo night. 50 games from 7: 30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Prizes all \$100, some \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2000 jackpot. Celebrating 60 years continuous service. Enquiries Rob 0427 990 818.

The Just Word

Pope sends some tips on justice: Pope Francis has reminded Prime Minister Tony Abbott that a "mindset in which individuals are ultimately discarded will never achieve peace or justice", while stressing the need for nations to address the issues of climate change and tax evasion, and the needs of the victims of global conflicts, especially refugees.

In a letter to Mr. Abbott sent in the days before the G20 summit in Brisbane, the Pope said the meeting came at a crucial time when the demands of steady employment need to be met by

fair taxation and transparency in the financial sector. He noted the G20's focus on efforts to relaunch a sustained and sustainable growth of the world economy, "thereby banishing the spectre of global recession". "One crucial point that has emerged is the fundamental imperative of creating dignified and stable employment for all," the Pope wrote.

"This will call for improvement in the quality of public spending and investment, the promotion of private investment, a fair and adequate system of taxation, concerted efforts to combat

tax evasion and a regulation of the financial sector which ensures honesty, security and transparency."

Pope Francis also called on the heads of state and governments "not to forget that many lives are at stake behind these political and technical discussions" and that "it would indeed be regrettable if such discussions were to remain purely on the level of declarations of principle".

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

From the Diocese and beyond

Santo Nino Fiesta – Devotion to the Holy Infant Jesus: Our Lady of the Rosary, Wyoming. Sunday 11th January, 12 noon Mass. Bring your Holy Infant Statues to be included in the blessings followed by a picnic lunch. BYO a plate to share and drinks, plates, cutlery. A Novena to prepare for the Fiesta commences Friday 2nd January,

7pm in Our Lady of the Rosary Church. Bring your petitions and pray before the Holy Infant Jesus.

Pathways of St. Paul: Join parishioners from Holy Innocent's on a 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, departing Monday 20th April. Walk the footsteps of St. Paul, visit places where he lived, worked and was imprisoned. Also visit the island of

Patmos, where St. John wrote the book of Revelation, Basilica of St. John built over the tomb of "The Divine" Apostle and the "House of Mary" where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. For Itinerary Brochure and Booking Form please contact Fr. Peter Krigovsky, admin@holytic.org.au or download from www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), Friday, December 25

Mass During the Night

Is 9:1-6

Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

Ti 2:11-14

Lk 2:1-14

In the northern hemisphere, our celebration of Christmas is several days after the winter solstice. The imagery of light and darkness is especially meaningful for us as we experience the shortest days of the year. Isaiah declares that “the people who walked in darkness / have seen a great light” (v 1). The promise of this prophecy, announcing the birth of a child, begins in the prior chapter: “There is no gloom where there had been distress” (8:23). This is an example of how the division of the biblical text into chapters is sometimes artificial. For the Christians, the child announced by Isaiah (9:5) is understood as a foreshadowing of Jesus, born 700 years later. But he is also a sign of God’s blessing for the people in the days of the prophet.

The letter to Titus, who was a fellow missionary with Paul and Barnabas, calls us to be faithful to the way of Christ. The coming of Jesus is God’s ultimate act of self-revelation. “The grace of God has appeared, saving all” (v 11). Our response to this is “to reject godless ways and worldly desires / and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly” (v 12).

Luke’s story of the birth of Jesus locates the nativity within the history of “the whole world” (v 1). Emperor Caesar Augustus’s decree brings Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, “the city of David” (v 4). Being good citizens, they obey his decree, fulfilling the prophecy that names Bethlehem as the birthplace of the promised Messiah. The angel’s announcement to the shepherds of “good news of great joy” (v 10) tells us that we need not be afraid, for “a savior has been born” for us (v 11). And so we join the angels in saying, “Glory to God in the highest” (v 14).

For reflection: How does Christ’s birth impact my life today? How can I help bring light to those who “walk in darkness” today?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is Sunday assistant at St. Cassian’s Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. He can be reached at bjan@comcast.net. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

Mary, Holy Mother of God, Thursday, January 1

Num 6:22-27

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Gal 4:4-7

Lk 2:16-21

As we begin a new calendar year, we honor Mary as the Mother of God. The Greek title *Theotokos* dates back to the Council of Ephesus in AD 431, a time of great theological controversy. By declaring Mary “Mother of God” and not just “Mother of Christ,” the bishops of the council were affirming Jesus’s identity as “God from God,” as we profess in our creed. Many in the fifth century were denying that Jesus shared in the divinity of the Father, and this was a major point of dissent, resulting in the council. The title confirms Mary’s role in the story of salvation, and it affirms Jesus’s two natures, an idea that we find in our second reading.

Paul writes to the Galatians that “God sent his Son, born of a woman ... so that we might receive adoption” and become God’s children (vv 4-5). Jesus unites divinity and humanity. In honoring Mary as the mother of God, we acknowledge her son’s two natures. St. Athanasius says, “For the Son of God became man so that we might become God” (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 460).

Today’s Gospel narrates the visit of the shepherds to the manger. On finding Jesus, they are filled with joy, and they relay “the message that had been told them about this child” (v 17). They become early evangelists, announcing the “good news” that had been given them by the angels: the child is “Christ and Lord” (see v 11). As Mary embraces her son, she is embracing the one who by his birth embraces our humanity. Because of this we sing, “O come, let us adore him.”

The Aaronic Blessing in the Book of Numbers is a blessing prayed over the people by Israel’s first priest, Aaron. It is a fitting blessing to pray over the congregation today, asking God to give us *shalom*/peace.

For reflection: How do I understand my status as an adopted child of God? How can I better honor Mary as the Mother of God?



In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary’s “Yes” — “I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.” — that the promise finds fulfillment.



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.

Concelebrants' Gestures

Paul Turner

When more than one priest has vested to celebrate the same Mass, concelebrants use a series of gestures during the eucharistic prayer (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 222). When only the main celebrant prays out loud, the other priests fold their hands. When they all pray aloud together, they all extend their hands.

A little before the consecration, the main celebrant brings his hands together, palms down, and extends them over the offerings. Other concelebrants should make the same gesture from where they stand, using both hands. They are praying that the Holy Spirit will change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.

During the consecration, as the main celebrant holds the bread and then the chalice while repeating the words of Christ, concelebrants may extend their right hands toward these offerings. This unique gesture is probably intended as a way for the other priests to point. The gesture goes with "This" — as in, "This is my Body" (*Notitiae* 1 [1965] 143, no. 34). To perform this action, concelebrants extend their right hands with the palm to the side, rather than down. This

keeps the gesture distinct from the one made earlier with both hands.

The gesture during the consecration is to be made "if this seems appropriate," but almost all concelebrants use it. However, it is also acceptable for them to make no gesture at all. The concelebrants could just look at the altar while saying the words of consecration.

However the priests gesture, they help the people offer the eucharistic prayer. The change in gestures alerts the faithful to the development of the prayer from words of thanksgiving to words of petition and into a sense of wonder as the Holy Spirit makes truly present the body and blood of Christ.

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.

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www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of
Broken Bay