



The Voice

11th May 2014

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Psalter Week 4

Good Shepherd Sunday

EASPERTIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Agnes Halen, Margaret Boon, Michael Weatherley.
- **Anniversaries:**
Kevin McDade, Jack and Josephine Towell, Fr. Leo Mahon, Fr. Ted Shepherd.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Grace Williams, Vince Ashley, Lola Proctor, Alan Harland, Fr. Geoffrey Bugden, Beryl Allen, Therese Payne, Hanaa El Khatib, Mary Leger, Wanda Grima, Anne Singleton, Louisa Dunn.

On 15th January, the Pope issued a message for Vocations Sunday 2014, which falls today. Here are some extracts.

2. Many times we have prayed with the words of the Psalmist: "It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Ps 100:3); or: "The Lord has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession" (Ps 135:4). And yet we are God's "possession" not in the sense of a possession that renders us slaves, but rather of a strong bond that unites us to God and one another, in accord with a covenant that is eternal, "for his steadfast love endures for ever" (Ps 136). In the account of the calling of the prophet Jeremiah, for example, God reminds us that he continually watches over each one of us in order that his word may be accomplished in us. The image is of an almond branch which is the first tree to flower, thus announcing life's rebirth in the springtime (cf Jer 1:11-12). Everything comes from him and is his gift: the world, life, death, the present, the future, but – the Apostle assures us – "you are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (1 Cor 3:23). Hence the way of belonging to God is explained: it comes about through a unique and personal relationship with Jesus, which Baptism confers on us from the beginning of our rebirth to new life. It is Christ, therefore, who continually summons us by his word to place our trust in him, loving him "with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength" (Mk 12:33). Therefore every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to centre one's life on Christ and on his Gospel. Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking

and acting that do not conform to the will of God. It is an "exodus that leads us on a journey of adoration of the Lord and of service to him in our brothers and sisters" (Address to the International Union of Superiors General, 8 May 2013). Therefore, we are all called to adore Christ in our hearts (1 Pet 3:15) in order to allow ourselves to be touched by the impulse of grace contained in the seed of the word, which must grow in us and be transformed into concrete service to our neighbour. We need not be afraid: God follows the work of his hands with passion and skill in every phase of life. He never abandons us! He has the fulfilment of his plan for us at heart, and yet he wishes to achieve it with our consent and cooperation.

3. Today too, Jesus lives and walks along the paths of ordinary life in order to draw near to everyone, beginning with the least, and to heal us of our infirmities and illnesses. I turn now to those who are well disposed to listen to the voice of Christ that rings out in the Church and to understand what their own vocation is. I invite you to listen to and follow Jesus, and to allow yourselves to be transformed interiorly by his words, which "are spirit and life" (Jn 6:62). Mary, the Mother of Jesus and ours, also says to us: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5). It will help you to participate in a communal journey that is able to release the best energies in you and around you. A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

Happy Mother's Day: Our prayers and best wishes to all our mothers on their special day.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Ebony Watson, Amber Watson, Malakai Rickit, Grant Finnie, Aiden Wood and Aisha Wood, who were baptized last Sunday.

Heaven on Earth – Adult Faith Formation Morning with Virginia Ryan and Fr. John Frauenfelder. Friday, May 16th. 9.15am-12.15pm. St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Woy Woy.

Joy Living the Gospel. An opportunity to discover the sweetness of God's love lighting the way of life. Time to reflect on Pope Francis' invitation to live the joy of the Gospel.

RSVP: School Office 4341 0884. Provision for child minding is available only with prior bookings upon RSVP.

Charitable Works Fund envelopes are available in the church for your convenience.

C.W.F. Collection will be on 24/25 May.

Catechists meeting Thursday, 22nd May. 9am-12md. In the Leo Mahon room.

Liturgy Team meeting Thursday, 22nd May, 7.30pm in Parish Office.

Family Ministry meeting Thursday, 22nd May, 1pm Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

Children's Liturgy Roster 18/5/14: Kylie Spicer (L). Marina Mondal (L). Meggan McMinn (H).

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 16/5/14: Don Anderson, Jo Salter, Sally Doyle.

Bus Trip to Wyong Creek to chocolate factory and little creek cheese factory then to lunch at the Club. Wednesday, May 21st. Cost \$15 for bus trip. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Pastoral Care in our Local Hospitals: There is always a need

for people to minister to our ill parishioners in our local hospitals, particularly to bring them to the Eucharist.

To comply with government regulations, these ministers need to be accredited by the Parish and also to have undergone a course of training. The Diocese offers this course through CatholicCare.

Our Diocesan course is different from that offered by non denominational Chaplains: it is specifically designed for people to visit Catholic patients. It is fully approved by NSW Healthcare and our diocese. If you wish to take part in this beautiful ministry, please contact your parish.

Josephites Associates will meet next Wednesday, 14th May, 10am in the Leo Mahon room. New members are very welcome!. Phone Betty 4341 8849.

Prayers for Peace Tuesday, 13th May (Fatima Day), 1.15pm-2.15pm. Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Social Justice

6th May. Mandatory detention for asylum seekers:

In 1992 the Federal Court was about to hear a challenge to the detention of 15 Cambodian asylum seekers who had been detained for two years. To forestall this, the Labor government introduced the *Migration*

Amendment Act 1992, which became law on 6 May and was later followed by the *Migration Reform Act 1992*.

Since then Australian Governments from both sides of politics have imposed detention on people arriving in Australia without a valid visa. This has

included detention in remote centres in Australian territories (including Woomera, Curtin and Christmas Island) and in other countries in our region including Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

From the Diocese and beyond

Ecumenical Service for the Renewal of the Tri-Diocesan Covenant: This year's Ecumenical Service of Worship to renew the Covenant signed in 2008 by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is to be hosted by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and will take place on Thursday, 29th May, 7.45pm at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 47 William St. East Maitland.

Free buses will operate. Bus will depart from St. Patrick's Church, 76 York St. East Gosford at 5.45pm. Return journey 9.15pm BYO your dinner to eat on the bus (and perhaps a snack for the return journey).

Please be part of this important ecumenical gathering.

Fashion Parade: The Ettalong Ladies Fellowship invite all to Fashion Parade by Sarongs of Ettalong. Tuesday 27th May in the hall of Ettalong Uniting Church, Picnic Parade. Following the parade a light luncheon will be served. Cost \$10. To assist with catering RSVP by 14th May to June Jepson 4342 2046.

Fr. Ted Tyler: 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. Email Fr. Ted at frejtyler@live.com

"In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop". National Pilgrimage from 22nd October to 1st

November. 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 takes us to Melbourne, Penola, Adelaide, Nth. Sydney then home. For a brochure and further information contact Sr. Therese Leydon 02 8912 4845.

www.marymackillop.org.au

A Place of Refuge: Australia was once a place of refuge, but now the journey to Australia is marked by grief, hardship and further exile. There is a significant amount of misunderstanding and misinformation about asylum seekers and refugees. Hear stories of 2 outstanding speakers. 20th May 7pm-8.30pm. The Light of Christ Centre. Yardley Ave. Waitara. Enq: Gail Gill 9847 0236 or gail.gill@dbb.org.au

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

4th Sunday of Easter, May 11

Acts 2:14, 36-41
Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
1 Pt 2:20-25
Jn 10:1-10

In Acts today we hear part of Peter's speech at Pentecost. His announcement is a challenge but ultimately good news: "God has made both Lord and Christ, / this Jesus whom you crucified," he tells the crowd in Jerusalem (v 36). That they are "cut to the heart" (v 37) indicates Luke's view that they share in the responsibility for Jesus' death. "What are we to do?" they ask (v 37). Peter calls them to "repent and be baptized" (v 38). This response will be a sign that they are distancing themselves "from this corrupt generation" (v 40). As a result of Peter's words, "about three thousand persons were added that day" (v 41), a sign that the Spirit is at work in the believers.

In today's Gospel Jesus uses imagery of sheep and shepherds, something familiar to his audience. Old Testament imagery often presented God as shepherd and Israel as God's flock. As the shepherd, Jesus cares for his sheep and leads them to green pastures (see Ps 23). That the sheep would be called "by name" (Jn 10:3) indicates a relationship between shepherd and sheep: "I know mine and mine know me," he says (see v 14). In this text we have the background for Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene on Easter morning. She only comes to recognize him after he calls her by name (see 20:16). The shepherd's task is to be concerned for the welfare of the sheep; the sheep are called to hear and follow the shepherd's voice, for he "came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (10:10).

The letter of Peter picks up on the imagery of sheep and shepherd: "you had gone astray like sheep" (v 25) through sin. Christ suffered for us, "leaving ... an example that you should follow" (v 21). As "shepherd and guardian of [our] souls," he offered his life to save us. He truly is the good shepherd.

For reflection: How can I better hear the voice of the good shepherd in my life? Am I doing my part to bring people into God's flock?

5th Sunday of Easter, May 18

Acts 6:1-7
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pt 2:4-9
Jn 14:1-12

Today in Acts, Luke narrates the origin of the office of deacons. As the community of believers grows, the apostles find themselves overwhelmed. Their numbers include so many needy that they don't have time to preach: "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table" (v 2). This is also causing stress between the Hellenist (Greek-speaking) Christians and the Hebrew (Aramaic- or Hebrew-speaking) Christians. The situation leads to the selection of the first seven deacons, "reputable men, / filled with the Spirit and wisdom" (v 3), who can handle the task of "the daily distribution" (v 1). This frees up the apostles to devote more time to preaching the word of God, which "continued to spread" (v 7).

The letter of Peter reminds us that there are two possible responses to Christ Jesus: acceptance or rejection. For those who reject him, there is judgment. He is "a rock that will make them fall," the writer says (v 8, quoting Is 8:14). As believers, we are called to "be built into a spiritual house / to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices" (v 5). God has called us to be "a people of his own" (v 9), the writer tells us, echoing the election of Israel in the Book of Exodus (19:6).

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to stand firm in our faith. "You have faith in God; have faith also in me" (v 1). Speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper, he calls them to a deeper union with him and the Father. It is through Jesus that we are united with the Father, and he tells us that he is going to the Father "to prepare a place for" us (v 1).

For reflection: The story of the first deacons shows us that the work of God needs to be shared among ministers. Do I invite others to share in the work of the church? How does my faith enable me to share in the work of Jesus?



Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

See John 10:10



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 & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday

9.30am. – 3.00pm., 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.

Good Shepherd Sunday

(continued)

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and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love

Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)?

4. Dear brothers and sisters, this "high standard of ordinary Christian living" (cf John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 31) means sometimes going against the tide and also encountering obstacles, outside ourselves and within ourselves. Jesus himself warns us: the good seed of God's word is often snatched away by the Evil one, blocked by tribulation, and choked by worldly cares and temptation (cf Mt 13:19-22). All of these difficulties could discourage us, making us fall back on seemingly more comfortable paths. However, the true joy of those who are called consists in believing and experiencing that he, the Lord, is faithful, and that with him we can walk, be disciples and witnesses of God's love, open our hearts to great ideals, to great things. "We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for small things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals!" (Homily at Holy Mass and the Conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, 28 April 2013). I ask you

bishops, priests, religious, Christian communities and families to orient vocational pastoral planning in this direction, by accompanying young people on pathways of holiness which, because they are personal, "call for a genuine 'training in holiness' capable of being adapted to every person's need. This training must integrate the resources offered to everyone with both the traditional forms of individual and group assistance, as well as the more recent forms of support offered in associations and movements recognized by the Church" (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 31).

Let us dispose our hearts therefore to being "good soil", by listening, receiving and living out the word, and thus bearing fruit. The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and lived in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives. With this wish, and asking you to pray for me, I cordially impart to you all my Apostolic Blessing.

Let us pray today for vocations in this parish and this diocese. FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

We're on the Web!
www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of
Broken Bay