



The Voice

26th April 2015

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Psalter Week 4

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Samuel Pena, Richie Benaud, Sr Ruth Maund. SGS.
- **Anniversaries:**
Lawrence and June Roser, Felix Tadlas, Carol Carter.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie, Hanna and Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Ian Wilks, Julia Neal, Lila Emery, Philip O'Neil, Renie Hunt, Grace Williams, Mary Dwyer, Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh, Alan Harland, Peter Crookes, Terry Curtis, Charles Knowles, Irene Beck, John Mortimore, Beryl Allen, Madge Wood, Grace McNeaney, Lola Proctor, Peter Kenneth Thorsen, Meli Ladd, Mary Leger, Lorna McGregor, Pauline White.

Compassion

Sometimes a piece of theatre can be so powerful it stays with you for your whole life. Many years ago I saw Jesuit dramatist Michael Moynahan perform his mime entitled 'Come-Passion'. It starts with a clown happily doing tricks and juggling for the audience. Soon, Jesus is led in by the soldiers and is crucified. The clown watches on in horror. When Jesus dies and the soldiers go home the clown remains at the foot of the cross. He removes the nails from the hands and feet of Jesus and cradles the corpse in his lap, as in Michelangelo's Pieta. He weeps for the evil that saw a just man crucified. Just then, the soldiers return and find the clown grieving over the body of Jesus. They crucify the clown. The clown suffers and dies on the cross. As they leave Jesus is raised to life, he sees the suffering clown, removes the nails, cradles him in his arms and holds him for what feels like an eternity.

When I saw this mime you could have heard a pin drop, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The word compassion comes from the Latin word *compati* meaning to bear or suffer with. It's not pity, sympathy or commiseration. Those words imply that we stand outside an experience and feelingly look in on it. Compassion is about 'fellow-feeling'. It's what the Good Shepherd embodies, and what Easter is all about. If we are worthy followers of Jesus we will all have our fair share of Good Fridays, but Easter Sunday tells us that just as the Father remained faithful to Jesus, so Jesus will remain faithful to us, as one with us.

In recent years the bishops, who are often called shepherds of the local Church, have come under extraordinary scrutiny. And rightly so. All of us who are living the Christian life are accountable for what we have done and have failed to do, and the bishops are no exception. It's a tough time to be the local shepherd. The flock is highly educated and we no longer follow anyone's lead with a herd mentality. We want to know our shepherd, hear his compassionate voice call for justice for victims everywhere, but especially ones who have been injured in any way by the Church. We want to be confident that what our local shepherd says and does is what Christ the Good Shepherd would say and do. Over these past years our sense of dismay has come from a very few bishops who have chosen the so-called good name of the church, its social status and power, their public profile and even the threat of moral and financial liability over the voices of the most vulnerable members of our flock.

Today's Gospel reminds us what Christian leadership should look like. Jesus didn't liken it to princes in palaces or governors of provinces. His metaphor was of a compassionate shepherd who sleeps in the field with his flock, one who knows them so well and loves them so dearly that he lays down his own life for them.

Let's pray at this Eucharist that we always have the leaders we deserve, ones whose compassion is so transparent that it inspires us to be the same, even towards them.

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Psalm Response



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

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Joshua Boothby, Harry Duffy, Carter Parrish and Dracen Tierney-Croke who were baptised last Sunday.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group meeting Thursday, 30th April, 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Bus Trip Wednesday, 29th April to Wollombi and Cessnock. Lunch at the club. Leaving 8.30am. Cost: \$15.

Bus Trip Wednesday, 6th May to Manly Pier. Leaving 9.00am. Cost: \$15 includes morning tea. To book call Susie Casey on 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 1/5/15: Terry Murphy, Kevin Glacken, Jo Salter, Rano Spiteri.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for the month of May are 2nd, 9th and 16th. Enq: Linda Thurlow 4342 9092.

Jam and Cake Stall will be operating on Sunday, 3rd May at 7.30am and 9.15am Masses.

All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our Parish bus. Enquiries: Mary 4344 2288.

Greetings from Fr Bill Meacham. Fr Bill has sadly had to go to a nursing home. He is suffering from Alzheimers disease and is in need of much

care. He did remember me after some conversation and said to send his love to all parishioners at his beloved Woy Woy. Please keep him in your prayers. Lorena Lalor.

Congratulations to parishioner Stan Donnellan who was awarded the Decoration of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award, by the French Ambassador in a ceremony on board the frigate Vendemiaire visiting Sydney last week. The award was for service in 232 RAF Spitfire Squadron in Corsica and the South of France in 1944.

The Just Word

No Longer Slaves but brothers and sisters:

Pope Francis has called for a renewed commitment to end the scourge of slavery, involving both "the local level—families, schools, parishes", as well as "the global level of state institutions and of civil society".

"Today, as the result of a growth in our awareness, slavery, seen as a crime against humanity, has been formally abolished throughout the world."

"Yet, even though the international community has adopted numerous agreements aiming at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today—children, women and men of all ages—are deprived of freedom and are forced to live in conditions akin to slavery."

"I think of the many men and

women labourers, including minors, subjugated in different sectors, whether formally or informally, in domestic or agricultural workplaces, or in the manufacturing or mining industry; whether in countries where labour regulations fail to comply with international norms and minimum standards, or, equally illegally, in countries which lack legal protection for workers' rights. for workers' rights."

"I think also of the living conditions of many migrants who, in their dramatic odyssey, experience hunger, are deprived of freedom, robbed of their possessions, or undergo physical and sexual abuse."

"In a particular way, I think of those among them who, upon arriving at their destination after a gruelling journey marked by fear and insecurity, are detained in at times inhumane condi-

tions."

"My thoughts also turn to those who, in order to remain within the law, agree to disgraceful living and working conditions, especially in those cases where the laws of a nation create or permit a structural dependency of migrant workers on their employers, as, for example, when the legality of their residency is made dependent on their labour contract. Yes, I am thinking of 'slave labour'."

"I think also of persons forced into prostitution, many of whom are minors, as well as male and female sex slaves."

"Finally, I think of all those kidnapped and held captive by terrorist groups, subjected to their purposes as combatants, or, above all in the case of young girls and women, to be used as sex slaves."

From the Diocese and beyond

Parish Ministry Formation Day led by Steve Angrisano:

A day of ministry formation with exceptional workshops including: Youth Ministry, Music Ministry, Prayer, Community Building, Social Media and more. Saturday, 16th May, 9.30am-5pm. Light of Christ Centre, Waitara. A great chance to network with ministry leaders from around the Diocese and our Church. RSVP: youth@dbb.org.au

Centenary of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Arrival at Wyong: All invited to a special Mass of Thanksgiving which will be held Wednesday, 6th May, 7pm. St. Cecilia's Church, 23 Byron Street, Wyong. A light supper

will follow after Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

"Youth of the Vine" Calling all youth and young adults ages 12-40 yrs. Come and join in our celebration evening. An evening of praise and worship providing spiritual enrichment and helping young people in faith formation and development of their relationship with Jesus. Friday, 1st May. 6pm BBQ. 6.30pm. Praise and Worship 8.30pm Finish. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Wyoming. 92 Glennie St. Nth. Gosford. Contact: Fr. Andrew/Parish Office 4324 3962 or Glen 0410 753 259. www.facebook.com/OLRWyoming

www.olrwyoming.org.au/home

Retreat Day for Divorced Women—

Women who have experienced the pain of divorce are warmly invited to a Day of Reflection and Prayer on Saturday, May 2nd at Marymount Mercy Centre, 36 David Rd, Castle Hill from 10am-4pm. The day will be led by Bishop Terry Brady and Sr Lydia Allen RSM and will include talks, Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation and time for fellowship and support. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Cost: \$10. Please direct registrations and inquiries to Silvana at the Life, Marriage and Family Centre on 9307 8403 or LMFevents@sydneycatholic.org

Bells and Smells

Jonathon K. Morse

Many years ago on a sultry August day, I walked from the hot, steamy street into a moderately air conditioned office. On entering I was told to take a seat. The room was cool, but not cold. My first thought was I wished it were a little cooler. As reading outdated literature, all a sudden I wished that they would turn on the heat. Then I noticed that instead of playing elevator music in the waiting area, they were playing a radio broadcast from last year's blizzard with the announcement of closings, cancellations, snow accumulation, and traffic detours. I had been unconsciously listening, and my mind had come to conclude that it was a freezing winter day rather than the hot and humid August day it was.

This experience taught me that what we hear even unconsciously is processed by the brain and adjusts our reality. Did you ever wonder why stores play music? Shoppers move more slowly down the aisles when slow music is playing. You can test this by comparing your shopping list with the items you actually buy. A study has shown that stores using slow music increase sales by more than 38 percent compared to those stores without music. The same is true when reading a catalogue at home. If you have music playing, the beat of the music regulates how fast you turn the pages. With no music background, you will focus on the items and then move on. If you have slow music, you will take in more information on the page and therefore increase your chances of making a purchase; by spending so much time reading about the product, you convince yourself of your need for it.

What does all this have to do with church? Most people decide whether they will like a service or not in the first six seconds. This is because we operate on two levels. First is the conscious level, where we wait to hear the preacher and then evaluate his or her content and delivery. The second level is the adaptive unconscious, where we react quickly on the basis of our "gut." This level works below the surface. Imagine that you are standing in the middle of the street; you see a truck coming straight for you. The conscious would analyse the speed of the truck and your location and calculate the amount of time it would take for you to get out of the way. It would then calculate which would be the

best direction to move, while figuring the probability of the truck's changing direction. After this, a decision would be formulated. Of course, by this time you would be flat as a pancake. The adaptive unconscious does all the analysis and makes a decision in a microsecond. This is why humanity has been able to survive: the adaptive unconscious uses all of our stored memories and reactions to make instant – sometimes life-saving – decisions. We don't know why we like or dislike someone right away or why we will go into a store and immediately decide we don't like it and leave. Likewise, when people enter a church for the first time, they may leave before even sitting down for the service to begin, just because of the adaptive unconscious.

So how do we influence people's conscious and unconscious decisions about our liturgical environments? Music is one way. For example, in our military chapel, we share space with other denominations. Recently, after onerous Catholic services, as the doors opened and the people were singing "Now Thank We All Our God," one of the members of the gospel congregation told me how that song made him remember his childhood and going to country church with his mother and aunt. As he was talking, he tapped on his heart because of the warmth and meaning of these memories. After conversation, he was going to a gospel service, with its more contemporary and much louder music. But in that moment a few notes of a familiar song had transported him back to a different religious experience tied to his childhood faith.

One of our Protestant congregations has started to play a musical interlude just before their service. The music sets the tone for worship; it can bring people from where they are to where you want them to be. Many people come to church from a world of hustle and bustle, in a frame of mind frazzled by work or by getting the children ready to go. As Congreve in *The Mourning Bride* (1697) noted: "Music has to the savage breast" (not "beast," as oft misquoted).

Young adults and youth do not want to be soothed or calmed down in church; rather, they want music that is filled with life and



To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."

SEE JOHN 10:12



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Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Koolewong, Tascott, Blackwall, Booker Bay, St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point and Phegan's Bay.

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"

Fr Jack Robson, *Parish Priest*

Fr. Timothy Raj MSFS & Fr. Phillip Thottam
MSFS, *Assistant Priests*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Margaret Cooper,
Raelene McLenaghan,

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 7.15 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. Ph: 024341 0884 Fax: 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..

Bells and Smells

(continued)

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vitality, like they are. If they are standing outside the church and hear the rafters being raised, there is a greater possibility that they will freely and deliberately enter the building to see what is happening. A count of 108 beats per minute is good for getting the body to move. (It is also good for reading catalogs if you do not want to make a purchase or to play on your iPod if you want to rush in and out of the supermarket, which is playing Muzak to you down.)

What atmosphere is most conducive to the service you wish to offer? The music playing before your service should set the mood. It should be loud enough to be heard before people enter, so they will be ready to worship in the spirit and mood of the service.

Church music does not have to be confined to church. Listening to liturgical music

during the week (outside of church services) reinforces the sense of worship that the community is trying to foster in its members. Listening to spiritual music – whether it be recordings of the church's own choir and musicians or of a similar group – at home or on the way to work or school is uplifting and can take the mind to a calmer place. Whenever I hear "Ave Maria," my mind immediately goes to a parishioner who sang it as a solo in church. Her voice was so crystal clear that every word was understandable. It was the "Hail, Mary" to Schubert's music. Music transports me to the Main Post Chapel at Fort Drum; it can likewise transport your parishioners to your place of worship.

(to be continued next week)

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay