



The Voice

30th March 2014

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

Psalter Week 4

LENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Pat Robbie, Beverley Ford, Thomas Keaveney, Michael Cox, Vicki Shields, Joh Vanyzen-doorn, Siobhan Horan.

• **Anniversaries:**

Elizabeth Hari, Eleuteria and Ireneo Alejaga, Antony Power, Marcelline Cole, Catherine Kennedy, Mitchell Powell.

• **And the sick:**

Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, 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, Hanaa El-Khatib, Therese Payne, Michael Moulds.

Baptism and Blindness

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent are the days for celebrating the *Scrutinies*. The *Scrutinies* are the proximate preparation of the Elect for their Initiation; they are confronted with their need of conversion – so that they recognise in their Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion the way in which God accepts them as his converted children.

The Prayers of the Mass at which the *Scrutinies* take place are not those of the Sunday concerned, but of special Masses of the *Scrutinies*. Those who are privileged to attend these Masses are thus enabled to take part with the Elect in this embrace of conversion through acknowledgment of their sins and faults.

In Year A (which we are celebrating this year) the readings have special significance for conversion and initiation. Last Sunday, you may remember, the gospel story (from John) was that of the Samaritan woman at the well at Sychar, and the theme of the readings was thirsting for God.

This Sunday the gospel story (again from John) is that of the man born blind. This is related to another name for Baptism (especially in the Eastern Churches) –

photismos, or “enlightening”.

The person approaching Initiation and the person looking to renew baptismal commitment at Easter both need to be enlightened about their need of God’s grace. Typically, the human being is blind to his faults and to his need for correction and forgiveness. He is like a man born blind. The central figure of today’s story has not gone blind after experiencing colours and shapes; he has had no experience of light at all. It is only when the Light of the World gives him his sight that he is able to acknowledge Jesus in the Son of Man. The Pharisees remain blind. They do not see their need for enlightenment.

‘God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ So it was with the choice of David; so it is with us in our encounter with good and evil. That is why Paul says in the second reading, ‘You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of the light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth.’ This is what the Elect pray for today; let us support them with our prayers, and seek the same grace for ourselves.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
A word from the Pope	3
Directory	4

Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Around the Parish

Daylight Saving ends next Sunday, 6th April. Turn your clocks back one hour.

Working with Children Check: The Diocese and our Parish is committed to keeping children safe and complying with all legislation. Recently, The Working with Children Check (WWCC) legislation changed. As a result, our generous volunteers in child-related ministries will be required by law to obtain a WWCC. The WWCC is free for volunteers. All new volunteers in child-related ministries need to obtain a WWCC before they begin their ministry. All existing volunteers in *child-related ministries* need to obtain a WWCC before 31 March 2015. Please contact the Parish office for the information Sheet for Volunteers in child-related Ministry on how to obtain your WWCC. If you already have a WWCC, you can use that number in our Parish.

A warm welcome is extended to all Parishioners at Morning Tea following the 9.15am Mass this weekend by the Catechist Ministry to show their appreciation for the wonderfully generous response to their Recruitment Campaign. Eleven members of our Parish Community have volunteered to become Catechists—and we're thrilled. An extraordinary morning tea is promised!

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be

held Thursday, 10th April, 7.30pm.

Parking improves but not nearly enough: Early in March, I requested that those who park in the 'lane' beside the church do so in a manner courteous of our neighbours and some of you have heeded the call, *thank you*. Others have been slower to comply and have not moved the passenger side of the vehicles closer to the fence line when parking. This discourtesy, coupled with a larger vehicle such as a 4-wheel drive, encroaches even further on the limited space in the 'lane' and makes for disharmony *between* neighbours and church. *If we are not considerate of our neighbours, they will take this request to Council which could see parking in the lane banned altogether.* Fr. John Hill.

Caritas of Australia. This week we meet Martina, a teacher in the Solomon Islands. Her favourite part of the school day is teaching the children songs from Caritas Australia *Disaster Risk Management project* which was established after a string of natural disasters in the Pacific that threatened homes and communities of people living in the Solomon Islands. Through the power of nursery rhymes and songs, children are learning how to stay safe during an emergency. Please donate to Project Compassion. Your donation means we can help communities around the

world to prepare for the unexpected.

Personal Funeral Arrangements: A document is available for parishioners who can set out their wishes for their funeral.

The information is confidential and accessible only by the person supplying the information and the Parish. Apart from the usual personal details, you will be asked to state:

- whether you want a Requiem Mass or a Funeral Service;
- whether you want to be buried or cremated;
- whether you would like a Vigil Service ("wake") before the Mass or Service.
- Some details of your life, to guide the priest in his homily. You will always be able to update the information originally supplied. If it is not updated, it will be destroyed seven (7) years after lodgement.

If you would like to take part in this process, call the Parish office and the receptionist will be happy to supply you with a copy.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 4/4/14: Sally Doyle. Mary McCumstie, Kevin Glacken. Melisa Krall.

Living Faith Booklets April, May, June now available in Piety Stall.

"El Shaddai" Prayer Group meetings for April 5th, 12th and 19th. Enq: Grace Lloyd 4343 1504..

PARISH TRANSPORT SERVICE. The parish bus service will operate for the following events for Lent and Easter. All bookings must be made through the parish office [4341 1073] before 2pm on Tuesday 15 April. [cut off at 2pm Monday 14 April applies to the Chrism Mass].

2nd Rite of Reconciliation	10th April—7.30pm	Good Friday—Lord's Passion	18th April—3.00pm
Chrism Mass (Holy Oils)	15th April—5.30pm	Easter Vigil	19th April—6.00pm
Holy Thursday (Last Supper)	17th April—7.30pm	Easter Sunday	20th April—7.30am & 9.15am
Good Friday—Stations of the Cross	18th April—10.30am (SJB Primary school)		

Social Justice

Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action: This day calls for continued efforts by all countries, with the help of the United Nations and relevant organisations, to establish and develop resources to deal with mines and wartime explosives in countries where they are a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the civilian population, or hinder social and economic development.

Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war continue to maim and kill thousands of people in more than 70 countries, and kill and injure more than 4000 people each

year, including children. They contaminate fields, forests, roads and pathways, depriving people of agricultural land and essential services.

Under the Mine Action Strategy for the Australian Aid Program 2010-2014, Australia has helped improve the quality of life for the victims, reduced the number of deaths and injuries from these devices, and enhanced the capabilities of countries to manage their mine action programs.

- In Laos in 2011, Australia contributed to the release of nearly 3000 hectares of land.
- In Cambodia, Australia helped reduce the national casualties

from 4300 in 1996 to 185 in 2012.

- In 2012, Australia helped Jordan, Guinea Bissau and Uganda to become mine free, and we are helping Mozambique, one of the world's most contaminated countries, become mine free by 2014.

Work is also continuing on mine clearance in Sri Lanka, Libya and Afghanistan.

Mine Action helps people live safely, address the needs of victims, and assists with socio-economic development.

More Information:
www.usaid.gov.au A.C.S.J.C.

From the Diocese and beyond

Silent Retreat: "His mother kept these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God

and men." (Luke 2 : 41-52). Pre-senters Fr. Michael Whelan, s.m. Sr. Marie Biddle. r.s.j. Sunday evening 6th April—Friday morn-

ing 11th April. Information: St. Joseph's Retreat Centre, Kincumber or phone 4368 4807.



A word from the Pope

10th February 2014

One does not attend Mass looking at his or her watch, as if they were at some performance, counting the minutes. One goes to participate in the mystery of God. This was the theme of Pope Francis' homily at the Mass he celebrated in the Chapel of *Domus Sanctae Marthae*. This "is not a tourist excursion. No! You came here, we are gathered here, to enter into the mystery. And this is the liturgy".

To explain the meaning of this encounter with the mystery, Pope Francis said that the Lord has spoken to his people not only with words. "The prophets", he said "recounted the Lord's words. The prophets proclaimed them. The great prophet Moses gave the commandments, which is the Word of God. Many other prophets too have told the people what the Lord wanted". However, "the Lord", he added, "also spoke in another way and in another form to his people: with theophanies. That is, when he comes close to his people and makes them feel, makes them feel his presence among them". The Pope referred to the First Reading (1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13) which speaks of other prophets.

"The same thing happens in the Church", the Pope said. He does this through his Word which is recounted in the Gospels and in the Bible; he speaks through catechesis, through homilies. He not only speaks to us but "he makes himself present", the Pope said, "in the midst of his people, in the midst of his Church. The Lord's presence is there. The Lord draws close to his people; he is present with his people and shares his time with them". This is what is taking place during this liturgical celebration, which is certainly "not a social affair", he said, "nor a gathering for the faithful to pray together. It is something else", because "in the Eucharistic liturgy God is present" and, if possible, he makes himself present in "the closest way". His presence, the Pope said, "is a real presence". "When I speak of liturgy", the Pope explained, "I am mainly referring to the Holy Mass. When we celebrate the Mass, we are not representing the Last Supper". The Mass "is

not a representation; it is something else. It truly is the Last Supper; it is truly living again the redemptive passion and death of Our Lord. It is a visible manifestation: the Lord makes himself present on the altar to be offered to the Father for the salvation of the world".

Pope Francis then gave examples, as he usually does, of actions that are common among the faithful: "We hear and we say, 'I cannot now, I have to go to Mass, I have to go to listen to Mass'. But you do not listen to Mass, you participate in it. And you are participating in a visible manifestation, in the mystery of the Lord's presence among us". It is something that is different from all other forms of our devotion, he pointed out, using the example of the living nativity scenes "that are organised by parishes at Christmas time, or the Way of the Cross that we do during Holy Week". These, he explained, are representations; the Eucharist is "a real commemoration, a theophany. God draws near and is with us as we participate in the mystery of redemption".

The Pope then referred to another very common behaviour among Christians: "How many times", he noted "do we count the minutes... 'I only have a half an hour, I have to go to Mass...'". This "is not the right attitude that the liturgy asks of us: the liturgy is God's time and space, and we must put ourselves there in God's time, in God's space, without looking at our watches. The liturgy is precisely entering into the mystery of God; bringing ourselves to the mystery and being present in the mystery".

The Holy Father continued, looking at the faithful who were gathered there for the celebration, saying: "For example, I am sure that all of you have come here to enter into the mystery. But perhaps someone has said 'I have to go to Mass at Santa Marta, because it is one of Rome's tourist excursions, to go and visit the Pope at Santa Marta every morning...

(Continued on page 4)



The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?



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

"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

9.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m., 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.

A word from the Pope

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

No! You came here, we are gathered here, to enter into the mystery. And this is the liturgy, God's time, God's space, the cloud of God that surrounds all of us".

Pope Francis went on to share some childhood memories: "I remember as a child, when we were preparing for our First Holy Communion, they made us sing 'O holy altar guarded by angels', and this made us realise that the altar is guarded by angels, and it gave us a sense of God's glory, of God's space, and of his time. Then, when we were practising for our First Communion, we brought forward the hosts and said 'these are not the hosts which you will receive; they are not worth anything, because the consecration comes later'. It

was good for us to distinguish one from the other: it is a memory of the commemoration". Therefore to celebrate the liturgy means "to be willing to enter into the mystery of God", in his space and his time.

Concluding his homily, the Pope invited those present to "ask the Lord today to give us all this sense of what is sacred, to understand that it is one thing to pray at home, to pray in Church, to pray the rosary, to pray many beautiful prayers, to do the Way of the Cross, and to read the Bible; but it is quite another to celebrate the Eucharist. In this celebration we enter into the mystery of God, on that path which we cannot control: he is the only one, he is the glory, he is in power. We ask for this grace, that the Lord may teach us to enter into the mystery of God".

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay