

# The Voice

7th August 2016

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Psalter Week 3



## OF YOUR CHARITY

### PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Angela Ormesher, Francis Russ,  
Margaret Anne Kelly,  
Gerry Villaroman, Bill Thebridge.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Pedro and Damiana Bulual,  
Mary Gatt, Edna Tighe,  
Noel Palmer, Teresa Lee Min-Yong,  
Pasquale & Giuseppina Sergei,  
Enrico & Caterina Zappavigna.
- **Remembrances:**  
Mary and George Hilliard,  
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,  
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,  
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price,  
Mary Justic, Katarina Justic,  
Frank Justic.
- **And the sick:**  
Rene Glase, Beryl Allen,  
Peter John Grima, Jack Moulds,  
Tracie Passlow, Cheryl Douglas,  
Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence,  
Maryanne Diorio, John Allen,  
Mary Anne Gormley,  
Coral Williams, Irene Beck,  
Alan Harland, Keith Oakes,  
Vince Zappavigna, Don Boland,  
Albie Curtis, Celeste Boonaerts,  
Louise Dunn, Bryan Moroney,  
Jannelle Dawson, Nola Davies,  
Margaret Thoms, Baby Winter,  
Baby Blake, Ian Wilks,  
Elaine Finlayson, Helen McKeon,  
Audrey Barsendich, Frank Schmidt,  
Nicola (Nick) Bubici,  
John Simmons, Brooke Simmons.

### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
Directory	4

As offensive as the Monty Python film, *The Life of Brian* was to some Christians, the scene in which several competing messiahs try to convince the market-place crowd that they are the real thing, brilliantly and humorously captures Jewish expectations in 1st century Palestine. Not unlike the fervour at the end of the last millennium, some religious people believed the end of time was close at hand. Far from selling his messianic wares at the market, however, Jesus crept in beside us and lived, suffered, died and was raised from the tomb in a way no one anticipated. Even after his resurrection the earliest Christians believed Jesus would return very soon, so they could afford to live as if they were, literally, in the last days. When this didn't happen there was crisis in the community. The earliest disciples, to whom much had been entrusted, had to hand on a faith in a more unpredictable God who does not fulfil all our expectations or run to our timetable.

Luke points out that the greatest gift we Christians have received is knowing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. What a relief to know we do not have to shop around any more. From everyone to whom much has been given, however, much will be required and so knowing who Jesus is only goes halfway. Living out the reality of the Christian life is the other half. Today's Gospel teaches us that our Christian life should be marked by five characteristics, that we: willingly share with those in need; are ready to act justly; stay alert to the presence of God in the world; guard against those

people or things that can rob us of our faith; not abuse others but live in peace. With or without a sense that Jesus is due back at any minute, the Christian life is meant to focus on the essentials.

Two thousand years later we are still waiting for Jesus' return and many of us live complicated lives that rob us of true happiness. Sadly, it often takes a tragedy for us to reassess what we have been given. A student at the Columbine High School, who was injured in the shooting, wrote this sombre reappraisal of how he sees the world and what he thinks we should be passing on to the next generation:

'The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less.

'We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but less solutions; more medicine, but less health.

'We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our value; we talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

'We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet our neighbour.

(Continued on page 4)

## Psalm Response

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## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Be watchful and ready: You know not when the Son of Man is coming. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Welcome Back** Fr. Philip and our pilgrims after an incredible pilgrimage across the world to World Youth Day Krakow. Many thanks to everyone who supported our pilgrims through their generosity and prayers!

**Feast of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on Monday, 15th August is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be 7.45am, 12md school Mass in the Church and evening Mass 7pm.

**Attention Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** In distributing the Precious Blood you are asked to refrain from mentioning the name of the recipient. Fr. Jack.

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal:** The first of three appeals for this financial year will occur next weekend—collection 13th and 14th August at all Masses. CWF quota for this year is \$37,008 which equates to \$12,336 each appeal.

**Tax Receipts** for CWF (last fin. yr.) available in the gathering area.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 14/8/16:** Mary Wood, Frances Giunta, Isaak Giunta.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 12/8/16:** Anisha Burns, Elena Egan, Christine French, Michael French.

### Returning Home Programme to commence this Wednesday 10th August.

Were you raised a Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?

Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church?

Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today? If you or anyone you know can answer positively to the above questions, please join us at St. John the Baptist Church in the Leo Mahon Room, 10th August at 7.30pm, for the Information Evening. A detailed pamphlet is available from the table in the gathering area.

**Food Drive: Assisting those in need—Mary Mac's:** Sheets of helpful hints for this drive are available in the gathering area.

**Feast of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop** this Monday 8th August. Please pray for religious and priestly vocations.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday, 11th August 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due Monday, 15th August. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**Love, Pray, Love Project:** On this Sunday, 7th August, 2pm-5pm, Walter Baker Hall. Pope Francis Encyclical 'Laudato Si', a document extending beyond concern of climate change and concerns evangelisation and reverence of the whole world as a gift from God. Daniel Ang, Director of Evangelisation of our Diocese will be the speaker. Phone Gladys Leger on 0421 312 362 if you have any queries.

### Your 'used postage stamps' help the Sisters of St. Joseph:

Mary MacKillop International incorporates the mission work of the Sisters in East Timor and Peru. The Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Peru more than 30 years ago, focusing on empowering local women to develop skills and earn income to support their families. Projects there include health education, community mental health, community aged care, support for people with a disability and their carers, support of children through play and learning centres, dental hygiene and care for children. Used postage stamps are sold to provide much needed funds for the Sisters in their work so please continue your past support by dropping off your used stamps to the Parish office or piety stall for forwarding.

**Morning Tea Roster 14/8/16** will be our Youth Group.

## The Just Word

### 2 August 1965: First Indonesian refugees allowed to settle in Australia:

Yet the presence of boat people proves that Australia cannot insulate itself from the worldwide movement of people. Every boat we intercept, every child we detain, is a reminder that we can be part of the problem or part of the solution. While we try to bar our doors, millions are fleeing and dying—Rohingyas, Syrians, Hazaras and Somalis, to name only a few.

For me, the desperate plight of refugees is particularly poignant because I came to Australia as a

boat person, fleeing as a teenager from Vietnam. I experienced communist oppression and I saw how tyranny and cruelty can leave people with no choice but to seek refuge elsewhere, in any way possible.

That personal history was one reason why I chose for my motto as a bishop the evocative words of Jesus to his disciples, Duc in Altum — 'Put out into the deep' (Luke 5:4). His words to his companions were a challenge to encounter new horizons, to go where they might not have dared, to seek grace where they had not

found it before. That is the journey and the hope of all asylum seekers.

I believe that those words of Jesus also challenge Australians to make a similar journey—to dare to accept the gifts that we have come to fear or reject. And there are many gifts that refugees have brought to Australia, not only as scientists, doctors, teachers and artists but as ordinary people whose talents and energy have enriched our society.

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Chairman's Message, Social Justice Statement 2015-16.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**PROCLAIM 2016—1-3 September. The Concourse. Chatswood.** This exciting conference on New Evangelisation expected to draw more than 500 participants from across Australia to discuss, exchange and learn fresh ways in which parishes can become evangelising communities of the twenty-first century. Visit [www.proclaimconference.com.au](http://www.proclaimconference.com.au)

to find out more. Enquiries and further information about registration, workshops, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. Contact Conference Co-ordinator, Natalie Moutia on 9847 0504. [proclaim2016@dbb.org.au](mailto:proclaim2016@dbb.org.au)

**Vocations Retreat:** Is God calling you to the religious life?

Does a life of contemplation and action appeal to you? Vocations Retreat 12th-14th August Cost: Donation.

Presenters: Carmelite Team. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St. Andrews Rd. Varroville. Contact 8795 3400. [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com) [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

# Scripture Readings

7th August 2016

Bruce Janiga

## 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 7

Wis 18:6-9

Ps 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22 R. v.12

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12

Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

Beginning in chapter 11, the author of Wisdom discusses various ways that God provided for the Israelites during the Exodus. In today's reading we hear of the fifth example: the death of the firstborn in Egypt. In one act, the Passover, God "punished our adversaries, / [and] glorified us" (v 8). In obedience to God's command, they offered the prescribed sacrifice, "putting into effect with one accord the divine institution" (v 9). Their obedient response in faith was in light of God's care for them.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews puts Abraham forth as an example of faith. "He went out, not knowing where he was to go" (v 8). His faith also brought him "power to generate" (v 11), leading to the birth of Isaac. And in this same faith, he "was ready to offer his only son" (v 17). Throughout this chapter our author illustrates the faith of key figures in salvation history to encourage us to stand firm in our own faith.

In today's Gospel we learn that the faithful servant is a vigilant servant. The early church lived with the expectation that Jesus' return would occur in the near future. Thus there is a sense of urgency in the early letters and in some of the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels. "Gird your loins and light your lamps" (v 35), he advises, "for at an hour you do not expect, / the Son of Man will come" (v 40). Today we know that the early church's expectation was misguided, for we are still waiting for Jesus' return. But we too are called to live vigilant lives in anticipation of his return. There is much to be done in the divine household. As members of Christ's body, we have been "entrusted with much" and "much will be required" (v 48).

**For reflection:** How can I strengthen my faith in God? How can I make the world ready to welcome the return of the Messiah?

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday, August 15

Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10

Ps 44:10-12, 16 R. v.10

1 Cor 15:20-26

Lk 1:39-56

The feast of Assumption is rooted in a nonbiblical tradition (spoken of in some nonbiblical texts) dating from the earliest centuries of Christianity. The doctrine, as defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, states that Mary "was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory" (*Lumen Gentium*, 59; see also *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 966). This event is "an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians," as the catechism says. In other words, today's feast commemorates Mary's assumption and reminds us of the promise of resurrection God makes to each of us.

In the Book of Revelation, the seer John has a vision of the heavenly temple and "a woman clothed with the sun" (12:1). This woman gives "birth to a son ... / destined to rule all the nations" (v 5). Early Christian theologians applied this image to Mary, and she is often depicted this way in artwork, standing on the moon and wearing "a crown of twelve stars" (v 1).

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, tells them, "Christ has been raised from the dead" (v 20). But this is not, he tells us, a unique event; Christ is "the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Death came through Adam, he writes, but all of us will "be brought to life" (v 22) in Christ. The Corinthians had written to Paul concerning the fate of their beloved dead, and he reassures them that "those who belong to Christ" (v 23) will one day share in the resurrection.

Mary's hymn of praise, the Magnificat, glorifies God for having "lifted up the lowly" (v 52). This hymn, painted in the language of Old Testament hymns, announces the good news of the redemption being brought about through the incarnation. As we honour her today, we also thank God for the promise of the resurrection given to us in Christ.

**For reflection:** How does Mary's example of discipleship inspire me to live out my faith in the resurrection?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



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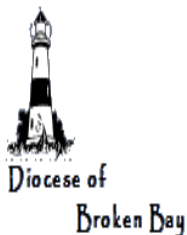
Today's Gospel urges us to give generously and thus build up treasure in heaven. For "wherever your treasure lies, there your heart will be."

SEE LUKE 12:34

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# Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



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

## St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

**Parish Office** *Ethel Cox Parish Centre*  
**PO Box 264** *Walter Baker Hall*  
**54 Victoria Road** *100 Blackwall Rd*  
**WOY WOY NSW 2256** *Woy Woy*

**Phone:** (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214  
**Email:** parish@woywoycatholic.org.au  
**Website:** www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Jack Robson.

**Assistant Priests:** Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.  
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

**Office Staff:** Helen Cameron,  
Raelene Spithill and Margaret Cooper.

### Office Hours:

9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

### Deadline for The Voice:

3.30pm Wednesday.

(Continued from page 1)

We've conquered outer space; not inner space, we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice. We have higher incomes, but lower morale; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men (sic), and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic violence; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes. It is a time when there is so much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom.'

We all know the world is not quite so neat, not so either/or, but these words focus the question well enough: what are the essentials of our life, or as Jesus puts it, what is our treasure and where is our heart?

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## 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, 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am 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 9.30am.

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

**PARISH CHOIR** — Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm.

Enquiries: 4341 3367.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

**CATHOLICCARE** Marriage & Family Relationships.

Phone: 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.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with Volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference. Please ring Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

**CASH HOUSE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

