



# The Voice

9th August 2015

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 3



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Joy Coleman, Elsie Hare, Frank Bayada, Marie Doyle, Anwar Doumit, Jim Weston, Samantha Baines, Shane Darby, Alan Dalgleish, Toby McLeish.

• **Anniversaries:**

Teresa Lee Min-Yong, Edna Tighe, Irma Carberry, Noel Palmer, Thomas Fell, Carlos Bardquillo.

• **Remembrances:**

All Souls in Purgatory, Mary Gatt, Mary & Maurice Mathew.

• **And the sick:**

Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, June Ferry, Patricia Welsh, Kate Tinson, Janelle Darson, Pat Bombell, Kevin Houghton, Beryl Allen, Wanda Grima, Tony O'Neill, Lola Proctor, Rene Glaze, Jack Moulds, Sara Selim, Alan Harland, Fr. Brian Rowland, Carol Cross, Fr. Bill Meacham, Mark Taylor, Irene Beck, Saxon Hall, Arnold Diorio, Bruce Spence, Mary Dolan, Roy Beveridge, Grace Williams, Patricia Toohey, Audrey Winsbury, Tony O'Neill, Marsha Burzynski, James Leary, Elaine Finlayson, Peter Harrison, Rita and John Webb, Len Lloyd.

Around the world there are women's shelters run by the St Vincent de Paul Society called 'Manna House'. It's an inspired name for such an important work. Women and their children, in the midst of fear, and having suffered terrible abuse, are welcomed into a safe-haven where they can be loved and looked after. It's a temporary respite where broken families can piece their lives back together and be revived for the journey ahead.

What happens at 'Manna Houses' for women at risk happens for each of us when we come to the Eucharist. We receive manna from heaven. It's our stop on the journey of faith so that we can go out spiritually revived to be the face of Christ in the world. Sometimes we need this 'manna come down from heaven' when we are spiritually most at-risk.

I love the fact that as Catholics we believe that Christ is present in ordinary gifts of bread and wine blessed and offered at the Eucharist. We don't just believe that Christ is present in sunrises, sunsets and in natural beauty, we also believe that God comes to us in a special and unique way in the simple, ordinary things of life. And it is in what we do with these gifts of bread and wine that Christ is really present. The earliest Christians called the Eucharist 'the breaking of the bread'. It is the broken bread and the poured cup given into our hands to which we say 'Amen' and so affirm our belief that Christ is present here.

We often need to be reassured of Christ's presence when we are in the desert periods of our own life. We can feel we

are wandering around in the wilderness looking for some sign of God's life. For all of us who are broken in mind, body or spirit, or who are pouring ourselves out in love for other people, communion is precisely the time Jesus meets us where we are. Is it any wonder that the Eucharist means so much to us? May we never feel as though we are not good enough to be here, for Jesus has invited us to his table where we are loved and cared for.

As important as the Eucharist is, however, it is not 'ours', in the sense that we can selfishly hold on to the gifts we receive here. We are given Christ in Word and Sacrament, so we can become Christ.

In a sense Jesus says the same thing in today's Gospel when he talks about how the Father draws people to faith.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that faith is only an intellectual exercise. As important as good thinking and the power of strong arguments might be, the truth of faith is best demonstrated on an emotional and intuitive level when others see the power of God's saving love active in the way we live our lives. This is what really captures people's attention, and draws them to ask what gives our lives this quality, direction, purpose and meaning.

So may this respite from the journey of faith dispel our fears, revive us for the task ahead and enable us to live as though the only Bible others will read will be our lives, and the only Sacraments that will captivate them and draw them to Christ will be our justice and joy. © Richard Leonard SJ.

## Psalm Response



## Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Music and Children's Faith Development	3
Directory	4

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. *Alleluia!*



# Music and Children's Faith Development

Cecelia P. Regan

## Music transforms

Gabe Huck and Gerald Chincar tell us in their book *Liturgy with Style and Grace* (Liturgy Training Publications, 1998) that "more than any other means of human expression, music can convey any human emotion, conviction, humour, remembrance. Music is universal, an important part of every life" (24). Parents communicate with their babies through the music of nursery rhymes and lullabies. Children interact with adults and learn about their world through song. Remember learning your ABCs? What songs transport you back to high school? It is interesting that Alzheimer's patients often remember the songs of their early years better than anything else.

Music touches us on a deeper level. Putting music into the context of faith helps children and adults experience the presence of God in their lives, nurture their interior selves, and experience transcendence. Children are naturally graced with rich imaginations and unrestrained creativity and energy. Stories and songs help form us as the community of God.

## Children learn through their senses

Children learn about what we are celebrating primarily through their senses, bringing this sensory experience to their developing cognitive understanding. Young children, especially, feel their way through liturgical feasts and seasons. The colours in the church, the joyfulness of the music, the candlelight, the processions, the silence — all of these experiences speak to children and form a connection with God even before it can be explained to them.

For example, during Advent, our parish prepared for Jesus' birth with a prayer service celebrated with our religious education children. I taught the children to sing three hymns: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Magnificat," and "Soon and Very Soon." Our Advent theme was "Come, Lord Jesus," with Mary as our model for waiting and trusting in God. Because "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is a very calm, almost melancholy hymn, I explained that we would sing

it as our gathering hymn to prepare us for prayer and put us in the presence of God. We read the story of the annunciation and interspersed petitions and prayers with the hymns we learned. We sang the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise, as our Gospel response. "Soon and Very Soon" closed our prayer service. Once the children sang this spiritual, I did not need to explain the joy it expresses in anticipation of the Saviour.

I could see in the bright faces of the children that they had gained a new understanding of Advent. Through the hymns we sang, they internalised that it was as hard for Mary to wait as it was for them. "Soon and Very Soon" allowed their jubilant enthusiasm to spill over. The birth of Christ should call us all to rejoice with heart, soul, mind, and voice!

## Select singable music for children

Music must always be within the capabilities of the children you are teaching. Ask yourself the following questions before you teach a new hymn to children:

- Is the melody comfortable to sing and easy to remember? For children, a hymn's pitch should never be too high or too low. Avoid melodic extremes because children's voices are not fully developed in the lower and higher ranges. The rhythm should be catchy and clear. Upbeat hymns are easier for children to learn because they get physically involved with the music. When a hymn is slower and more sustained, you will need to explain that singing this kind of hymn takes more energy and concentration.
- Does the text help the children understand what you are trying to communicate about the faith? The music itself should communicate a deeper meaning to the children that may touch their spirit. Using gestures with music helps young children focus and engage more of themselves in prayer.
- Have you chosen music that fits the liturgy and the season you are celebrating?

(Continued on page 4)




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The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah — food, water, rest, and encouragement — were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

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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](mailto: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, Raelene Spithill, Margaret Cooper.

*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. Ph: 4341 0884 . Fax 0243 445 049.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** For information and events contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

**CATHOLICCARE** Marriage & Family Relationships. Ph: 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. and McMasters Rd. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.20 p.m. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Louise 0427 690 626.

## Music and Children's Faith Development

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(Continued from page 3)

Good liturgical judgment is very important because appropriate music helps children live the cycle of our church year: we do not sing Alleluias during Lent; we sing "Come, Lord Jesus" during Advent; we sing hymns about water and the Spirit during the Easter season.

- How well do you know your parishioners? Always evaluate music for children by using broad pastoral judgment – that is, choosing what is best for the whole parish. Children performing cute songs for the assembly might be entertaining, but it ignores the dignity of prayer and the faith life of your entire community, of which the children are a part.

Through music, children participate in our worshipping community, and their participation positively transforms the spiritual life of the entire parish. Through music, children better understand the love of Jesus and God's presence in their lives – and so do we. **ML**

Cecelia P. Regan is the executive director of the department of formation and leadership and the diocesan director of the Office for Catechesis in the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J. Previously, she was the director of religious education at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Old Bridge, N.J., where she ministered for 20 years. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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Diocese of  
Broken Bay