



The Voice

10th August, 2014

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 3

ORDINARY
time

Persecuted Christians

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Edward Cardinal Clancy,
Ken Dunne, Nida Altez,
Stella Joan Gordon.
- **Anniversaries:**
Emily Rudd.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary Dolores Gatt,
Joseph Stanisha,
Molly and Jack Dunne.
- **Sick:**
Sr. Leo Taylor,
Mary Harrison, Therese
Payne, Vince Ashley, Fr. Bill
Meacham, Beryl Allen, Silvana
Anzalone, Therese Payne,
Grace Williams, Wanda
Grima, Grace McNeaney,
Irene Beck, Cissy Tuilekutu,
Ann Lawler, Nola Garnett.

The recent disturbances in the Middle East have led to renewed persecution of Christians.

It is very worrying that the general attitude of the Australian public is so apathetic.

True, there have been other tragedies at the same time, occupying the headlines and the column inches: e.g., the renewed conflict between Israel and Gaza, and the downing of the Malaysian Airlines plane over the disputed part of Ukraine.

Nonetheless, what is happening in Syria and Iraq represents one of the most savage attacks on Christianity in recent history.

We need to remember that the Middle East is the birthplace of Christianity. The writings of the Syriac Fathers of the Church have a rightful place with those of the Greek and Latin Fathers.

The pressure against Christians has been mounting in recent years. It has always been thus: in principle, Islam tolerates Judaism and Christianity, but outbreaks of fanaticism lead to persecution.

Islam is regarded by moderate Moslems as having superseded Christianity, but it can be tolerated if Christians pay a special tax applicable to them and Jews.

Fanatical Moslems, on the other hand (such as those at present fighting to restore the "Caliphate"), see the supersession as demanding religious cleansing.

As recently as late June this year, there were still 35,000 Christians still living in Mosul, Iraq's second city. Now there are none. Monks and nuns have been rounded up and expelled from their monasteries. On 18th July, Christians were warned on loudspeakers that they were either to convert to Islam, or be killed. As a result, all the Christians have fled.

For the first time in 1,600 years, the Mass is no longer celebrated in Mosul. There were, until recently, communities in that part of the world which at Mass still used Aramaic, the language used by Our Lord himself. Not only have people been killed, but an entire culture and civilisation has been destroyed. A link with the past has been destroyed that can never be replaced.

Homes belonging to Christians have been marked in red paint with the Arabic form of the letter "N", which stands for Nazarene (or Christian). Churches and cathedrals have been turned into mosques.

What will happen if these Christians seek refuge in Australia?

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Lord, show us your mer-cy and love and grant us your sal-va-tion.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

Around the Parish

Feast of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday, 15th August. *This is a Holy Day of Obligation.* Masses are: Vigil Mass Thursday 14th 7.30pm, Friday 7.45am Mass and 10am (School Mass).

Parish Mission 2014 is our opportunity to respond wholeheartedly to proclaim God in our lives and accept the abundant gifts of God's personal love. Join the Mission, September, 18, 19, 21, 22—and grow in the love of Christ.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Mia-Rose Corcoran, Leila Dunne, Eve Hayes, Caterina Hodges, baptized last Sunday.

Bus Trip to Morpeth Wednesday 13th August. Leaving 9am. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Tax Receipts for CWF and Project Compassion are available for your collection in the gathering area.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 15/8/14: Don Anderson, Warren Sparrow, Judy French, Christina Thorsen.

Children's Liturgy Roster 17/8/14: Marianne Bowyer (L) Kylie Spicer (L) Rebecca Lalor (H).

Josephites Associates meeting Wednesday, 13th August 10am Leo Mahon room. New members welcome! Ph: Betty 4341 8849.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal: Collection at all Masses next weekend 16/17 August.

Fund Raising Concert for Mary Mac's: This Monday 11th August at 2pm 'The Frantastics Community Choir' will be performing in the Walter Baker Hall to raise funds for Mary Mac's Place. Entry \$2 and afternoon tea provided. A raffle will be run to raise additional funds. Further information contact Lyn Dwyer on 4341 3367.

Prayers for Peace Tuesday 12th August, 1.15pm – 2.15pm, Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday 14th August, 11am, Leo Mahon room.

Social Justice

Signs of the Time: Like many of the Church and the wider community, we are finding Pope Francis' approach to life, hopeful. His exhortation, "Evangelii Gaudium" (The Joy of the Gospel) is a clear vision for life founded on a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. This enables us to reach out with a joy-filled spirit to cooperate with God in creating a more just and peaceful world.

This request is for Christians to adopt enthusiasm and vitality in spreading the Good News of Jesus for justice and peace "in every activity which you undertake."

Pope Francis exhorts all communities to an "ever watchful scrutiny of the signs of the times." He goes on to say, "This is in fact a grave responsibility, since certain present realities, unless effectively dealt with, are capable of setting off

processes of dehumanisation which would then be hard to reverse." #51 He criticises economic growth and the free market which he says has led to "a globalisation of indifference". #54 He identifies the current socio-economic system to be unjust at its root, causing exclusion and conflict. #59.

Centre for Peace, Ecology and Justice.

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant—Parish Secretary, Pennant Hills Parish: The parish secretary provides support to the Parish Priest and parish ministries and oversees the parish office administration. Contact Pauline Finch for information package on 9847 0444 or pauline.finch@dbb.org.au Applications close Tuesday, 12th August.

Support for the Vocation of Marriage: - Worldwide Marriage Encounter Day of Growth: A relationship enrichment seminar based on the book *Men are like Waffles, Women are like Spaghetti*. Sunday 24th August, 11.30am-4.00pm. The Entrance Parish, 241 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. Flyers are available on table in the gathering area for more details.

Christian Meditation introduction and Renewal Day at St. Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd. Arcadia. Phone 9653 1159. Sunday, 17th August. 10am for 10.30am. Presentations, Introduction to Christian Meditation, two peri-

ods of meditation, Eucharistic Celebration and information exchange. Conclusion 3pm. Enq: Ann Bergman 9498 2625. anniebergman@hotmail.com

'Living with a Victorious Mentality' Joshua Strength & Courage: St. Patrick's Parish will host the Catholic School of Evangelisation for this weekend course at 76 York Street, East Gosford on August 16th & 17th, as follows:
Saturday: Commencing with 9am Mass, and then to the Library at St. Patrick's School until 5.30pm.
Sunday: 9am to 4.30pm at the Library, with Mass 3pm in the Church. By donation only.

Proclaim 2014—Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parishes: 21-23 August. The Concourse, Chatswood. Keynote Speakers—Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran. Proclaim 2014 is about helping Catholics respond to the call to engage in the new evangelization. It is about helping to build parishes as faith communities, full of disciples and missionary in outlook. Pope Francis,

in *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG) "parishes play an essential role in evangelization" (n28). Full details on brochures available on table in gathering area.

The Art of Deep Listening: How can I attune myself to receive more fully the Word of God is speaking in my life? How can I begin to let go the clutter that diminishes my listening? Where will a fuller response to what I hear lead? The day will provide input and practices towards the development of deeper listening in our daily lives. Space for contemplative listening will be part of the experience. This day is jointly hosted by the Mount Saint Benedict Centre and Parish Support Unit of the Diocese. Morning tea provided. BYO lunch. Saturday, 23rd August, 9.30am-3.30pm. Mt. St. Benedict Centre, 449D Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. (Entrance via Hull Rd) RSVP: By Monday, 18th August. Ph: 9484 6208 or mtstbenedict@bigpomd.com



Announcements at the Liturgy

David Fedor

I recently went to a neighbouring Catholic church for the Saturday evening liturgy. The liturgical team carried out its various ministries with a level of competence and attention to what they were called to do. The priest was prayerful and his homily was "on topic." I felt drawn into the celebration; it was prayer. After communion, the final prayer was said, and we were asked to be seated for the announcements. The priest picked up a copy of the Sunday bulletin and began to read it. He called attention to just about every entry and made comments along the way. When he finished, the priest asked a member of the "X" group to come up and talk about their latest project. By the time this presentation was finished, the announcements took nearly 15 minutes, which was longer than the homily. After two more brief "before I forget" comments, the assembly stood, the priest greeted them, blessed them, and the deacon dismissed them.

Sound familiar? I am sure that we can all tell of occasions when the announcements took on a life of their own. In some parishes, lengthy announcements have become a regular part of the liturgy. But this "captive audience" approach will not accomplish what it sets out to do: expecting the announcements to be long, many people will tune out most of what they hear or, worse, head for the exit after communion.

Informing the assembly about the important events of parish life is a good and necessary thing. The rub comes when this or that parish organisation is convinced that its work and meetings are always a priority and must be announced during liturgy. Other groups experience hurt feelings and anger when their submitted announcements are omitted: "Why did you mention project A and meeting B but say nothing about *our* event?"

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* says very little about announcements, but what it does say is clear and to the point: "Once the Prayer after Communion has been said, the Deacon makes brief announcements to the people, if indeed any need to be made, unless the Priest prefers to do this himself" (184). The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Introduction to the Order of Mass* (2003) elaborates:

The pastoral announcements at the end [of Mass] may help the people make the transition

from worship into renewed Christian witness in society. They should help the people become aware of the faith life and pastoral activity of the community and invite participation in the ongoing work of the Church.

- Ordinarily announcements, when required, should be brief enough for the assembly to remain standing.
- In order to respect the dignity of the ambo as the place of God's word, announcements are made from some other place.
- Announcements may be made by the deacon, by the priest if he prefers, or by another member of the community. (143, emphasis added)

If your announcements are to accomplish the goals of promoting Christian witness, raising community awareness, and inviting participation, they must be carefully planned. The first thing to ensure is that all important information, schedules, and meetings are listed in the parish bulletin. Once this is being done consistently, any necessary announcements can be brief and point to the bulletin. Occasional Sundays when announcements go beyond a few brief reminders should be the exception rather than the rule. With a little work and discipline, your announcements can be honed to the essentials. Here are some suggestions.

1. The staff should discuss this issue following the spirit of the GIRM's directive and the USCCB's guidelines. Come up with a set of rules for Mass announcements and share them with all the parish groups and ministries. (For examples of what some parishes have done, search the internet for "Mass announcements guidelines".)

2. The weekly bulletin should be complete, edited for errors, and available both in print and online. The bulletin, not the announcements, should be considered the main source of information for the parish.

3. After the above two suggestions are implemented, any announcements made at Mass should do the following:

- Call attention to a last-minute change that came about after the bulletin went to print. For example: "The Youth Group meeting for this week is cancelled. The



Elijah recognised the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.



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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 264 100 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 & Raelene McLenaghan

Parish 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 7.45am, 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 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.

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 St Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd, Ettalong (opposite Palm Beach Ferry Wharf). Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.15 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries 43690626.

Announcements at Mass

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

regular meeting will resume next week."

· *Point out an important variation from the regular schedule:* "Lent begins this week. You will find a complete listing of Masses and services for Ash Wednesday in the bulletin."

· *Announce a major event:* "Our parish is embarking on a Thanksgiving clothing drive for the first time. This important ministry is a way to respond to those who are in need. The bulletin contains complete details about this important ministry, how you can help, and whom to contact."

· *Remind the assembly to read the bulletin:* "Our parish is very active and the bulletin contains much information about what is going and how you can get involved. Please take one home with you."

These are but a few examples of items to mention during the announcements. If a parish and its various ministries and organisations have gotten accustomed to long announcements on a regular basis, it may take some time for everybody to get on board with fewer, shorter items. But with clear and fair guidelines, the "brief announcements" may begin to accomplish their intended goals – and truly become brief. ML

David Fedor was awarded the M. Div. degree from St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., and received musical training at the Eastman School of Music. He holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. He was the director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and currently is the director of music for St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay