

# THE VOICE



## LENT

*The Passion of the Lord (Palm Sunday)*  
*Yr A - 9th April '17*  
*Psalter Week 2*

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Peter Levick, Cecilia Borowski, John Marshall.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Frank Savage, Mary Gatt, Thomas and Aileen Carr, Natalie Juricic, Bob Scholte, Geertruida Voormeulen.
- **Remembrances:**  
Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Gwen Patricia McCarthy, Peter John Grima, Anna Juricic.
- **And the sick:**  
Alan Ford, Kevin Houghton, John Allen, Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsendich, Maureen Cows, Kath Hardy, Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen, Colleen Giles, John Purser, Grace Willins, Lola de Souza, Pat Burgmann, Mary Scarf, Gwen Strickson, Jorge Villasanti, Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez, Anne Singleton, Cathrine Spratt.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Today is the only Sunday we hear two Gospels proclaimed.

One is of the *entry* of Jesus into Jerusalem. The other is of the *expulsion* of Jesus from Jerusalem.

The *entry* is accompanied by shouts of praise: 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

The *expulsion* is accompanied by the baying for blood: 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

We are all familiar with the story. Many in Jerusalem had been hoping for a Messianic Liberator in the great warrior tradition of King David. Surely he would enter Jerusalem on a magnificent warhorse, signalling the start of the overthrow of Roman rule?

But, what did they get? A lowly figure riding on a donkey.

Nevertheless, the disciples and the crowd applauded him, laying palms on the road before him, singing out 'Hosanna in the highest'.

'Hosanna' means 'Save us'. Our Lord wanted to save them, of course: to save them from their impulse to destroy others which would eventually end up destroying themselves.

However, this Jesus on a donkey wanted to bring peace on earth, as the angels had sung at his birth. For him, this had to be achieved by non-violent means.

But the supporters and opponents of Roman rule preferred that a convicted terrorist – Barabbas – be set free. They knew *his* modus operandi. They knew what box to put him in. They had plenty of experience of his type.

But they could not deal with the practitioner of active, revolutionary non-violence. So the inevitable unfolded.

As we know, the disciples harboured an informer – Judas. The disciples themselves found that their courage and bravado crumbled in the face of the temple guards and Roman soldiers.

Jesus was arrested and subjected to various show trials. The crowd proved fickle. Jesus was left exposed to Pontius Pilate who had Jesus *expelled* from the city and apparently from life.

The charismatic Jesus could have organised armed resistance but he

demanded that Peter put his sword back in its scabbard. Why?

I think largely because he knew how the innocent suffer terribly in these conflicts, particularly women. What does he say to the women of Jerusalem as he laboured up the hill of Calvary? Jesus says:

'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and for your children ...'

Jesus saw that it is women who suffer grievously in warfare:

the loss of fathers, husbands, sons and lovers killed on the battlefield;

the sexual abuse of women as an instrument to terrorise the civilian population, or enforced prostitution, sexual slavery. Jesus knew all this and his heart broke: 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and for your children ...'

As they certainly did forty years later when the Romans ruthlessly put down armed rebellion. Jerusalem was laid waste and the Temple destroyed.

No doubt we can admire Jesus for going to martyrdom in this way. But deep in our hearts do we not fear following him in his non-violent resistance to evil. We could be killed, or those we love or should protect could be killed.

This creates a humanly impossible tension for us – the tension between imitating Christ in this regard and following our natural human instinct to deal with an aggressor threatening lethal violence.

A good starting point for reflection is that the Church was profoundly pacifist for its first three hundred years.

Perhaps it is for the Church of the 21st century to rise to the challenge.

Perhaps it is for a Pope who has chosen the name of Francis (of Assisi) to rise to the challenge issued by:

the One who *entered* Jerusalem borne on a donkey,

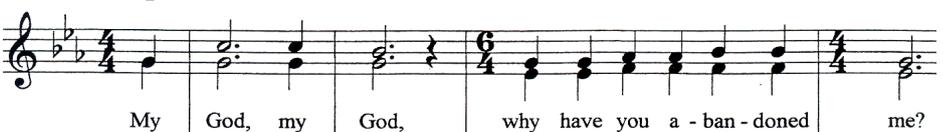
the One *expelled* from Jerusalem bearing a cross,

Jesus of Nazareth  
revolutionary non-violent activist  
Divine Prince of Peace.

© Fr Michael Tate

### Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high, and gave him a name above all other names. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*



## Around the Parish

**Chrism Mass** will be celebrated Tuesday, 11th April at 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The Parish bus will leave 5.30pm from the Parish grounds. Those wishing to travel by bus, please phone Parish office 4341 1073 and leave your name.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Wednesday evening, 7.30pm-8.30pm.

**Holy Thursday, Evening of the Lord's Supper 7pm Mass**, Thursday, 13th April. Interested parishioners wishing to participate in the Washing of the Feet are asked to phone the Parish Office. It is a long standing Catholic custom to watch before the Blessed Sacrament for a few hours after Mass. The period of adoration will end at 10pm with Night Prayer (Compline)

**Easter Sunday Ecumenical Service:** Join Fr. Timothy at Umina Beach Surf Club at 6am. All welcome.

**Easter Offering Envelopes** are in the church for your convenience.

**Good Friday Envelopes** donating to support the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing financial assistance to schools, medical centres, parishes and orphanages, welfare projects and poor Christians and it helps to preserve the sacred shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

**Bus Transport Holy Thursday:** If anyone is requiring the bus for Holy Thursday Mass they MUST contact the Parish office before 3pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 12/4/17:** (Wednesday before Easter) Michael French, Christine French, Cheryl Sillick, Emma Baker.

**Second Bus Trip to Morpeth:** Thursday, 20th April, leaving at 9am. Contact Susie Casey on 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.

**Parish Office** will be closed Tuesday, 18th and Thursday, 20th April.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Prayers. Sunday 23rd April, Woy Woy Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

**Holy Thursday 7pm Mass** is the best day to bring in your Project Compassion box or envelopes to the Church. . Alternatively, bring your contribution to one of the Easter Masses.

**Coffee, Cake & Chat** will be going to Pelican's Restaurant for lunch on Easter Monday, for further information feel free to call Bernard on 4341 4363.

### Bingo Marathon

100 Games, \$100, \$150, \$180 Prizes and a chance of winning \$2,000 jackpot (game 50 reverts to \$1,000 if not won in certain calls, game 100 unlimited). Easter Saturday 15th April. \$48 for 6 tickets in 50 games (\$96 for 100 games). 2.30pm-10.30pm at Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Free catering during half time break 5.30pm. Free Tea and coffee all day.

Operated by Woy Woy Catholic Parish Housie. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818 or [wwwcphousie@hotmail.com](mailto:wwwcphousie@hotmail.com) Facebook/Woy Woy Bingo. Prizes subject to ticket sales.

## Social Justice

### Pope Francis issues plea for nonviolence:

Pope Francis notes that in today's world, unlike last century, which was racked by two world wars and the so-called cold war, we now face a "world war fought piecemeal" in which violence is manifested by "wars in different countries and continents; terrorism, organised crime and unforeseen acts of violence; the abuses suffered by migrants and victims of human trafficking; and the devastation of the environment".

"Where does this lead? Can violence achieve any goal of lasting value? Or does it merely lead to retaliation and a cycle of deadly conflicts that benefit only a few warlords?"

Violence, the Pope insists, "is not the cure for our broken world".

Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering, because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from everyday needs of young people, families experiencing

The everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all."

Against this culture of violence, fostered by many governments, radical groups and criminals, Pope Francis cites the life and preaching of Jesus as the model for the path of nonviolence: his bidding to love our enemies and turn the other cheek; his intervention when the crowd sought to stone the woman caught in adultery; his command to Peter in Gethsemane to put away his sword.

"To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence," the Pope says.

Nonviolence, however, is not equivalent to "surrender, lack of involvement and passivity". Pope Francis offers us inspiring examples, starting with St. Teresa of Calcutta, who "...made

her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognise their guilt for their crimes – the crimes! - of poverty they created".

He recalls the household names of heroic nonviolence including Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, as well as less well-known figures such as Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, another hero in the struggle for Indian liberation, and Leymah Gbowee, who led thousands of women in prayer and non-violent protest to bring about an end to the second civil war in Liberia.

"Such efforts on behalf of the victims of injustice and violence are not the legacy of the Catholic Church alone, but are typical of many religious traditions, for which 'compassion and nonviolence are essential elements pointing to they way of life,'" the Pope says.

"The name of God cannot be used to justify violence. Peace alone is holy."

*The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**St. Peter's Catholic College** Enrolment Closing for Year 7 applications on 5th May for your child to start Year 7 in 2018. We

look forward to meeting your family and welcoming you to St. Peter's community.

St. Peter's Catholic College, 84

Gavenlock Rd., Tuggerah. Phone 4351 2344.

[www.stpetersdbb.catholic/edu.au](http://www.stpetersdbb.catholic/edu.au)

## Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSS

As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself *for* us and then continues to offer himself *to* us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.

The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.



St. John the Baptist School and Parish

# Dinner Dance

29TH APR @ THE SCHOOL HALL

*the fun starts at 7pm*

**\$45 ticket includes**  
a live band featuring music of the 60's - 90's;  
nibbles & bubbly on arrival, spit roast buffet & dessert.

*dress: cocktail. BYO drinks.*

## Holy Week & Easter Mass Times

**Holy Thursday (13 April) 7:00 p.m.** Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday (14 April) 10:30 a.m.** Stations of the Cross (at SJB Primary School,  
21a Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy)

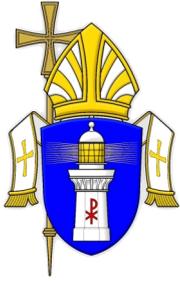
**3:00 p.m.** The Lord's Passion

**Easter Vigil (15 April) 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday (16 April) 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**

**Easter Monday (17 April) 9:00 a.m.**

# 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,

Cnr 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  
**Website:** www.woywoycatholic.org.au

**"He must increase, I must decrease"**

**Administrator:** Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.  
**Office Staff:** Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.  
**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 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).  
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).

**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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

## CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.  
Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

**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.

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

## DEAR GOD,

I humbly come before you today in appreciation for all that you have done for me. Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice so that I may be reconciled to God and set free from the bondage of sin. Thank you for enduring so much suffering on my behalf. I pray that I will have the same kind of strength to endure life for your sake, in your name I pray **AMEN!**

With our prayers and kindest wishes for a happy and holy Easter, filled with love. From...The Catechists.

