



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

25th March 2018

Passion (Palm) Sunday, Year B

Psalter Week 2

In the third verse of the rousing hymn,
How Great Thou Art, we sing,

he bled and died to take away my sin.' This verse enshrines a long-held tradition that Jesus died as a necessary atonement to God for our sins. From this perspective Jesus' suffering and death was the price of the ransom paid to evil so that we might share in God's life. Alternatively, the death of Jesus is seen as the only thing that satisfied God's anger at our sins, and caused God to love us again.

We should be very careful about what we sing! On the one hand this theology rightly shows us the extraordinary love Jesus has for us. On the other hand it says some very difficult things about God. What loving creator, for example, would say that the torture and death of his beloved son is the only way he can be happy about his creatures? What just judge, no matter how angry he or she might be at the crimes laid out in the courtroom, would allow an innocent man to die for the guilty? And how powerful is God over evil if the only way to keep it in check is through human sacrifice? These are serious questions and they have an impact on our everyday life of faith, and can sometimes alienate us from believing that God is our all-loving Father in heaven.

Today, we rightly hear a lot about victims – people, who through no choice or fault of their own, have been dealt with wrongly by others who are free to act otherwise and who know better. In some of the ways we think about the passion, Jesus becomes God's victim. Through no fault of his own, and seemingly powerless in the face of his Father's will, Jesus becomes a victim of God's need for a sacrifice, a ransom or atonement.

As a result, many of us can feel that sometimes we are God's victims too, because if God wanted Jesus to suffer and die, why should we be surprised or complain when we receive large crosses to carry as well?

Mark's account of the passion tends to reinforce Jesus as victim. Mark has Jesus eating with the outcasts, his friends betraying, denying or deserting him. He tells us that Jesus is terrified at the prospect of death and calls on his 'Abba' or 'daddy' to help him out. In the end he accepts 'the will of God' but even then feels abandoned by God on the Cross.

I often think we misread what Jesus is referring to when he accepts God's will in the Garden. Rather than refer to the particular will of the Father to see Jesus suffer and die on Good Friday, I think it's more helpful and consoling to understand it as referring to God's will that Jesus remains faithful to the way he lived. If by doing that Jesus threatened the religious and political authorities of his day so much that they have to murder him, then his death is the ultimate sacrifice which reveals how far God was prepared to go in love for us. This reveals to us that Jesus came 'to live', and that by faithfully living this life he was put to death by the powers of sin. Through the cross we see the price to be paid in confronting sin in our day and obediently living out the demands of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

This Holy Week let's celebrate that God spared nothing in showing us how to live. As we commemorate Jesus' life, death and resurrection may we move from being victims of a bloodthirsty God to choosing again to follow Jesus' example and live lives which are faithful, loving and obedient. May we also appreciate that this life continues to, literally, threaten 'the hell out of' those opposed to the reign of God in our world, but that as Jesus was faithful to God and God to Jesus, so they will remain faithful to us as well, no matter what.

Richard Leonard SJ

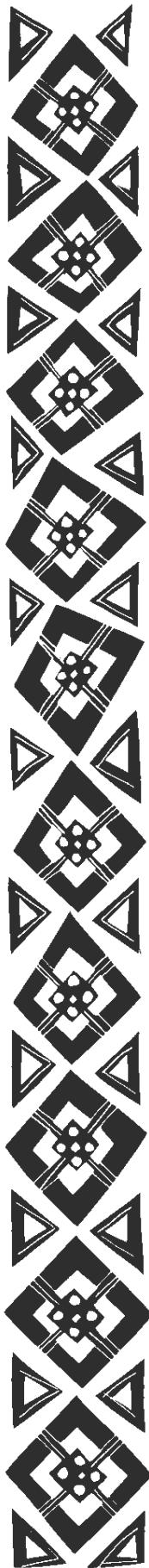
Psalm Response

A musical score for a hymn. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from common time (4/4) to 6/8, then back to 4/4. The melody consists of eighth-note chords. The lyrics are: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

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 7.30pm Tuesday, 27th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral. The parish bus will be available. Please call the Parish office on 4341 1073 to book a seat.

Thursday Evening of the Lord's Supper 7pm Mass, Thursday 29th March. It is a long standing custom to watch before the Blessed Sacrament for a few hours after Mass. The period of adoration will end at 10 pm. This is the best day to bring in your Project Compassion box or envelopes to the Church. Alternatively bring in your contribution to one of the Easter Masses.

Junior & Senior Servers Rosters for Holy week are available in the Server's Sacristy for collection.

Parish Courtesy Bus (PCB)

The PCB is available for driving parishioners to and from services during Holy week: Holy Thursday for 7pm; Easter Vigil, 7pm and Easter Sunday 7.30am & 9.15am. To arrange a seat on the bus all parishioners who wish to use the service are requested to leave their details at the Parish Office (4341-1073) not later than Tuesday of Holy Week, 3:30PM.

Easter Sunday Ecumenical Dawn Service: Join Fr. Timothy at Umina Beach Surf Club at 6.00am. All welcome!

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Poppy Dewar and Frankie Legge who were baptised last Sunday.

Good Friday Envelopes: Donations will help 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.

Easter Offering Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

Lectio Divina & Bible Study Group Monday 26 March, 2.30pm-4pm, Leo Mahon Room.

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayers 2.30pm-3.30pm, Sunday 8 April, Woy Woy church.

The Just Word

Youth put passion into Compassion:

Young people are a vital part of the solution to the challenges facing our communities and Caritas Australia has welcomed the thousands of students, and all generations in Australia, taking action for our global neighbours during this year's Project Compassion appeal. This year the focus of Project Compassion is on youth and their communities globally, providing them with a "Just Future".

Each year Project C humanitarian fundraising and awareness-raising campaigns – runs through six weeks of Lent, bringing together communities across Australia in solidarity with the world's poor, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

According to the United Nations, about 250 million children now live in conflict zones worldwide. Caritas Australia believes the contribution of young people is integral to building sustainable peace.

"Youth are the future and offer us hope for a better tomorrow. Engaging them and investing in the millions of young people who live in fragile contexts has never been more important," said Caritas Australia's head of engagement and sustainability, David Armstrong.

Mr. Armstrong said young people are often the game changers in fragile contexts around the world, as highlighted in the stories featured in this year's Project Compassion campaign, from Nepal, Cambodia, Jordan, Mozambique and the Philippines, as well as Australia.

An example of the work of

Caritas is Bayan, who grew up in Syria's capital, Damascus, and struggled to overcome the trauma of living in a conflict zone, facing the prospect of missing out on schooling.

Now Bayan is an academic high achiever, flourishing in a stable school environment, thanks to support from Caritas Australia and partners Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services.

Money raised during Project Compassion goes towards Caritas Australia's humanitarian and long-term development programs in 27 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and with Australia's First Peoples.

From the Diocese and beyond

Spirituality in the Pub: Tuesday, 3rd April, 7.30pm-9pm. The Grange Hotel Function Room. Cnr. Renwick St. and Pacific Highway, Wyoming. Bistro opens 5.30pm.

Theme 2018: "My Spirituality: Then and Now". Details of speakers see notice board.

Parishioner looking for accommodation. Single male, non-smoker, requiring cabin or flat under \$200 a week. Call Ruth 0400 434 489

**Holy Thursday, March 29:
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 115:12-13, 15-18
1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15

The first Passover was the beginning of a new relationship between Israel and the Lord. The lamb that was sacrificed led to their deliverance from slavery and protection from the angel of death. It was a saving moment to be commemorated through all generations.

Paul sees Christ as the new paschal lamb. Jesus' blood, shed for us, has freed us from slavery to sin and saved us from eternal death. Writing to the Corinthians approximately 20 years after the Last Supper, he gives us the first written remembrance of Jesus' actions and tells us that in following Jesus' example we have a share in Christ's body and blood and so also a share in his life.

John's Last Supper scene is unique in remembering Jesus' example of washing his disciples' feet. This act of humble service, normally performed by a household slave, serves as an example of what Jesus calls us to do for each other. It anticipates his self-giving on the cross for the sake of his followers.

For Reflection: How has God intervened in my life to save me from harm? Having been marked with the blood of the lamb, how should I live the new life won for me through Christ's suffering and death?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J.

**Good Friday, March 30:
Celebration of the Lord's Passion**

Is 52:13 – 53:12
Ps 30:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Jn 18:1 – 19:42

Isaiah's Suffering Servant, rejected by his own people, was exalted by God. For the early church, this text is a prophecy of Jesus, who was "pierced for our offences" (53:5). Giving "his life as an offering for sin" (v 10) in fulfillment of God's will, Christ wins "pardon for [our] offences" (v 12).

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of Christ as our "great high priest" (4:14), whose suffering in obedience to the will of the Father "became the source of eternal salvation" (5:9) for us.

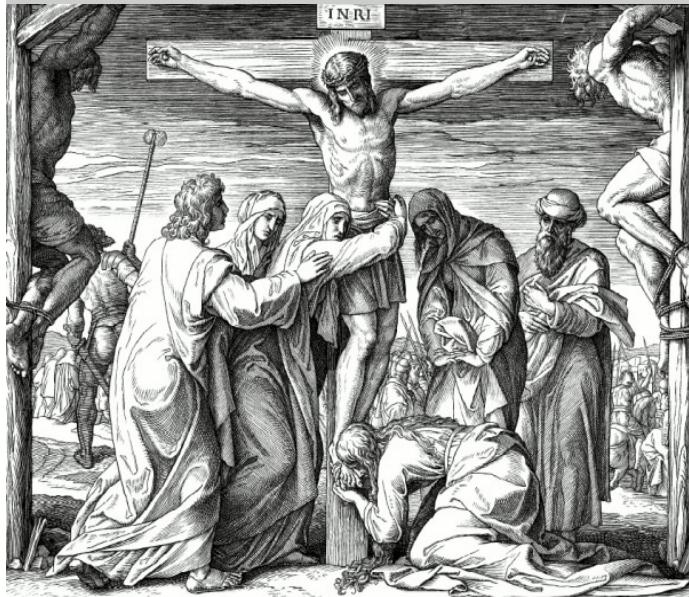
In John's Passion, Jesus identifies himself with God by responding "I am" to the crowd that comes to arrest him. Their response of falling to the ground indicates that Jesus revealed his divine nature by using the name that God used in speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai. Throughout this text, Jesus is in control. He willingly gives himself up in death for us. It reminds us of Jesus' words to Nicodemus earlier in John's Gospel (3:16), "God so loved the world"

For Reflection: In reflecting on Jesus' death, what does it mean when I say that "Christ died for me?" How has my obedience to God's will brought suffering? Joy? Grace for myself or others? ML



Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ — emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

Holy Week



Holy Thursday

7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9:00am - Stations of the Cross - Church

10:00am - Stations of the Cross at

SJB Primary School

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy

12:00pm—Last Seven Words of Jesus

3:00pm - The Lord's Passion

Easter Saturday

8:00am - Devotion to Mother of Sorrows

7:00pm—Easter Vigil

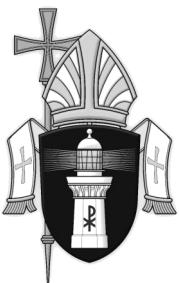
Easter Sunday

7:30am, 9:15am and 6:00pm

Easter Monday

9:00am

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

Out of hours **medical emergency**
0438 631 327.

"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:

Midday Wednesday.

Easter Bingo Marathon 100 Games:

Easter Saturday – 31st March 2018.

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).

\$48 for 6 tickets in 50 games (\$96 for 100 games).

2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. 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 wwcpjhousie@hotmail.com
FACEBOOK/Woy Woy Bingo.

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). Every Thursday 7.30pm–8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm–8.30 pm.

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 Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

CATECHISTS conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

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 Peter 0425 358 376 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.

