



The Voice

13th April 2014

Passion Sunday, Year A

Psalter Week 2

LENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**

Laurence McManus, Marion Georgena Johnston, Joseph Stanisha.

- **Remembrances:**

Alf Johnston, Paz, Constancio and Renato Soriano, Toni Townsend, Sook Bee, Kai Tee, and David Cang Snr., Jissie Geronimo.

- **Anniversaries:**

Susana Alejaga, Pedro Bulual, Pascual Alejaga, Numeriano Senajon, Polqueria Bulual, Mitchell Powell.

- **And the sick:**

Grace Williams, Sara Selim, Lola Proctor, Maureen Wardrop, John O'Connor, Fr. Geoffrey Bugden, Alan Harland, Therese Payne, Hanaa El Khatib, Mary Leger.

Processions and Parish

On Passion Sunday, before the principal Mass, we have the Procession of Palms. (At the other Masses we have what is called the "Solemn Entry", when the palms are blessed with the congregation already in place).

Why the procession today? Why processions at all?

Processions are for disciples. Jesus invites us to take up our cross and follow him; a Christian procession consists of those who take this invitation seriously.

In the early church in Rome, there was a procession before every Sunday and feast-day Mass. The pope, clergy and people would assemble at one church and go in procession to another for the liturgy.

For many centuries, the Procession of Palms was a separate event on Palm Sunday. Pius XII, in his reforms in the 1950s, combined it with the ordinary procession before Sunday Mass.

Because the Passion is read today, those who take part in the procession show that they are willing, with God's grace, to obey the command of Jesus to take up their cross and follow him.

Processions and marches manifest and intensify identity. We see that in military parades, trade union marches, and so on.

If there was only one Mass on Passion Sunday, the visible unity of the parish would be very striking in a procession such as this. Because, like many parishes, we have four Masses, many parishioners are not aware of others who attend different Masses. Those who do take part, however, in a way represent the whole parish; by their walking and singing they proclaim that all of us are willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

There are so many good things going on in this parish; many of us are not aware of them (indeed, one not seldom hears another parish recommended for doing no more than we do); so they need to be occasionally highlighted, not for the sake of bragging, but so that we can all know what is going on here and can, if we choose, get involved.

May I bring one of these to your attention? One of the most important organisations in the Parish is the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) which, with the priests of the Parish, works out policy and its application, coordinates the various activities of the Parish, and fosters dialogue in the community. Would you like to be part of that? The current PPC goes out of office at the end of June. You might be interested in taking part in the procession ahead.

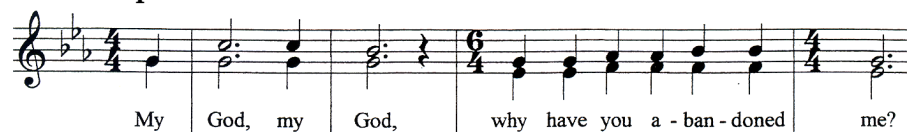
FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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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



Good Friday Collection 2014:

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health; education; employment and housing; Parishes; schools; orphanages and medical centres. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines, associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, natural disasters and the increasing cost of living which puts a strain on family budgets and financial resources. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land again on this Good Friday. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.

Public Holidays—Good Friday and Easter Monday: Parish office will be closed until Tuesday, 22nd April, 9.30am. Morning Mass on Monday 21st will be at 9am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Volunteer Church Cleaning will be on the Wednesday before Easter (16/4/14) and again on the Wednesday after Easter (23/4/14) instead of Fridays. Rostered for 16/4/14 are: Jo Salter, Judy French, Christina Thorson, Maria Wickens.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish extends its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Laurence McManus who was buried from our church last week.

Social Justice

Fair Trade: Fair Trade products are an important tool for ending exploitation of workers across the globe. Buying certified fair trade goods can ensure that the producers are earning a living wage and working in decent conditions. But fair trade products are only a tiny percentage of global markets, and the battle for fair trade doesn't end there.

Australian Fair Trade Investment Network (AFTINET)

The Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network campaigns for fair trade based on human rights, labour rights and environmental sustainability. Governments around the world

Chrism Mass Tuesday, 15th April at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 7.30 pm.

Refreshments will be available from 6–7pm at The Light of Christ Centre and request parishioners to be seated in the church by 7.15pm — this allows for the hour of fast prior to communion (at approx 8.30pm). Note: There will be no refreshments after Mass as previously provided. Parish bus will leave our church at 5.30pm.

Parish Bus Service operating for Lenten and Easter Services, All bookings to be made through the Parish Office 4341 1073 before 2pm this Monday 14th April.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum:

Holy Thursday 17th April, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. 7.30 pm.

Good Friday 18th April, Stations of the Cross at SJB Primary School 10.30am.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm.

Easter Vigil Saturday 6pm.

Easter Sunday 7.30 am, 9.15 am and 6.00pm

Enrolment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School:

An Information Evening will be held for all families considering enrolling at St. John's in 2015. It will be held on Tuesday 29th April, 7.30 pm in the school hall, (21a Dulkara Road, Woy Woy), on Wednesday 30th April, an under 6 year old 'fun morning' and tour of the school will take place from 9.30am–11am. Enquiries: 4341 0884.

Thank You: I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. For the last 2 years, I have been away due to motor vehicle accidents in 2011 and

2012. Thank you all again and God bless!
Trish Stuart.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers. Sunday, 27 April, Sacred Heart Chapel, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Prayerful Congratulations to Felix and Sadah Seady who celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on 7th April.

Support Mary Macs—Fun Festival: A fundraising event will be held on Saturday, 26th April in Walter Baker Hall. Art and Craft Show, Plant Sale, Devonshire Tea, Cake Stall, Entertainment and the launch of Mary Macs Cookies. We need your support to tell family and friends. We are also calling for the donation of cakes for the cake stall on the day. Ph: Christine for details 4341 0584.

100 Game Bingo Marathon, Easter Saturday 19th April. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy. Hall opens at 12.30pm, selling 1.30pm, games 2.30 – 5.30pm, then 7.30-10.30pm.

Free BBQ and catering half time. Cost is 2 times normal Sat. night. Prizes are \$100 and \$150.

Game 50 is \$2,000 in certain number of calls, Game 100 is \$2,000 unlimited. Contact: Rob 0427990 818. wwwcpousie@hotmail.com

Chocolate Paschal Lambs \$8 each available at the Piety Stall.

Easter Offering Envelopes available in the church for those who do not have planned giving envelopes.

Bus Trip to Gosford R.S.L. for lunch and shopping at Spotlight. Enquiries: Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Living Faith Booklets April, May, June available in Piety Stall \$2ea.

environmental standards.

Many FTA's go beyond trade in goods and involve increased rights for foreign investors, and reduced rights for governments to regulate in the public interest. For example, increased intellectual property rights can give global pharmaceutical companies the right to charge higher prices for a longer time, reducing the ability of governments to ensure medicines are affordable for all.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

Scripture Readings

13th April 2014

Bruce Janiga

Tuesday in Holy Week, April 15 Chrism Mass

Is 61:1-3ab, 6a, 8b-9
Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27
Rv 1:5-8
Lk 4:16-21

At the Chrism Mass, the oils to be used during the coming year for the administration of several sacraments are blessed by the bishop. These oils – chrism, the oil of the sick, and the oil of catechumens – will be distributed to all the parishes in the diocese. This serves as a reminder that the local church is composed of many parishes united around their diocesan bishop. We are anointed for service to each other. Gathering together at the diocesan cathedral, ministers representing the various parishes join with their bishop in this annual celebration. The Mass is also an occasion for the renewal of priestly promises led by the bishop. At their ordination, the priests were anointed for service to the church with the same oil we were anointed with at baptism and confirmation: chrism.

In the Gospel for this Mass, Jesus reads a biblical text and then preaches in the synagogue of Nazareth. He reads the chosen text with an awareness that the words of the prophet provide a description of what his own public ministry is to be about. "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing," he says (v 21).

The text Jesus preaches from is the Isaiah prophecy of the first reading. "The Lord has anointed me," the prophet says; he has been sent "to bring good news" (v 1). This anointed one of God is a figure anticipated by Isaiah and longed for by biblical Israel. His good news will bring about a renewal of the people, and they "shall be named priests of the Lord" (v 6a).

As the oils are blessed, we pray for those who will be anointed with them in the coming year. May they share in God's blessings and join us in our common vocation as "ministers of our God" (v 6a).

For reflection: How do I live out my baptismal anointing in my life? Do I support the ministers of the church with my prayers?

Thursday of the Lord's Supper, Evening Mass

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15

In tonight's first reading, we are presented with the ritual rules or rubrics for the celebration of Passover. This feast, a perpetual memorial, commemorates Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt. Its significance is emphasized by making "this month ... the first month of the year" (v 1). A new year and a new era in history begin for Israel with this event; it is a foundational feast, "a memorial" that "all your generations shall celebrate / with pilgrimage" (v 14). The blood of the sacrificed lamb serves as a sign of this saving event.

Paul writes to the Corinthians to address an abuse at their weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper (for the full context of tonight's reading, see 1 Cor 11:17-34). In the early church, the celebration of the Lord's Supper took place within a meal – but at these meals, some were getting drunk while others were going home hungry (v 21). Paul reminds them that they are sharing in the body and blood of Christ, and he exhorts them to do this worthily.

John's Gospel narrates the story of Jesus washing the apostles' feet at the Last Supper. Unlike the other Gospels, John situates the Last Supper "before the feast of Passover" (v 1), highlighting Jesus' identification with the paschal lamb – his blood will save us. Washing his disciples' feet – even those of Judas – gives us an example: "so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (v 15). By giving us the Eucharist and this example of humble service, he shows us how we are to follow him: fed by the bread of life, we are called to give our lives in service to others.

For reflection: Do I approach the Lord's Supper with a sense of reverence and awe? How can I live out Jesus' example of humble service in the world today?

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday), April 18

Is 52:13-53:12
Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Jn 18:1-19:42

Isaiah's image of the suffering servant resonates with the early Christian community as a prophecy of Jesus. "It was our infirmities that he bore," the prophet writes; "he was pierced for our offenses" (53:4-5). Isaiah suggests that the servant's suffering can be on behalf of others. The innocent dies for the guilty. This text provides a

(Continued on page 4)



"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them," says Isaiah in today's first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

See Isaiah 50:4



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, 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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

Fr Stephen Wayoyi, A.J. *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday
9.30 am – 3.00 p.m., 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 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.

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.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990818.

Scripture Readings

(continued)

good example of the *sensus plenior* or "fuller sense" of Scripture: Isaiah's text has a fuller or deeper meaning when viewed from the post-resurrection perspective of Christians.

The author of Hebrews writes of the consequence of Jesus' suffering: "He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (5:9). Jesus is the "great high priest" (4:14), whose death on our behalf enables us to "approach the throne of grace / to receive mercy" (v 16).

In John's version of the Passion, a text proclaimed every year on Good Friday, Jesus' death comes as something that has been anticipated from the beginning of the Gospel text. In his prologue, the author wrote that "the light shines in the darkness" (see 1:5), but "his own people did not accept him" (v 11). The cleansing of the temple, which serves as the catalyst leading to Jesus' death, is located at the beginning of John's story of Jesus (see 2:13-22). For our evangelist, the shadow of the cross is cast over Jesus' entire

ministry. In John's text, Jesus is not weak but "triumphant" in his Passion, as Raymond Brown tells us in his work *The Death of the Messiah* (34). Jesus' dying words are an affirmation that his mission has been a success: "It is finished" (19:30). His words remind us that this is truly a good Friday, because Christ's sacrifice realizes his kingship, which "does not belong to this world" (18:36). As we celebrate his Passion, we anticipate his victory over sin and death.

For reflection: Do I focus more on Jesus as one who suffers or as one who is triumphant? How does that affect my own spiritual life?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian's Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



Diocese of
Broken Bay