



The Voice

29th March 2015

Passion (Palm) Sunday, Year B

Psalter Week 2

LENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Ruth Fuller, Vijay Gopal, Terry Pratchett, Marie Bowyer, Saimoni Waibuta,
- **Anniversaries:**
Marcelline Cole, Archbishop James Gleeson, Bishop Michael Putney, Jim Grainger, Fr Pat Ryan, Dorn Schumacher, Thomas Boylan, Dudley Juratowitch, Elizabeth Hari.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Denning Family.
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lila Emery, Phillip O'Neill, Grace Williams, Mark Church, Mary Dwyer, Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh, Alan Harland, Peter Crookes, Terry Curtis, Charles Knowles, Irene Beck, John Mortimore, Beryl Allen, Grace McNeaney, Madge Wood, Steve Paino, Lola Proctor, Peter Kenneth Thorson, Meli Ladd, Tui Lekutu, Renie Hunt.

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Holy Week and Easter 2015

If you have not yet picked up your copy of the 2015 Holy Week and Easter Schedule, today may be your last chance. It is available in the church foyer.

Just a few comments ...

1. The Maundy Thursday Mass is the best day on which to bring your Project Compassion box or envelopes to the church. There will be baskets for you to put them in. Of course, if you cannot make it to that Mass, bring your contribution to one of the Easter Sunday Masses.

2. It is a long standing Catholic custom to watch before the Blessed Sacrament for a few hours after the Maundy Thursday Mass. Our period of adoration will end at 10 p.m. with Night Prayer (Compline).

3. If you would like transport to 7pm Maundy Thursday Mass, 7pm Easter Vigil Mass, 7.30am or 9.15am Easter Sunday Mass, you have until 2 p.m. Tuesday to let us know. (Transport is not available to either celebration on Good Friday).

4. If you want to go in the parish bus to the Mass of the Oils at Waitara Cathedral on Tuesday night, you have to book by 2 p.m. tomorrow.

5. The Good Friday Way of the Cross will be at 10.30 a.m., at the Parish School,

South Woy Woy.

6. The Easter Day morning Masses will be at the usual times of 7.30 and 9.15 a.m. The evening Mass will be as usual at 6 p.m.

7. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. All those over the age of 14 are bound to abstain from meat; those between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast, i.e. to have only one full meal.

8. We are also counselled to continue this "Easter Fast" on Holy Saturday.

9. There is no Mass on Thursday, Friday or Saturday mornings and no Anointing Mass on Friday afternoon.

10. Morning Prayer, or Lauds, is celebrated on Friday and Saturday mornings at 8 a.m.

11. Because daylight saving ends this Saturday and so is still in force for the Paschal Vigil, we have to begin the Easter Vigil next Saturday at 7 p.m. The rule for the Vigil is that it must begin after sunset Saturday and end before sunrise Sunday.

12. Easter Monday (9th April) is a public holiday, so Mass will be at 9 a.m.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

My God, my God, why have you a - ban - doned 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



A Message from Fr. Stephen: As I leave the parish of Woy Woy a part of my heart will remain always with the people. Each parishioner and Fr. Hill have helped me in my spiritual journey. My time on the peninsula has been blessed and a time of deepening faith. May God be with you all, in all ways.

I will not say goodbye but *kwaheri ya kuonana* (see you later) - I will regularly come back to see you.

Daylight Saving finishes next Sunday, 5th April. Please remember to turn those clocks back one hour!

Public Holidays—Good Friday and Easter Monday. Parish office will be closed until Tuesday, 7th April, re-opening 9.30am. Monday morning Mass will be at 9.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Good Friday Collection 2015: 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 and 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

The Just Word

Love Overcoming Hatred:

Australians of all faiths came together following the hostage drama at Sydney's Martin Place in December last year. Two people were killed, along with the hostage taker, after a siege involving 17 hostages that lasted more than 16 hours. The event was treated as a religiously-motivated attack, after the gunman forced hostages to hold up a flag with an Islamic creed against the window of the

and increasing cost of living which put a strain on family budgets and financial resources. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'. Good Friday envelopes available in the church for your convenience.

Easter Offering Envelopes available in the church for those who do not have Planned Giving Envelopes.

Holy Cross Cemetery, Humphreys Rd., Kincumber. There are two new sections of graves and/or 'niche' spots now available. Enquiries: Peter Hurley, Management Secretary. Ph: 4363 1228. Mobile: N.S.W. 2251

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

Volunteer Church Cleaning (Wednesday before Easter) 1/4/15: Terry Murphy, Linda Potestas, Kevin Glacken and Rano Spiteri.

Altar Servers Rosters for Holy Week and Easter ceremonies available in Servers Sacristy.

El Shaddai' Prayer Group monthly meetings for April are 4th, 11th and 18th. Enquiries: Grace Lloyd Ph: 4343 1504.

Good Friday 3rd April. Please note there will be no Anointing Mass.

Josephites Associates meeting Wednesday, 1st April 10am in the Leo Mahon room. Light lunch

after meeting. New members welcome! Enquiries: Betty 4341 8849.

100 Game Bingo Marathon will be held Saturday, 4th April (Easter long weekend). Games start 2.30pm and go to 5.30pm, then we have a break including a free BBQ and catering, then 7.30pm-10.30pm.

We operate it as a 2x50 game sessions and sell the tickets for each session separately, pets and pads available. It is a great day and something not to be missed and of course if you can not make all of the Marathon, you can join in at any stage as we sell books separately.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers. Sunday, 12 April, Sacred Heart Chapel, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Lectio Divina will not be held on Holy Thursday.

Farewell morning tea for both Fathers to be held in Leo Mahon room following 9.15a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday morning, 5 April. Please call the office if you can help with catering.

At the Fathers' requests a more official event will be held in May...details to follow.

WYD Krakow, July 2016: After 6pm Mass this Sunday evening (29/3), our parish youth leader Sam French will be available in the Gathering Space to answer general enquiries regarding this event. Sign up to receive more information as a pilgrim or supporter and peruse the draft itinerary for this trip of a lifetime.

cafe.

At a Mass at St. Mary Cathedral on the day following the siege, Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher paid tribute to the courage of Katrina Dawson and Tori Johnson, who had died protecting their fellow hostages. He said the risk of these sorts of tragedies is that we 'become cautious, cynical, suspicious of our neighbours, or worse, that we turn on them.' The examples of the two victims show us a

different way.

'These heroes were willing to lay down their lives so others might live', he said. 'The darkness need not overcome the light. Indeed, the Christmas-Easter Christian message is: it cannot!

'There is something greater than hatred and violence. There is love, that humble, self-donative Love that comes in the shape of the Prince of Peace. He can soften the hardest hearts.'

From the Diocese and beyond

April School Holiday Program (13-17 April): Come and discover the story of Mary MacKillop—Australia's first Saint! Follow the Kids' Trail with Mary's pet dog 'Bobs'. Listen to stories, enjoy art and craft activities, explore Mary's home and the School House. Session runs from 10.30-12.30. \$8 per

primary school aged child at Mary MacKillop's Place Museum, 7 Mount St. North Sydney. Enquiries and bookings: 02 8912 4883 or mackillop@sosj.org.au

Australian Catholic University students present—Mary MacKillop and Fr. Julian Tenison Woods

in the 1800's: Wednesdays live at the Museum! 22 & 29 April, 6, 13 & 20 May.) Join us in the Museum for an exciting series of drama performances. Students will unearth hidden stories behind artefacts in the Museum collection. Performances will run from 10am-2pm.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Holy Thursday, April 2

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14

Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

With our celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we move from Lent to Triduum: the holiest days of our church year. These three days are the days Lent has been preparing us to celebrate. Our focus shifts to the paschal mystery: the death and resurrection of Jesus.

For the church, Jesus's death on the cross was foreshadowed by the Passover in ancient Egypt. The importance of the feast of Passover is such that at one time in Israel's history, the month in which it occurred was "at the head of your calendar; ... the first month of the year" (v 2). The lamb to be sacrificed provides food for the Israelites' upcoming journey and blood for marking their doorways to protect them from the death the Lord is about to bring upon the land of Egypt. This feast, "a memorial feast for you," is to be celebrated "as a perpetual institution" (v 14).

Paul gives us the oldest written account of the institution of the Eucharist. The words he writes to the Corinthians are part of a sacred tradition that he "received from the Lord ... [and] handed on to you" (v 23). Paul tells us that we "proclaim the death of the Lord" whenever we share in this meal (v 26). Earlier in this letter he had written that "our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed" (5:7). So for the Christian, the sacrifice of Christ replaces the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, and his death results in freedom and life.

John's story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet is unique among our Gospels. As an act of humility, Jesus washes their feet and then commands them to serve each other; he has provided "a model to follow" (v 15). They will understand his example of self-giving only after he lays down his life for them. The foot washing at Mass tonight reminds us that we are called to be of service to each other, following the example of Jesus.

For Reflection: How can I more fully embrace the spirit of the Triduum? How can I follow Jesus's example in my own life?

Good Friday, April 3

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

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

Today we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. But the text for the reading of the Passion is from John, a text that presents Jesus as being in his "hour" — it is a time of glory and triumph, not defeat. From the moment he steps forward and presents himself to the arresting party (18:4) to his final breath, he is in control; John tells us "he handed over the spirit" (19:30). For John there is no "agony in the garden," nor does Jesus need assistance in carrying his cross: he goes to Golgotha "carrying the cross himself" (v 17).

Today's text from Isaiah is one of the Suffering Servant songs. This mysterious character prefigures Jesus. Isaiah writes that this servant was "a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity" (53:3). But this pain and suffering were part of a divine plan, for "the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity"; he gave "his life as an offering for sin" (v 10). Today's text provides much food for thought in reflecting on Jesus's Passion and crucifixion.

The author of Hebrews speaks of Christ as "a great high priest who has passed through the heavens" (4:14). He is like us, we are told, because he "has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (v 15). In Christ, God embraces our humanity. Through his death, "he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (5:9).

Our service today does not end with the narrative of the burial. We proceed to venerate the cross, pray for the world, and then share in the sacrament of eternal life. For while we remember a dead God, we celebrate the one who embraced death in order to defeat it.

For Reflection: How does John's version of the Passion affect the way we celebrate Good Friday? Do I view the cross more as an instrument of death or as the tree of life?

Easter Vigil, April 4

1. Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35

or 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22

2. Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

3. Ex 14:15-15:1; (Psalm) Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

4. Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

5. Is 55:1-11; (Psalm) Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

6. Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

7. Ez 36:16-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13,

14-15, 18-19

Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 16, 17, 22-23

Mk 16:1-7



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



(Continued on page 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 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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

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

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene McLenaghan & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

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. 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 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)

(Continued from page 3)

The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the Triduum. In the church's earliest centuries, the Vigil lasted through the night, but over the centuries it was shortened; by the 16th century it had disappeared, being replaced by Easter Sunday Masses. With the church's reform of the liturgies of Holy Week in the 1950s, the Vigil returned. For many involved in ministry, it is the highlight of the church year. Done well, it can be a graced moment for those who participate in it.

The readings offered for tonight's Mass span the story of salvation history from creation to resurrection. In Genesis, we hear that God created humanity "in our image, after our likeness" (v 26). After creating the humans and giving them dominion over the other creatures, "God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good" (v 31).

Though not narrated in tonight's readings, we know that sin entered the world as a result of human choice. But God continues to reach out to people over the course of

salvation history. In the Abraham story, we hear of election and a covenant of promise and blessing. In Exodus the people are rescued from slavery in Egypt and from death by the power of the sea. Through Isaiah God proclaims, "With great tenderness I will take you back" (54:7), and then, "Listen, that you may have life" (55:3). In Baruch we are called to "Hear ... the commandments of life" (v 9). And from the prophet Ezekiel we hear, "I will give you a new heart and ... a new spirit" (v 26). Sin and death will not be victorious. God seeks to restore a fallen humanity.

Mark's narrative tonight tells us that the women who go to the tomb are greeted with unexpected news: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (v 6). As Joan Chittister says in *The Liturgical Year*, "We are also the followers of the Light that shines beyond the grave" (163). After celebrating tonight's Vigil, may we strive to always walk by that light and share it with the world.

For Reflection: Which of tonight's readings has a special meaning for me? How can I more fully walk by Christ's light?

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay