

The Voice

15th May 2016

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

Psalter Week 4



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Monica Gibbons, Patricia Robertson, Keith Wilmott.
- **Anniversaries:**
Reg Hogan, Anna Kim Mee-Rahn, Albert Broad Fr. Frank Meek, Fr. William (Bill) Thomas.
- **Remembrances:**
Patricia Hogan.
- **And the sick:**
Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham, Natalie Rankin, Kate Tinson, Rene Glase, Peter John Grima, June Ferry, Maryanne Diorio, Jack Moulds, Tracey Passlow, Bruce Spence, Frank Schmidt, Keith Maiden, Brian Moloney, Mary Ann Gormly, Beryl Allen, Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn, Mabel Torres, Coral Williams, Irene Beck, Jonell Georges, Brian Moroney, Clara Rodigus, Anne Singleton, Cheryl Douglas, Don Boland, Betty Cusack, Keith Oakes.

Recently I was accosted by a fundamentalist Christian in the street. He asked me whether I had given my life to Jesus Christ. I have. He asked me if I spoke in tongues. I can, but don't. He asked me if I had made the necessary sacrifices for the Holy Spirit to come into my life. At this point I said that as a Jesuit I was poor, chaste and obedient for Christ, which I think is a decent effort in that direction.

Mind you, in saying I take the vow of poverty I always think of my mother, who, on seeing Jesuit real estate for the first time said, 'If this is poverty, I'd like to see how you guys live chastity – it all seems pretty loose and fast to me.'

The problem with our evangelical brothers and sisters is that they often think the Holy Spirit can be reduced to external signs.

We know, however, from the first Pentecost and from our own experience that the Spirit works in unpredictable AND ordinary ways.

From the Acts of the Apostles we learn that where the Spirit of God is active all sorts of gifts are present:

- boldness to stand up for what we believe;
- the ability to hear and listen;
- an end to fear that locks us in on ourselves;
- confidence in the salvation won for us in Christ;
- fidelity to Jesus' commandment to love;
- clarity about what's true; and
- an 'at homeness' with God.

The problem for many of us is working out where the Holy Spirit is leading us. This requires the gift of the discernment of spirits.

St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, left the church a guide for working out how we can tell if and where the Holy

Spirit is leading us.

One summary of them goes like this:

1. Don't make a decision when you're down. Let the crisis pass and take time to weigh all the options.
2. The Holy Spirit enables us to let go of our unhealed past and not live in the unknown future. The Holy Spirit draws us to deal with the here and now, as it is, not as we may like it to be.
3. The Holy Spirit frees us up to bring out into the open anything we keep buried in the dark. There is nothing that has ever happened to us that is beyond the Spirit's healing.
4. The Holy Spirit breaks down isolation and draws us into community with other people.
5. Be careful of things that appear too perfect, they sometimes have a sting in the tail and can be destructive.
6. Be guarded about all things that are urgent. The Holy Spirit brings a sense of perspective to problems.
7. The Holy Spirit is always present where compassion and forgiveness are demonstrated.

Not bad for a guy who died in 1556.

So Pentecost is not the charismatic movement's birthday. It is God's promise to abide with us come what may. And living in the power and love of the Spirit and claiming her direction is an intensely practical affair.

It is with this type of confidence that can sing the ancient chant, 'Come O Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and we will be recreated and you will renew the face of the earth.'

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Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Sunday Readings	3
Directory	4
Reflection	4

Psalm Response

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Lord, send out your Spi - rit, and re - new the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction for the needs of our Parish has resumed every Thursday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Iris Quanchie and Keith Wilmott who were buried from our Church the past week.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 20/5/16: Judy French, Philomena Curtis, Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen.

Children's Liturgy Roster 22/5/16: Frances Giunta, Mary Wood, Isaak Giunta.

The Live Pray Love project would like to announce the winners for the Mother's Day raffle drawn last Sunday 8th May.

1st prize - John French

2nd prize - Julie Brame

3rd prize - Libby Brennan

4th prize - Ted Dixon

Also, we would like to thank all those who donated the prizes and gave so generously in support of the Live Pray Love project.

DBB WYD Pilgrim Blessing Mass with Bishop Peter Comensoli is on Tuesday, 28th June at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara at 7pm.

You are invited to join this celebration with our Bishop Peter as Pilgrims, Leaders and Chaplains are blessed ahead of their pilgrimage to World Youth Day.

A representative from each Parish/School community will be invited to collect a DBB WYD Candle that will be lit while our pilgrims are travelling (16 July—4 August). Please 'Save a Date' at this stage and we will send out more details in the next few weeks. Visit

www.dbb.org.au/youthevents page for all details and flyers on our Facebook page 'Catholic Youth Broken Bay'. If you would like to discuss any of these events or initiatives further, or seek more information, please feel free to contact us youth@dbb.org.au.

Fr Jack will be away from the Parish from 19 May to 3 June.

The Just Word

World Communications Day:

The theme 'Communication and Mercy: A fruitful encounter' has been chosen by Pope Francis for World Communications Day 2016. It is a theme that reminds us of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, which began on 8 December 2015 and continues until 20 November 2016. The Pontifical Council for Social Communications says His Holiness also wanted to invite deeper reflection on the link between communication and mercy.

The theme highlights the capacity of good communication to open a space for dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation, thereby allowing fruitful human encounters to flourish,' the Pontifical Council said.

'The theme invokes the power of words and gestures to overcome misunderstandings to heal memories and to build peace and harmony...good communication is never merely the product of the latest or most developed technology, but is realised within

the context of a deep interpersonal relationship.

Proclaiming the 2015-16 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, the Pope said: 'It is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to find the road that leads to the Father.'

From the Diocese and beyond

Workshop: Womens's Ways and the Rule of St. Benedict:

The Rule of St. Benedict was written by a man for a community of men in fiercely macho times. Because Benedict moves against many patriarchal values, the Rule has proven to this day to be an enduring source of wisdom and nourishment for women. This workshop, designed for women and men will be practical and creative. Facilitator Sr. Patty Fawcner. sgs. Writer and adult educator. Mt. St. Benedict Centre, 449 D Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. (Entrance off Hull Rd.) Saturday 28 May, 10am-3pm. Bookings by Monday 23rd, Phone 9484 6208:

mtstbenedict@bigpond.com
Cost: \$25. BYO lunch.

Monthly Holy Hour for Vocations

held the last Wednesday of each month due Wednesday, 25th May 7pm-9pm at St. Agatha Parish, 17 Trebor Rd. (enter through car park), Pennant Hills. Adoration, Reflection on Scripture, Evening Prayer of the

Church. After prayer a social gathering will be held and a meal provided. Booklets with prayers provided. Cost: Free.

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church,

Epping was established on 15th June 1916. Prior to 1916, Epping was part of St. Charles Catholic Parish, Ryde. This year is our centenary Year.

We cordially invite anyone who was a past parishioner or friend of Our lady Help of Christians, Epping to the centenary celebrations on Sunday, 29th May. Mass at 10.15am followed by a social gathering to which everyone is most welcome.

St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre

8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber South. hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea in the grounds of St. Joseph's, Wednesday, 25th May 10am-12 noon. RSVP 19th May. Ph: 4368 2805.

Annual Marian Pilgrimage:

Venue: Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd. Mulgoa. Program: 10am Welcome. Sacrament of Reconciliation available. 10.30am

Lunch – Hot food, tea and coffee available or BYO.

Outdoor event: Please bring your own chairs or rugs.

Children are encouraged to come dressed in white with a basket of petals for procession.

Email: info@schoenstatt.org.au

Cost: \$55. BYO lunch.

www.schoenstatt.org.au

Enquiries: 0426 518 884.

Evangelising Parishes

Encounter Course: As Church, we exist to evangelise, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world. This Encounter course will equip our parishes and people to live out this mission with joy and enthusiasm, focusing on our call to make disciples. It will name opportunities and challenges for spiritual growth, and discuss practical, effective ways to foster an evangelizing spirit. All welcome! Thursday, 26th May, 7pm-9pm, Holy Cross Church, Sth. Kincumber. RSVP: Colleen 9847 0448 or 4332 9825 or email registrations@dbb.org.au



Readings Today and Next Sunday

15th May 2016

Bruce Janiga

Pentecost: Mass during the Day

Acts 2:1-11

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34 R. v.30

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17

Sequence: Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Jn 20:19-23 or 14:15-16, 23-26

The gift of the Spirit on Pentecost is reminiscent of the first Pentecost, when God gave the Law to Israel, establishing a covenant and embracing them as God's chosen people. Jerusalem, crowded with pilgrims for the Jewish feast of Pentecost, was the opening setting of Luke's Gospel; it is now also the opening location of his second volume, Acts. From here God's word will go forth to the whole world. God's word, intended for all people, is heard and comprehended by the Pentecost crowd in their diverse languages through the work of the Spirit.

Writing to the church of Corinth, Paul tells us that the Spirit is manifest in each of us through various gifts. All gifts come from God, and all of them are for the good of the church. Our diversity of gifts works for the good of all, for together we are the body of Christ. "We were all baptized into one body" (v 13). Though many, we are one. Our baptism into Christ gives us a share in his divine life and unites us with each other. Our task is to preserve that unity as we live out our baptism.

In John's Gospel, the gift of the Spirit is made on "that first day of the week" (v 19) — that is, the day of the resurrection. Jesus appears to his disciples and greets them with his gift of peace. Showing them "his hands and his side" (v 20) illustrates that he is the crucified one standing in their midst, raised from the dead. He then commissions them, sending them forth, just as he had been sent by the Father. And breathing on them, he gives them the Spirit and the authority to forgive sins.

For reflection: How has God opened my ears to better hear his word in my life? What gifts has God given me? How do I use them for the good of others?

Most Holy Trinity, May 22

Prv 8:22-31

Ps 8:4-9, R. v.2

Rom 5:1-5

Jn 16:12-15

The Book of Proverbs is a textbook for instruction in ancient Israel, bringing together wise sayings that serve as lessons for its people. In today's reading Wisdom herself speaks. Wisdom personified is part of biblical Israel's way of thinking. Wisdom was "brought forth" (v 24) "while as yet the earth and fields were not made" (v 26). She was there "when the Lord established the heavens" (v 27). Wisdom's antiquity establishes her authority and reliability. Predating the universe, she shares in the life of God in a special way. Being beside God during creation, she has an understanding that is unique. We must seek to learn from her.

Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that having "been justified by faith, / we have peace with God" (v 1). This peace is our gift, acquired at the cost of the death of Jesus Christ. Through his death "we have gained access" (v 2) to God's grace. This is God's gift to us. But we know that with faith comes affliction. Paul and his fellow believers suffer for the sake of the gospel, but he tells them that it is cause to rejoice because the suffering leads to hope (v 4). Paul intends to visit the church of Rome and knows that he will share in both their joy as well as their affliction.

In the Gospel today, Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. He promises them the gift of the "Spirit of truth," who will "declare to you the things that are coming" (v 13). This time in Jesus' life — the time of his suffering, death, and resurrection — is his long-awaited "hour." Jesus promises that the Spirit "will guide you to all truth" (v 13), a reminder that revelation is an ongoing process. It is only over time, as is witnessed in the Book of Acts, that the apostles will come to understand Jesus' will for them and his message.

For Reflection: Do I strive to achieve wisdom in life, or am I more concerned with knowledge? Can I see how God's word to me is slowly revealed by the Holy Spirit?

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



One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in his or her own language. The meaning for stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, Blackwall,
Booker Bay, Pearl Beach,
St Hubert's Island,
Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point,
Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

Parish Office *Ethel Cox Parish Centre*
PO Box 264 *Walter Baker Hall*
54 Victoria Road *100 Blackwall Rd*
WOY WOY NSW 2256 *Woy Woy*

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214

Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

Parish Priest: Fr. Jack Robson.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron,
Raelene Spithill and Margaret Cooper.

Office Hours:

9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

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 7am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am 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 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND EXPOSITION

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

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. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

CATHOLICCARE Marriage & Family Relationships.

Phone: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 approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

REFLECTION

We have been in the in-between time since the Ascension of the Lord. Today we celebrate the dramatic inbreaking of the time of fulfilment. We celebrate the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. The feast also brings the Easter season to its conclusion. Today's readings recapitulate many themes that appeared throughout the Easter season: Christology, Trinitarian theology, reign of God, repentance, salvation, mission, universality. All are brought together as we are brought together into the body of Christ.

The plan of salvation has been brought to its conclusion. Christ is exalted next to God and has sent his Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and with excitement. This vitality explodes into the extraordinary: tongues are loosed and speech overflows its linguistic constraints; charismatic gifts flood the valleys of human habitation; barred doors are burst open and frightened hearts are calmed. The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world.

We gather together to discover that God has gathered us for another. Strangers assemble to fulfil personal obligations and they experience a phenomenon that bonds them together for life. Individual religious devotion is swept up into communal divine revelation. Through the Spirit of God, we are reconciled to each other and then together we spend ourselves for the common good. The world is renewed; the community is revitalised; we come to know the mysterious yet all pervasive peace of Christ.