



## EASTERTIME

*Pentecost Sunday*

*Year A*

*4th June 2017*

*Psalter Week 1*

## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Stephen Davidson, Tom Tregent (Snr),  
Cheryle Avery.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Fr. James (Jim) Boberg, Joy Ryan,  
John Ashley.
- **Remembrances:**  
John Quinn, Joe Cantwell,  
Jack McIntyre, Molly Dunne,  
Jack Dunne.
- **And the sick:**  
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,  
Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsendich,  
Kath Hardy, Pat Burgmann,  
Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti,  
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,  
Anne Singleton, Judy Neal,  
June Towson, Therese Corner,  
Peter Wellins, Diane Gillett,  
Lorraine Von Nida, Rene Glaze,  
Margaret Davin.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

# THE VOICE

## The Bush Fire of Pentecost

As summer progresses in Australia there is a sense of expectation. It is the bushfire season. Millions of eucalypts breathe their oils which hang as a potent haze over the hills. The prevailing conditions are just right. One spark and all that potential energy can ignite and fire can sweep through with great intensity.

Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The state of the world after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension was much like Australia in summer. There was a great air of expectation – Our Lord had promised that he would send the Holy Spirit.

The earth had quaked at his death, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality with Divine potency hovering over humanity. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit.

This was like a flaming spark, a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind'. That was as close as the early church could get to describing the phenomena accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

Scientists tell us that, in the Australian landscape, there are few things more creative, more necessary, than an intense fire to burst open the seedpods in our eucalypt forests. It not only opens them up but it clears away competing undergrowth and allows new life to germinate in the ashes, to take root and to grow.

This is what happened to the early Christian community at Pentecost.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since.

It is the birth-day of the church, the Catholic Church, the universal church, the "all-languages" Church.

In the Hebrew scriptures there is the wonderful story of the Tower of Babel.

Human beings grew arrogant in their mastery of technology and started to build a tower reaching into the heavens. To bring a halt to this arrogance, God causes division through difference of languages. So the tower project lapsed as people scattered into their separate groups.

Pentecost reverses Babel. Language was no longer a barrier to people hearing and responding to the message which St Peter went out and boldly preached. Peoples from every part of the known world heard the gospel in their own tongue. A new unity was possible for humanity in its response to hearing the core message preached by St Peter.

And that was that Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and that Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord. This is still the core message and task of the successor of St Peter. Everything else is peripheral. His role is to preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.

This helps shape the Church as the community which Our Lord intended. How is this community to fulfil the promise and expectation of Pentecost at the beginning of this third millennium?

Without abandoning Europe, the Church has to become less obviously a European institution. It has to take the opportunity to exemplify its worldwide character with greater recognition of the way in which Catholicism can express itself in the cultural terms of other continents.

The successor of St Peter, Pope Francis, has appointed a group of eight cardinals (the 'G8') from around the world, to bring this 'all peoples' dimension into the highest decision-making realm of the Church. It is a start.

Let us pray for continuous Pentecosts in our midst and in the universal Church. Let us do so in the words of the ancient prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created and you will renew the face of the earth.*

© Fr Michael Tate

### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

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

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS  
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

## Around the Parish

Donations to the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) are 100% tax deductible. There will be another leaving collection at all Masses this weekend. Our quota for this financial year was \$37 008. We received: \$13 511 from Aug '16 & Nov '16 appeals. Following generous donations the last couple of week totaling \$14 087, we still have a shortfall of \$9 410. The CWF is the only Diocesan Appeal that directly supports people of need in our Diocese and has 100% tax deductibility.

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** We pray for our children who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 9th June. Bishop Peter confirming the children at two services 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

**Baptism:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Oscar Lagos who was baptized last Sunday.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking expressions of interest for new members wishing to join the committee. Fr. Timothy will be organizing a formation session for new members towards the end of June, with the first meeting of the newly formed PPC being 17 July 2017. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested.

**St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal:** Collection at all Masses the weekend of 17th and 18th June. Your generosity will be appreciated. The need is great!

**Donations of household Items or Clothing for St. Vincent de Paul** to be taken *directly* to St. Vincent de Paul and not left in the church. Thank you for your co-operation!

**Children's Liturgy Roster 11/6/17:** Geraldine Baxter, Brenda Sweet, Gerri O'Keefe.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 9/6/17:** Anisha Burns, Elena Egan, Michael French, Rano Spiteri.

**Morning Tea Roster 11/6/17** will be 'El Shaddai' Prayer Group.

**Bus Trip to Richmond via Wiseman Ferry.** June 14th, leaving at 9am. Enquiries: Susie 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.'

**Let us Pray 2017:** Ecumenical event Pentecost Sunday, imploring the Holy Spirit to bestow fresh charisms of preaching on all priests, deacons and pastors, and fresh charisms of teaching on catechists and anyone teaching Christian faith to children, young people and adults. This Sunday Formal prayers in the Church, 1pm-2pm. Informal Prayers 2pm onwards. #LetusPray2017.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday 8 June, 11am, Leo Mahon room. All welcome.

## Social Justice

### Peoples Climate Change March:

In the words of Pope Francis, "We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay.

"Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world. Although the post industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history,

nonetheless there is a reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having shouldered its grave responsibilities."

*Laudato Si'*, #165.

Organisers of the March Peoples Climate Change write:

"A world free of dangerous global warming, and the poverty and inequality it brings, is within our reach. Together we can show the world Australians care..."

"We have a vision for a better Australia—one that runs on clean energy, and a fairer

economy. Climate change hurts people. It hurts our health, our economy, our jobs, our food, water, environment and communities. And those who did the least to cause the problem feel the impacts first and hardest, like our brothers and sisters in the Pacific."

They echo the plea of Pope Francis, and the Bishops of Bolivia, who point out, "Both everyday experience and scientific research show the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest." *Laudato Si'*, #48

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Corpus Christi Procession from St. Patrick's Church, East Gosford.** Sunday, 18th June following 9am Mass, Please feel free to make the journey to East Gosford for the Mass of Corpus Christi, to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Comensoli, and/or to join in the procession from the Althorpe Street exit after Communion at approximately 9.45am around the local streets of the area.

To conclude the day, upon our return to the church, Bishop Peter will bless the people with the Blessed Sacrament. Enq: Ph: 4325 1042.

**Fatima 100 Years- 13 May 2017-13 October 2017:** Come, let us celebrate. Our Lady Star

of the Sea Parish, Terrigal. Tuesday, 13 June. Mass 6pm. At 6.45pm: Welcome and opening prayers followed by a candle light procession and rosary on the parish grounds. 7.30pm Closing prayers. The Parish has a pilgrimage travelling to Fatima for the 13 October.

**Diocesan Advisory Committee Vacancies:** Bishop Peter Comensoli is looking to fill some vacancies for the various Committees of the Diocese. Historically, we have had great success in identifying wonderful people from within Parishes, with exceptional gifts, skills and experience to form part of these Committees. The following Committees are

currently seeking voluntary membership:

1. Diocesan Finance Council
2. Investment Committee
3. Audit & Risk Committee
4. Catholic Development Fund.

If interested in applying to be a voluntary member for a Committee, you are warmly invited to provide an expression of interest. The relevant Committee Knowledge & Skills Requirements Criteria are also available on request. For all matters please contact Mr. Tony Davies, Chancery Human Resources Manager at [recruitment@dbb.org.au](mailto:recruitment@dbb.org.au) or on 02 9847 0446. Applications close Tuesday, 13 June.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## Pentecost Sunday, June 4

Acts 2:1-11  
Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34 R. v.30  
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13  
Sequence: "Veni, Sancte Spiritus"  
Jn 20:19-23

Luke's narration of Pentecost in Acts relates the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that the disciples "will be baptised with the holy Spirit" (see 1:5). For Judaism, the feast of Pentecost celebrates the Sinai covenant. In the wilderness, 72 elders were given a share of "the spirit that was on Moses" and "they prophesied" (see Nm 11:24-26). When the Spirit descends on the disciples, they "began to speak in different tongues" (Acts 2:4), so that "devout Jews from every nation" who were in Jerusalem for the feast could understand what they were saying (v 5). The gospel is for all people.

Paul tells the Corinthians that the gifts of the Spirit are many. It is the Spirit that enables us to acknowledge that "Jesus is Lord" (v 3b). Through this Spirit "we were all baptised into one body" (v 13) and have become united with each other in Christ. "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts," Paul says, "but the same Spirit" (v 4). We should not boast of our gifts as though they were greater than the gifts of others. The Spirit distributes them "to each person as he wishes" (see v 11), and they contribute to the good of all.

For John the gift of the Spirit is given to the disciples on Easter, "on the evening of that first day of the week" (v 19). Jesus appears to his frightened disciples, showing them "his hands and his side" (v 20), revealing the wounds of his passion and confirming his identity. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," he says (v 21). To be sent is to share in the mission of Christ. Breathing on them, he gives them the "Holy Spirit" (v 22) and empowers them to forgive sins. Their fear is transformed into a boldness that enables them to proclaim the gospel. This gift of the Spirit, celebrated on Pentecost, unites us in the life of the Trinity and empowers us to proclaim the good news with our lives as well.

*For reflection:* Have there been times when I experienced God's Spirit active in my life? What would my life be like without 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. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

## Most Holy Trinity, June 11

Ex 34:4-6, 8-9  
Dn 3:52-56 R. v.52  
2 Cor 13:11-13  
Jn 3:16-18

Moses' encounter with the Lord on Mount Sinai illustrates the mystery of God. God appears to Moses "in a cloud" (v 5), pronouncing the name "Yahweh," which in our translation is represented by the name "Lord" printed in small capital letters. This ancient name has its roots in the verb "to be" and is considered so sacred by the Jews that they do not even pronounce it today; they use another term in its place. Moss's response to God's revelation is to kneel, bowing "down to the ground" (v 8). This becomes the standard response to the awareness of the divine presence in the biblical world.

Paul concludes his letter to the Corinthians by encouraging them to "live in peace" so that "the God of love and peace will be with you" (v 11). He then provides a blessing, using Trinitarian imagery, praying that "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ / and the love of God [the Father] / and the fellowship of the holy Spirit" (v 13) be present to them. Sharing in the life of the church, he prays that they will share in the grace of God, who has been revealed as three persons.

Jesus' words to Nicodemus in today's Gospel reading are among the most popular of all biblical texts. John 3:16 is often called a mini-Gospel in that it expresses in one verse the core message of Christianity. Like the Israelites with Moses at Mount Sinai, we stand before God as sinners, deserving punishment. But God chooses to love us and forgive us as a sign of his "kindness and fidelity," spoken of in our Exodus passage (v 6). In Jesus, God does more than speak words



In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different ministries, but the same Lord." How am I using my gifts for the common good?

*See 1 Corinthians 12:4*



of kindness; in Jesus, God's goodness is made flesh. By uniting humanity with divinity, God gives us a share in divine life.

*For reflection:* How have I experienced God's love in my life? How do I approach the idea of God being a mystery? Do I need to understand, or can I accept some things on faith? **ML**

The Live, Pray, Love Project invite you to their Cultural Day Event

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 12 noon -4pm, at  
Walter Baker Hall (Church Hall)  
cnr of Victoria and Blackwall Roads Woy Woy

Come together to celebrate our diversity....

There will be music, singing, food, dance and storytelling.

EVERYONE is invited to come along, and what we are asking is that, if there is something about your culture that you would like to share with the rest of the parish community, please be encouraged to come along and share it.

The most important thing is that EVERYONE is welcome.

If you have any questions please phone Gladys Leger 0421 312 362

# 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:

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

**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 in the Leo Mahon Room. Term 2 dates: 21st May, 4th June and 18th June. High school (Years 7-12). For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

**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.



## Golden Jubilee

1967 – 2017

## St Joseph's Catholic College

St Joseph's Catholic College invites past students and families to join us

Celebrating

50 SJ

years of Catholic education for girls

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli will celebrate Mass in the Edmund Rice Centre, St Edward's College Russell Drysdale Street East Gosford at 9:30am followed by morning tea refreshments.

From 5 to 6pm the college will be open to tour and reminisce on to your days as Joey's girls.

6pm all are welcome to attend **50 Years... The Show**, a light-hearted review of our college life over the years. Entry is by gold coin donation with all money raised donated to Mary MacKillop International.

For more information please contact us on 4324-4022