



The Voice

24th May 2015

Pentecost Sunday, Year B

Psalter Week 4

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Una Davidson, Kevin Johnson,
Patrick Richard Byrne,
Mary Moulds.

Anniversaries:

Dawson Family, Shirley
Murray, Erno Honyi,
Reg Hogan, Andrew Flanagan,
Madge and Charles Monk,
Walter & Lily Mortimore,
Michael and Phil Mortimore.

• **And the sick:**

June Ferry, Kate Stinson,
Janelle Darson, Pat Bombell,
Kevin Houghton, Lola Proctor,
Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,
Alan Harland, Terry Curtis,
Grace Williams, Irene Beck,
Roy Beveridge, Arnold Diorio,
Peter Kenneth Thorson.

Recently I considered buying a Bose 'sound wave' speaker system. For a small box it gave the best sound reproduction I have ever heard. In comparison to the hi-fi I presently have, its bass notes are strong and true, which gives the music a sense of presence, a foundation upon which the treble rises and falls as the music dictates. This machine allows an exceptional clarity to the sound, so that the composer's work can be properly heard.

In the Acts of the Apostles today we are told that the crowd who heard the earliest disciples of Jesus understood them in his or her own language. Now that's clarity! It wasn't so much the gift of tongues the earliest disciples received as much as their hearers received the gift of ears, of listening.

When it comes to listening in the Church today, some people mistake mono for stereo, uniformity for unity. At the first Pentecost, the earliest Christians had no such difficulty; they knew that speaking the same language was not as important as was careful listening to one another. The early Church was a very complex and diverse community. Like today they had their struggles with one another. Within a few years of the first Pentecost, there were fights between Peter and Paul over Jewish and Gentile converts. There were people who died for the faith and others who betrayed them to the authorities. Some Christians thought they were for Paul or Apollos rather than for Jesus, and still others thought the end of the world was nigh. Through it all, however, the bass notes played: the life, death and

resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Second Vatican Council helped us recover the most ancient tradition in our faith, that in various, unexpected and inculturated ways the Word of God has been present in all peoples, in every culture. We now hold that whenever the Gospel has been proclaimed in a new land, it compliments the best in that culture as well as correcting aspects of any culture which oppress, demean and diminish the women and men within it. In this process, what is born between Christ and an individual culture is an inculturated faith, which takes as seriously as the early Church did the context in which our faith is proclaimed and lived.

Pentecost faith holds that while we build our faith on that of all the believers who have gone before us, we have the responsibility to listen to our contemporary culture and put it into conversation with the Gospel. That's why courage is one of the Holy Spirit's pre-eminent gifts. We are not allowed to retreat from the world but are sent out to enter into conversation with it, and hear in this dialogue the symphony God is composing here and now between the treble of our daily life over the continuing bass line of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Let's pray that this Pentecost Eucharist hones our ears as well as prepares our tongues to clearly receive and proclaim the Gospel of Christ in the market places of our own day and age.

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Psalm Response



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

C.W.F. Appeal: Third & final collection for this financial year at all Masses this weekend. Your generosity would be appreciated. Our revised quota for this financial year is \$44 956. The two previous appeals raised a total of \$12 288.

Craft Morning Tea: This Thursday, 28th May, the Craft Group will be having a soup day to raise money for *The Biggest Morning Tea* for Breast Cancer; from 10am to 12 midday. Cost will be \$8 members, \$10 visitors. This will include morning tea and a variety of soups with bread. Please come and support this special day for a worthy cause. We will also have a raffle with some great prizes. Further information contact Pat Savage 4344 2064.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group meeting Thursday, 28th May 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All welcome!

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Heidi Higson, James Lynch and Scarlett McDonald who were baptised last Sunday.

Family Ministry Meeting this Thursday, 28th May, 1pm in the Riley room of Ethel Cox Centre.

Children's Liturgy Roster 31/5/15: Brenda Sweet, Alecia Amaral, Marina Mondal.

Bus Trip to Toukley and surrounds. 27th May, leaving at 9.00am. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Pray for Vocations: From Wednesday, 3rd June to the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday 12th June, each church community where Mass is being celebrated is asked to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life.

Music Workshop this Saturday, 30th May, 1.30pm. St. John the Baptist Church. Participants are invited to stay for 5pm Mass afterwards. Cost of the workshop, which covers music and printing \$30 per person. (\$20 for RCSM members).

There will be sung Vespers for the Vigil of Trinity Sunday prior to the 5pm Mass commencing 4.30pm. Those parishioners who attend Mass are invited to come a little earlier if they wish to participate in the Vespers which will conclude at 4.50. Apologies in advance to any parishioners who are displaced or inconvenienced by this event. Please come and take part in this rarely experienced part of the Prayer of the Church.

The Just Word

27 May Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

At the 1967 referendum more than 90 per cent of Australian electors voted to change the constitution to permit the Federal Parliament to make laws for Aboriginal people and to allow them to be included in the national census.

While the 1967 referendum was a watershed moment in Australian history and was well intentioned, the resulting amendments left the Constitution with no mention whatsoever of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People and with clauses that allow discrimination the basis of race.

After the 2010 election the Federal Government made a commitment to hold a referendum to make changes to the constitution to remedy these problems.

An Expert Panel was appointed in 2011 to consult with the Australian

community and make recommendations for changing the Constitution. The Expert Panel gave its report to the Government in 2012.

On 13 February 2012, the House of Representatives passed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill of 2012, recognising the unique and special place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Nation.

Under the legislation (the Act of Recognition) the Minister for Indigenous Affairs appointed a Review Panel to assess levels of public awareness and support for amending the Constitution to recognise Indigenous Peoples.

This panel tabled its report in September 2014 and stated:

Research shows that there is strong support for changes that recognise the place and history of Indigenous Aus-

tralian and the removal of references to race.

In its final report, the panel suggests that the main issues that need to be addressed are:

- Placing a statement of recognition somewhere in the Constitution
 - Removing section 25, which currently would allow the state governments to disqualify a group of people from voting based on race
 - Reformulating the race power (section 51 (xxvi)) to avoid the potential for negative outcomes while retaining the Commonwealth's responsibility for Indigenous affairs. More information: www.recognise.org.au www.antar.org.au
- Final Report of the Review Panel (September 2014): www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs/constitutional_recognition/index.cfm

From the Diocese and beyond

Mary MacKillop Book Shop/Piety Store is located in the Kincumber Shopping Village close to the Post Office. The store has a range of cards and gifts for all spiritual occasions. Trading hours are Monday-Friday 10am-3pm. Ph: 4369 5069.

"Easter Flavours in Australia's Story" Praying a 100 years since Anzac and 48 years since the referendum to include Australia's first peoples in the national census. Presenter Sr. Virginia Bourke, r.s.j. St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre. 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber Sth. Wednesday, 27th May, 10am and concludes 2.30pm with breaks for morning tea/lunch.

Morning tea and a sandwich will be provided. Cost \$25 or donation. Bookings phone 4368 2805 or Bookings:stjosephsretreat.org.au

Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner: Fr. James Duck celebrating 6.30pm Mass, Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble, Thursday, 28th May. Following Mass, a light meal and short meeting. This month we will be viewing a Broken Bay Diocese video (Skype) presentation "Encountering Jesus" which features Fr. James Martin. SJ (New York City) and Fr. Richard Leonard. SJ (Sydney). Presentation based on Fr. Martin's book, "Jesus: A Pilgrimage". Phone Terry

Scanlan 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if attending.

Please pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, for the perseverance of existing vocations and for all seminarians.

Ecumenical Service for the Renewal of the Tri-Diocesan Covenant: Wednesday, 27th May. 7.45am. Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter St. Newcastle West. A free bus to this event will depart from St. Patrick's Church, 76 York St. East Gosford at 5.45pm 'sharp' (no need to book) and will commence return journey 9.15pm.

As the Father loves me

Mary Amore

Growing up with only one brother and no sisters or female cousins my age, friends have always been very important to me. It has been my experience that the special bond that exists between friends is a sacred one, for it is built on mutual trust, love, and benevolence. Friends are people we can count on to be there for us, no matter what the circumstance. Friends are loyal, and they love us just the way we are. I remember fondly when my kids were little; I used to tell them that if they wanted to have a lot of friends, they first had to be a friend. I assured them that if they offered kindness and compassion to others first, naturally children would return their goodness in the form of friendships. Looking back on those years, I think this was a mother's attempt at not raising little bullies!

As we grow into adulthood, we painfully learn that oftentimes friendships are not easy to cultivate and rather difficult to maintain. Our attempts at building a loving, trusting relationship with another sometimes fall short of our hopes, dreams, and expectations. Broken relationships can leave us feeling betrayed, unloved, and without a friend in the world — that is, except for Jesus, the one who loved us even unto death.

In his Gospel, John offers a wonderful portrait of the risen Christ's love for us:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. This I command you: love one another." (15:9-17)

In this Scripture passage, Jesus challenges our sociological understanding of friendship by telling us that we are already his friends. "As the Father loves me, so I also love you." We did not have to do anything to earn

Christ's love and affection; he loves us because our heavenly Father loves us. In spite of our human weaknesses, in spite of our sinfulness, shortcomings, and failings, we who are made in the image and likeness of God are loved by Jesus as his trusted friend. What a graced relationship! This truly is the good news. In the social media world of texting, we would proudly proclaim, "OMG, what a BFF we have in Jesus!"*

While our friendship with Jesus is based on his unconditional love for us, our willingness to enter into this graced relationship comes with the responsibility of discipleship. Jesus entrusts us with the task of going out and bearing good fruit for the sake of the gospel. How seriously do we take this invitation? Are we willing to be the hands and feet of the risen Jesus in the world, or do we find it more politically correct to practice our faith in private? How willing are we to bear the good fruit of forgiveness and reconciliation in our intimate circles of life and beyond? How open are our hearts to offering kindness to those who misunderstand us, respect to those who persecute us, and compassion and tolerance to our neighbours near and far? Our relationship with Christ beckons us to sow the seeds of peace and justice in a world that clamours not for love but for war and violence. We live in a society that tries to suppress Christianity and its values at every turn, yet our friendship with Christ challenges us to carry his message of love into our homes, our workplaces, and the world. This is the responsibility of discipleship; this is our calling as friends of Christ.

Jesus has chosen us. As his trusted friends, it takes a willing spirit and an unfailing commitment on our part to follow his command, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). As we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, let us be firm in our resolve to allow the gift of the Spirit to fill us with the courage to willingly make disciples of all nations.

* Oh my god, what a best friend forever we have in Jesus!

ML

Mary Amore is the executive director of Mayslake Ministries in Lombard, Ill. She holds a doctorate degree in liturgy and a master of arts degree in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union. She is the author of *Primary Symbols of Worship* and the *Call to Participation* as well as numerous articles. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Re-



St. Paul reminds us today that all of our gifts have their source in the Holy Spirit and that those gifts are given "for the common good." What gifts are mine to share?



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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

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"

Fr. Jack Robson, *Parish Priest*.

Fr. Timothy Raj MSFS & Fr. Phillip Thottam MSFS, *Assistant Priests*.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron,

Raelene Spithill, Margaret Cooper.

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 Marriage & Family relationships. Ph: 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 7.30pm and finish approx. 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Cross or Crucifix

Paul Turner

On Good Friday, should the liturgy feature the use of a cross or a crucifix? In practice, either one is acceptable. Although the long tradition at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is to use a crucifix, the official rubrics for Good Friday simply use the word "cross." That word does not exclude the use of a crucifix, but it certainly does not require it. There are some advantages to a bare cross.

As the cross is first presented to the faithful, the priest, deacon, or choir sings, "Behold the wood of the Cross," not "Behold the image of the crucified Christ." The purpose of this ritual action is to show our reverence for the instrument of the passion of Christ, not for an image of Jesus. It has been customary in many places for at least some of the faithful to kiss the feet of the image of Christ on a cross. This shows the respect they have for his suffering and the lowliness they feel for the sins that provoked it.

However, reverencing the wood of the cross expresses the faithful's adoration of the instrument of their redemption, the cross on

which Jesus hung and which became saturated with his blood. In a way, adoration of the cross on Good Friday resembles the adoration Catholics give to the exposed Blessed Sacrament when they practice eucharistic worship outside of Mass in a ceremony commonly called Benediction. The difference, of course, is that the Blessed Sacrament is the real sacramental presence of the risen body of Christ, whereas the cross is a strong symbol of the blood poured out for our salvation. For this reason, the ministers and the faithful are asked to genuflect to the cross on Good Friday as a sign of this deep belief. They genuflect to the cross, not to the image of Christ.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2012 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St., #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo., holds a doctorate degree in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay