

THE VOICE

2nd February 2014

Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

Psalter Week 4

Today's Feast

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Gabrielle Tesoriero, Antony Mephram, Pat Reilly.
- **Anniversaries:**
Peter Hope, Jack Booth.
- **Remembrances:**
Kevin Garnett.
- **And the sick:**
Helen and David Hopkins, Mary Scarfe, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaf, Michael Cox, Caterina La Creca, Susie Simmons, Kate O'Connor, Mary Wood.

The Season of Christmas nowadays ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Many years ago, it consisted of forty days, so that it ended on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The prayers of the Masses made this clear. The Entrance Antiphon today still begins, *Your merciful love, Lord, we have received in the midst of your temple.* In the Tridentine Missal, the Postcommunion Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent asked that we might *receive your merciful love in the midst of your temple.* The two days were seen as "bracketing" Advent/Christmas/Epiphany.

For a long time, today's feast was also seen as of Our Lady, and it was often called the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. The emphasis has now returned to our Lord and, even if the Feast no longer concludes the Christmas Season, it still as it were "rounds it off".

We know that this feast was celebrated in Jerusalem as early as about 386 and that a procession with candles was added around 450. In Syria and at Constantinople, in the sixth century, it was celebrated as the Meeting between Christ and Simeon; late in the seventh century it was accepted at Rome under that title; but the name, the Purifica-

tion, took over in Gall in the eighth century and was only replaced there by the Presentation in the eighteenth century.

On this day in Rome the procession began at the Forum and ended at St Mary Major; the candles were necessary because the procession took place at dawn; the procession, both at Rome and at Constantinople, was of a penitential character, but no one seems to know why.

The blessing of the candles was added in Germany in the tenth century and was adopted at Rome in the twelfth. The quaint English alternative name, "Candlemas" (like Christmas, Martinmas, Michaelmas and Lammas) is derived from this custom.

The procession or solemn entrance takes place ordinarily today at the principal Mass. Since the 7.30 a.m. Mass is the closest we can get in Australia to the darkness of the northern hemisphere (the original reason for the candles), we shall have the solemn entrance at the 7.30 Mass. Especially if you have brought candles to be blessed, you are welcome to take part.

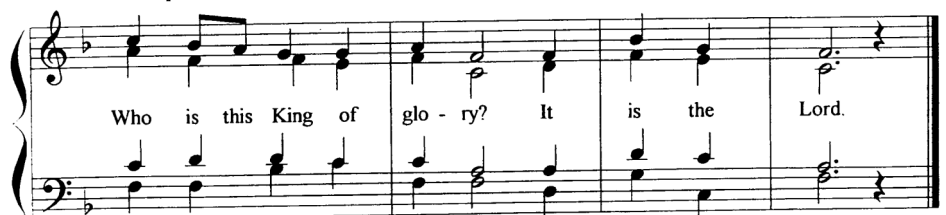
FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
The Liturgy and the Council	4
Directory	4

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Lenten Discussion Groups: During Lent our parish encourages parishioners to come together in groups to pray and reflect on the significance of the season. Past group hosts are unavailable this year, so we are calling on *you* to consider hosting a group. You only need to *lead* (not teach) others through a prepared programme of prayers, readings and reflections over 5 weeks so we can all deepen our understanding and journey spiritually towards Easter. Please contact the parish office on 4341 1073 asap, so details of host groups can be advertised in the Voice on February 9. We thank you in advance for your act of Stewardship.

St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Society assists many people on the Peninsula. If you would like to learn more about this work or to join as a volunteer, please contact Peter Smith on 0425 358 376. Such work offers the opportunity to develop your own Spirituality and bring the love of God to others.

Our Prayers and Congratulations to Sylvie Pringle who made her First Holy Communion last Saturday.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Katherine McDonald who was buried from our Church last week.

Bus Trip Tour of Fairground Follies at St. Peter's. Wednesday 26th February. 8am pick-up. Tour costs \$24 includes morning tea. Lunch (your cost) at Erskineville Club. Bus fare \$10. Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Children's Liturgy resumes next Sunday, 9th February 9.15am Mass. Children's Liturgy Rosters and notes for leaders and helpers available in the Leo Mahon room for collection.

Children's Liturgy Roster 9/2/14:
Anne Marie Tonkin (L). Phillipa Tonkin (H).

Anointing of the Sick will be administered at the 4pm Mass this Friday, 7th February.

Cancer Support Group: For those suffering from cancer or those wishing to pray for them meet first Tuesday each month, due Tuesday, 4th February, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Enq: Phoebe Glacken 4341 6324.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster: Christmas break is over and morning tea is back after 9.15am Mass on 2nd and 4th Sundays due next Sunday, 9th February. Our Youth group is rostered for this date.

Mary Macs would like to acknowledge a weekly anonymous donation that we receive every week. It is with support of such people that we can continue to support those less fortunate in our community. Thank You as every little bit helps.

The Just Word

The Smaller Beatitudes:
Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves. They will have no end of fun.
Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill. They will be saved a lot of bother.
Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses. They are on their way to becoming wise.
Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen. They will learn a lot of new things.
Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves

seriously and face serious things calmly. They will be valued by those about them.
Happy are you if you can take small things calmly. They will be valued by those about them.
Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly. You will go far.
Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown. You will walk on the sunny side of the street.
Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the atti-

tude of others even when the signs are unfavourable. You may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity.
Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking. They will avoid many blunders.
Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when people interrupt and contradict you and tread on your toes. The Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant — Internal Auditor Diocese of Broken Bay: The Diocesan Head of Internal Audit is seeking to recruit a full-time Internal Auditor to assist conducting internal audits across all agencies. Details of the role can be found on the Diocesan website <http://www.dbb.org.au> The position is based in Pen- nant Hills and applications close 24 February, 2014.

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Days 2014 : Sundays, 16th February, 18th May, 17th August and 16th

November. St. Benedict's Mon- astery, 121 Arcadia Rd. Arcadia. Ph: 9653 1159. Presentations, Introduction to Christian Medi- tation, two periods of medita- tion, Eucharistic celebration and information exchange. Arrival: 10 am for 10.30 am. conclusion 3pm. BYO picnic lunch, tea/coffee provided. Books and CDs available for sale. Self-catering overnight accommodation may be avail- able in the monastery guest house. Contact Br. Terry 0438 282 318. Enquiries: Ann Berg- man: anniebergman@hotmail.com

Annual Dominican Retreat for men aged 18-35 will be held at the Benedict XVI Retreat Cen- tre, Grose Vale, from 21-23 Feb- ruary. Speakers include Fr. An- thony Walsh OP and Fr. Dom Murphy OP. Theme: 'Grace and Truth'. Cost \$200—includes meals and accommodation. For information and to register con- tact Br. James . Baxter. OP- James.baxterop.org.au

Holy Mass is televised each Sun- day 5.30am till 6.00am on Channel 11.



Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Presentation of the Lord, February 2

Mal 3:1-4
Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10
Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Malachi is the last book in the Catholic Old Testament. Dated to the fifth century BC, the prophet's words anticipate a new era. Malachi encounters much wrongdoing among his people. Even after their return from exile and the restoration of the temple, they are not walking in God's ways. Malachi announces the coming of the Day of the Lord, preceded by "my messenger" who will "prepare the way before me" (v 1). This messenger will be "like the refiner's fire" (v 2), purifying the people.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews speaks of Jesus as uniting himself to us through suffering and death. Jesus freed "those who through fear of death / had been subject to slavery" (v 15). Christ is present as a "merciful and faithful high priest" whose sacrifice brings expiation for our sins. We look to him, God's light to the nations, for our salvation. His presence in the world brings light and life.

Luke's Gospel today portrays Mary and Joseph as devout, observant Jews fulfilling a law in Exodus requiring first-born sons to be "consecrated to the Lord" (v 23). Luke combines two separate requirements of the Law: Jesus' presentation in the temple and Mary's purification. Her purification requires an offering of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" (v 24). Coming to the temple, they encounter two devout individuals who recognise Jesus' importance. Simeon declares Jesus to be the promised Messiah; Anna, the prophetess, recognises Jesus as the one who will bring "the redemption of Jerusalem" (v 38).

For reflection: In what ways does the light of Christ shine in my life? How can I, like Anna, spread the good news of the coming of Christ to others?

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 Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 9

Is 58:7-10
Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor 2:1-5
Mt 5:13-16

The prophet Isaiah admonishes the people for their sinful behaviour. In the verses before our reading, we learn that they are carrying "out [their] own pursuits" on fast days rather than doing the will of God (58:3). The prophet calls them to share "bread with the hungry," house "the oppressed and the homeless," and clothe "the naked" as ways to observe God's laws (v 7). If they do these things, their "light shall rise for you in the darkness" (v 8), and they will come to know God's blessings.

Paul writes to the Corinthians that he "did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom" (v 1). He does not claim the status of a great orator. What he preaches is "the mystery of God," which can only be understood with the aid of the Spirit. His message rests on "the power of God" (v 5), who raised Christ from the dead. His message is concerned with "Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (v 2). For the nonbeliever, Christ crucified does not make sense, but for the believer, it is the means of our salvation. Our faith rests "not on human wisdom / but on the power of God" (v 5).

"You are the salt of the earth," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel (v 13). In Jesus' world, salt is very valuable, being used in sacrifices, as a preservative, and to add flavour. But its usefulness can be lost, and then it is "thrown out and trampled underfoot." Jesus goes on to say, "You are the light of the world" (v 14). A light's purpose is to illuminate. So too "your light must shine before others," not that others will praise us for our good deeds but that they may "glorify your heavenly Father" (v 16). As children of God, we are called to bring God's light into the world, leading others to praise God.

For reflection: What can I do to make holy days and fast days more focused on God and my faith? How can I better fulfil my vocation to be salt of the earth and light of the world?



When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple, they offered a sacrificial gift "in accord with the dictate in the law of the Lord." An offering of a specific size or kind is not "dictated" when we bring our gifts to the altar at Mass. Is my gift reflective of the many blessings I have received?

See Luke 2:24



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
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, Pamela Burton & 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 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.

The Liturgy and the Council

Blessed John Paul II

Pastoral attention to the Liturgy through the introduction to the various celebrations must instil a *taste for prayer*. To do so, it will of course take into account the ability of individual believers and their different conditions of age and culture; but in doing so it will not be content with the "minimum". The Church's teaching must be able to "dare". It is important to introduce the faithful to the celebration of the *Liturgy of the Hours* "which, as the public prayer of the Church, is a source of piety and nourishment for personal prayer". It is an action that is neither individual nor "private, but is proper to the entire Body of the Church.... Thus, if the faithful are summoned for the Liturgy of the Hours and gather together, joining heart and voice, they make manifest the Church, which celebrates the mystery of Christ". Priority attention to liturgical prayer does not vie with personal prayer but indeed implies and demands it, and harmonises well with other forms of community prayer, especially when it is recognised and recommended by the ecclesiastical Authority. (John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Spiritus et Sponsa*, 4th December 2003, §14).

Pastors have the indispensable *task* of educating in prayer and more especially of promoting liturgical life, entailing a duty of discernment and guidance. This should not be seen as an uncompromising attitude that is incompatible with the need of Christian souls to abandon themselves to the action of God's Spirit who intercedes in us and "for us with sighs too deep for words" (Rom 8: 26). Rather, the guidance of Pastors constitutes a principle of "guarantee", inherent in God's plan for his Church that is governed by the assistance of the Holy Spirit. The liturgical renewal that has taken place in recent decades has shown that it is possible to combine a body of norms that assure the identity and decorum of the Liturgy and leave room for the creativity and adaptation that enable it to correspond closely with the need to give expression to their respective situation and culture of the various regions. Lack of respect for the liturgical norms can sometimes even lead to *grave forms of abuse* that obscure the truth of the mystery and give rise to dismay and stress in the People of God. This abuse has nothing to do with the authentic spirit of the Council and should be prudently and firmly corrected by Pastors. (Ibid., §15).

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay