



2nd Sunday in
ORDINARY TIME
Year A
15th January 2017
Psalter Week 2

**OF YOUR CHARITY
PRAY FOR THE
SOULS OF**

• **Recently deceased:**

Eileen Birrell, Kathleen Henderson,
Bill Cunneen, Betty Wilkinson

• **Anniversaries:**

Nora Houghton, Tevita Nonu Tupou,
Patrick Wedesweiler,
Sheila Dorathea Baker

• **Remembrances:**

Eli and Paul Houghton,
David and Ellen O'Regan,
William Doyle, Barbara Cooper, Cathy
Carrol, Sara Selim

• **And the sick:**

Maryanne Diorio, Alan Harland,
John Allen, Audrey Barendich,
Keith Oakes, Margaret Thoms,
Margaret Jackson, Lorna Russom,
Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Jason Wellin,
Maureen Cowls, Beryl Allen,
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J., Mary Scarf,
Maureen Carlton, Irudaya Mary,
Kevin and Sheila Houghton,
Elizabeth Anne Kenney, Ian Wilks,
Steve Paino, Ralph Weate, Celeste
Boonaerts, Helen McKeon,
Cath Harding, Fr. Jack Robson, Carren
Quinn, Don Mathesan, X Chev Shengi,
Pat Fitzgerald, Gada Selim, Grace
Willins.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

The Perfume of Holiness

I visited my mother quite often in the last years of her life and sometimes when she kissed me and gave me a big hug, I came away with the scent of 'Tea Rose' perfume lingering all over me. Mum loved that perfume and sometimes doused herself quite extravagantly. And some of it would rub off on me.

That is how we become 'holy'.

What does it mean to be 'holy'? It does not mean 100% morally correct, or separate from the great mass of ordinary people who aren't quite up to the mark in doing the right thing. It certainly doesn't mean an unattractive superiority: 'holier than thou'!

It means being so close to God, so much of an intimate with God, so much one of the close family of God, that God's holiness rubs off.

We are God's family in Hobart. Personally, each one of us has heard at our baptism 'you are my beloved son' or 'you are my beloved daughter'. We are family. We have been adopted into God's family and that brings us into close proximity to God.

That's what makes us holy ...a holy people.

We are adopted members of the Holy Family, and something rubs off.

In today's Gospel, John says of Jesus that He will baptise people with the Holy Spirit. At our baptisms, we were given an extravagant dousing of the Holy Spirit, we were plunged and immersed into Holy Spirit, we emerged smelling of Holy Spirit, we were made holy.

So, if St Paul were writing to us today, he would use the same terms he used in writing to the Corinthians. This is how it would run:

'...to the church of God that is in Woy Woy, made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.'

Isn't that a beautiful understanding of

who we are?

We are not a branch office of a multinational religious organisation with the Archbishop as the local manager. We have our own dignity. We are the church of God that is in this town made up of those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.

But, we are not alone. There are many people gathering in a multitude of places around the world, people who have also been baptised and therefore share a certain family resemblance. As St Paul would put it, we are *who* we are 'together with all who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every meeting place'.

St Paul recognises the bonds which link us. But, how is the 'togetherness' held together?

What quickly emerged in the early church was the need for strong bonds to develop between the leaders of those 'who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ' in Jerusalem and the leaders of those who did the same out on the missions in the pagan world. With the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD, it was natural that the linchpin, the strongest link, should be the successor of St Peter martyred in Rome. Yes, we are 'Catholic', i.e. worldwide, and 'Roman Catholic' because we are in communion with the Bishop of Rome, currently Pope Francis.

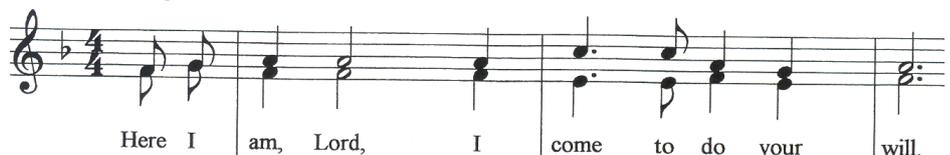
So, at the base level, recall how St Paul describes us:

'Members of the Church of God that is in Woy Woy, made up of those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called holy.' That is who we are. We are those to whom St Paul sends his greeting: 'Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.'

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

Happy Holiday Fr. Timothy: Father will be on leave for a month. We wish him a happy, peaceful holiday and will keep him in our prayers.

Fr Jack Update: This weekend we welcome Fr Jack back into the parish. He has undergone major surgery to his upper spine and a longer than expected period of time in rehabilitation. No longer Parish Priest, Fr. Jack will be staying at the presbytery until mid March assisting Fathers Timothy and Philip. He will be presiding at one weekend Mass and possibly the occasional week day Mass. He will not be available for home or hospital visitations as he is unable to drive and has limited mobility at this stage. We welcome Fr. Jack back amongst us until he has made a full recovery.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family and friends of Eileen Birrell and Kathleen Henderson, who were buried from our church last week.

Newsletter Notices: As Thursday 26th January is a public holiday and the office will be closed, deadline for notices for newsletter of 29th will be Tuesday, 24th January.

Catholics Returning Home is a five week support programme that aims at helping Catholics return to the Church. The next programme commences Wednesday, 15 February at 7:30pm. This programme is designed:

- To recognize the feelings of each participant
- To help each participant to understand that they are not alone
- To give the participant the opportunity to view things in a different light.

The Catholics Returning Home Programme will provide a welcoming space in your own Faith community to help you to take the first challenging step. For more information, there are brochures on the gathering area table.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 20/1/17: Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Mabel Torres, Pamela Burton.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday, 16th. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Liturgy Meeting due Thursday, 26th January has been cancelled.

Catechist Meeting: Due to Australia Day, our first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 24th January at 9.00am.

It is vital all attend as schools and classes will be changed/allocated at this meeting. Please do your best to attend. Thank You.

Ministry to the Sick: Please ring the Parish office if you know of a member of your family, a friend or a parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

Admission to Hospital: If someone has been admitted to hospital, please notify the Parish office for a priest to visit as due to Hospital Privacy Policy, the clergy are not automatically notified.

Volunteers Needed! What are you doing on Australia Day? How about supporting Australia's Military wounded servicemen and women, veteran's and their families by volunteering some of your time at the soldier on merchandise fund raising store, The Boulevarde, Woy Woy. 12 noon-9pm. Contact Jeff on 0419 691 572.

Social Justice

15 January World Day of Migrants and Refugees:

The theme of Pope Francis' message for the 103rd World Day of Migrants and Refugees is *Child Migrants, the vulnerable and the voiceless*. Part of his message reads: I felt compelled to draw attention to the reality of child migrants, especially the ones who are alone. In doing so I ask everyone to take care of the young, who in a threefold way are defenceless: they are children, they are foreigners,

and they have no means to protect themselves. I ask everyone to help those who, for various reasons, are forced to live far from their homeland and are separated from their families.

Migration today is not a phenomenon limited to some areas of the planet. It affects all continents and is growing into a tragic situation of global proportions...Children are the first...to pay the heavy toll of emigration, almost always caused by violence, poverty,

environmental conditions, as well as the negative aspects of globalisation.

Pope Francis adds: 'Migrant children easily end up at the lowest levels of human degradation, where illegality and violence destroy the future of too many innocents...'

The full ext of Pope Francis' Message is at <https://zenit.org/articles/popes-message-for-world-day-of-migrants>

From the Diocese and beyond

Charismatic Retreat-Living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit: St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, 64 MacKillop Drive, Baulkham Hills, Friday 27th January-Sunday, 29th January. Presenters: Ulf Ekman and Fr. Hugh Thomas. CSSR. Full details on notice board.

Contact Details: Michael Lulan. Mobile 0401 440 094 or phone 9810 2499.

St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, formerly House of Formation for Sisters of St. Joseph. The Centre is on 18 hectares of rolling countryside.

Accommodation includes double rooms, king, single and twin bedrooms, with ensuite, air-conditioning, internet and telephone services. Lifts and facilities for people in wheel chairs. Details on notice board.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 15

Is 49:3, 5–6
Ps 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10
1 Cor 1:1–3
Jn 1:29–34

Our readings this week set the stage for a new year of readings primarily focused on Matthew's text. Though we have heard these stories before, let us approach them with new eyes, for "you never walk through the same river twice." God's word is alive and looks to take root in our hearts, bringing forth an abundant harvest.

In the text from Isaiah, God's mysterious "servant" announces that God "said to me: You are my servant" (v 3). This servant will become "a light to the nations, / that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (v 6). In Jesus we see this prophecy fulfilled.

Paul and Sosthenes begin their letter to the Corinthians extending "grace to you and peace from God our Father / and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v 3). They are following the typical pattern of letter writing in their day: addressing "the church of God that is in Corinth" (v 2), they greet the community before moving on to their concerns. In this introduction we hear that we are "called to be holy" (v 2) because we share in a common faith by our baptism, which unites us to God and each other in Christ.

In John's Gospel, John the Baptist's testimony introduces Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (v 29). For John's readers, the Baptist clearly identifies Jesus as "the Son of God" (v 34). For Christians, Jesus is God's lamb, whose blood, like that of the lamb at Passover, effects salvation. John testifies to the identity of Jesus, serving as a prophetic witness. It is to Jesus, not to John the Baptist, that we should look for salvation.

For reflection: Do I make a conscious effort to listen to the word of God anew every time it is proclaimed? How do I share the light of Christ, presented to me at baptism, with others?

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.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 22

Is 8:23–9:3
Ps 27:1, 4, 13–14
1 Cor 1:10–13, 17
Mt 4:12–23 or 4:12–17

The prophet Isaiah speaks words of promise and hope to Israel in today's reading. "Darkness" (9:1) is replaced with "a great light," and "gloom" with "abundant joy / and great rejoicing" (v 2). Zebulun and Naphtali (8:23), lands captured by the Assyrians earlier in the eighth century BC, are promised deliverance. Israel's hope rests in the birth of a child, a royal child who (we see in verses after our reading today) will sit "upon David's throne" (9:6). God has not abandoned the people: the Lord has smashed "the rod of their taskmaster" (v 3).

Paul writes to the church in Corinth to address some problems he has heard about: "It has been reported to me that there are rivalries among you" (v 11). Groups are claiming loyalty to Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter), or Christ. But Paul argues that we are to live a life united in Christ, who gave his life for us and in whose name we were baptised. Our allegiance is to him, not to his apostles. He addresses this important issue along with several other immediate concerns. Later in the letter, he says that "other matters" can wait until he visits them again (11:34).

The fact that much of Jesus' ministry takes place in Galilee is significant. Galilee is up north, far from Jerusalem, its temple, and the religious establishment. Because Galilee is separated from Judea (the southern region), many in Jerusalem look down on it: "Galilee of the Gentiles" (v 15) is not a complimentary title. But the people of Galilee turn out to be more receptive to Jesus' message than those in Judea. For Matthew, this is a fulfilment of a prophecy from Isaiah (v 14). As Jesus' ministry unfolds, God's promises continue to be fulfilled.

For reflection: How can I foster unity in my local church? How can I help bring God's great light to contemporary places of darkness and gloom?



Today's responsorial psalm is the theme song of the good steward: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

See Psalm 40



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

"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 and 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 3.30pm; 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).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 f 0243 445049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

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.

Reflection

Ours is an historical religion. It not only unfolds within the joys and disappointments of time and place, but it is rooted in actual events that took place in the lives of real people. The Christ to whom we commit ourselves is not a mythic character, a figment of communal religious imagination. He is someone who was born into history, at a specific period of time, in a particular place. He was known by real people like John the Baptist; he submitted himself to historical rituals like baptism. He had followers who testified to the truth of both his existence and his life. Jesus was a man of

history.

Like Paul, we too have been called to be apostles. We received this call when we were baptised. The beginning of the year, with its custom of making new resolutions, is a wonderful time to remember to what we have committed ourselves. At times it seems that our own apostleship is no less daunting than was Paul's. However, it is no less immediate either. Whether the period of history is the first half of the first century, as was the time of Jesus, or the second

half, as was the time of Paul, or the twenty-first century, as is our time, salvation unfolds within the events of time. Furthermore, the followers of Jesus always return to the events of his life in order to discover the meaning of the events in their lives. These past events are reinterpreted in the ongoing present. Discipleship is never otherworldly.

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