



ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

19th January 2014

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Father George Rodgers, Father James Stack, Max McGuigan, John Hainey, Dorothy Hodges.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bishop Thomas Muldoon, Brother Charles Howard, Father Richard Hartwich, Father Bill Behm, Earnest and Morva Burton, Bill Wise, Caterina Esposito, Pat Sheagold, Joyce Ragan, Marie Therese Stanislaus Edward Luxford.
- **And the sick:**
Helen and David Hopkins, Mary Scarfe, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, Michael Cox, Caterina La Creca, Susie Simmons, John Osborne, Kate O'Connor.

“Last Rites”

We often see references in the media to the “last rites”. Unfortunately, we also begin to understand these last rites in the way in which they are misunderstood in the media. This can lead to unnecessary complications in our Catholic life, which I believe can easily be avoided. So let me make another attempt to make the whole matter clear.

The Church’s pastoral care of the sick and dying has been developed over the centuries. People within the Church (like you and me) should understand this pastoral care in the Church’s terms. Those outside (including many in the media) can be excused for not getting the message, but we should not be led astray by their ignorance.

Two areas are commonly confused: the care of the sick and the care of the dying.

The chief way in which the Church cares for the sick is the Sacrament of Anointing. This sacrament is administered to those who are in danger of dying through old age or serious physical illness. A person should seek the sacrament as soon as it is discovered that s/he is in danger of death. It may be repeated (a) if the sick person recovers and then falls sick again, and (b) when during the same illness the condition of the sick person worsens.

Because the sacrament is connected with the possibility of death, it should not be

trivialised by reception when one is merely “off colour” or “might get sick.” In it, the Church supports the sick in their struggle with serious illness and continues Christ’s messianic work of healing.

For less serious sickness, the Church also provides “visits to the sick” and “visits to a sick child”. As you know, our parish provides anointing of sick, not only when specifically requested, but also on the first, second and fourth Fridays of the month (respectively in the church, at WWCAC and Peninsula Village). We also have a team of dedicated ministers of Holy Communion, who take Communion weekly to the sick. For most sick people, this is their principal source of comfort. For further details you should contact the parish office.

The dying are cared for principally through Viaticum, i.e., Holy Communion as “food for the journey”. This is the real “Last Rites”. After going to Confession and receiving the Apostolic Pardon, the dying person professes the baptismal promises and receives Communion for the last time. There are also special prayers known as the “Commendation of the Dying.” The priest should be called while the person is still conscious and can still receive Communion, so that s/he can participate fully and experience the full support of the Church. More next week.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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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



Australia Day next Sunday, 26th January. Public holiday Monday 27th January, morning Mass will be at 9am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood. The Body of Christ is received on the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 24/1/14: Jo Salter, Don Anderson, Sally Doyle, Kevin Glacken.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference members and volunteers monthly Mass, Saturday, 25th January, 9 am.

A Cuppa and a Chat: A group

of seniors meet in the Leo Mahon room the 3rd Monday of each month due this Monday, 20th January, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us please phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Your 'Used postage stamps' help the Sisters of St. Joseph:

Mary MacKillop International incorporates the mission work of the Sisters in East Timor and Peru. The Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Peru more than 30 years ago, focusing on empowering local women to develop skills and earn income to support their families. Projects there include health, education, community mental health, community aged care, support for people with a disability and their carers, support of children through play and learning centres, dental hy-

giene and care of children. Used postage stamps are sold to provide much-needed funds for the Sisters in their work, so please continue your past support by dropping off your used stamps to the parish office.

Cash Housie every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd and McMasters Rd Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Piety Stall now selling 'Living Faith' quarterly booklets. \$2 ea. Josephite Calendars 2014 and Columban Calendars 2014 also available.

Social Justice

Education and Democracy continued from last week's newsletter.

Education and democracy. How fortunate we are. We must use these two remarkable realities in the service of the poor, the oppressed.

Among many other matters of concern, there are four serious problems facing people in our region which cry out for attention and which weigh on our consciences. They are asylum seekers, West Papua, climate change and the increasing gap between rich and poor in Australia itself.

We could all write letters to our elected representatives, or to leaders of our nation about any one, or all, of these issues. We

could use our education regardless of the level we have attained, to write an actual letter, either in handwriting or type written, and sign it. We could ask questions about the issues. We could expect an answer to each letter, and digest the answer. And if we don't get an actual answer in any reply received, we could write again, and keep pursuing the problem.

It may be old-fashioned. It may lack a gimmick. (Goodness, no gimmick!) To put pen to paper and to think out the content of a proper letter to those leading this country will take time, effort and some deliberation. Each letter will cost 60c to post, plus paper and ink. It's a way of us-

ing our education, and the democracy we live in. It's a way of being the voice of Jesus Christ. Notice will be taken of this effort. Politicians are said to estimate that for every original and personalised letter they receive, possibly 1,000 other people think the same thoughts. And letters rate more highly than hosts of similar E-mails or postcards, which often mean that the initiator has a good network, (nothing wrong with that, of course).

Let us think about the issues, read about them, come to a well-based conclusion, and make our thoughts known, in a purposeful, polite and sincere letter.

Sister Susan Connelly. r. sj.

From the Diocese and beyond

Holy Mass is televised each Sunday at 5.30 am till 6.00 am on Channel 11.

SmartLoving—Because every Marriage Matters: Varroville Retreat Centre, March 28th-30th. You want your marriage to be the best...committed, intimate, joyful and passionate. Presented in a Catholic context, the SmartLoving Marriage Retreat is a private experience open to any married couple. You gain liberating insights into how the opposite sex works and practical skills you can use

throughout your entire marriage. Whether your marriage is doing great or is under a bit of stress, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Proven results. Private and confidential. Spiritually sound.

\$295 per couple. Meals and accommodation included. Places strictly limited. Book now! www.smartloving.org 02 9319 6280. info@marriageRC.org

Catholics Returning Home: Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from your Church?

Would you like to know more about today's Catholic Church? Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again? No matter how long you have been away or for whatever reason, you are most welcome and we invite you to renew your relationship with the Catholic Church.

St. Patrick's Parish will hold a programme, commencing on March 3rd, 7.30pm-9pm in the Jordan room with an Information Evening. Further information contact Neil Murphy on 4325 0416.

Scripture Readings

19th January 2014

Bruce Janiga

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 19

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?

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 26

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, 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.

Beginning of the School Year

Paul Turner

Catholic schools usually designate a day early in the first semester to celebrate a Mass for the opening of the school year. The custom demonstrates the centrality of the Eucharist in Catholic life, and it provides a starting point from which the entire school year may progress.

The Roman Missal is a large book with many Mass formulas for special occasions ranging from reaping the harvest to preventing earthquakes. So it surprises many a Catholic to discover that the Missal contains no Mass for the beginning of the school year. This is because the Missal has a longer history than Catholic schools do, and the texts for such a Mass were never composed or inserted into the book. Other Mass formulas may be used to serve the occasion — for example, For the Church, For the Family, For Promoting Harmony, For Giving Thanks to God, or even a votive Mass in honour of the saint who serves as patron of the school.

A different book, *The Book of Blessings*,

includes some prayers that are right on target. There one finds the Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers. This blessing may take place either within or outside of Mass. It includes a series of intercessions, such as one for students, "that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom and understanding," and for teachers, "that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students." The actual prayer of blessing follows these intercessions and asks God to send the Spirit to "fill them with your wisdom and blessings," that "they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others." The blessing could take place at a parish Sunday Mass, when the entire community may pray for its students and teachers.

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 © 2013 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St., #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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



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Broken Bay