

The Voice

18th January 2015

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR
THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Mary Bradley, Clare Wren,
John Donnelly, Edna McKay,
Andrew Bastian,
Hilda Hedevang,
Elsie Menveille.

• **Anniversaries:**

Brother Charles Howard,
Father Richard Hartwich,
Bishop Thomas Muldoon,
Father Bill Behm,
Agnes Arahill, Silvana Balce,
Earnest and Morva Burton,
Edward Luxford.

• **Remembrances:**

William Arahill.

• **And the Sick:**

Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
Evangeline Cusay, Ruth Fuller,
Gada Selim, Peter Crookes,
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J.
Maureen O'Brien,
Bruce Spence, Irene Beck,
Betty Foster, Mary Dwyer,
Victor and Wanda Grima,
Jean Mierendorf,
Wendy Taylor.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
Directory	4

“Come and See”

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time has a number of features: (a) its connection with the Baptism of the Lord, celebrated on the Sunday before; (b) its link with the Christmas season, which finishes on the previous Sunday, and the implications of which are now to be spelt out in Ordinary Time; (c) its link with the time that follows, in which (Ordinary Time) discipleship is spelt out and explained; (d) the “serialisation” of Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians continues.

Whatever the gospel to be read in the year that follows, the gospel reading on the second Sunday, in whatever year of the three-year cycle, is always from John. It is in that gospel that the link is found between Christmas/Baptism and the public life of Christ, of which we read in the gospel of Ordinary Time.

This year, our evangelist is Mark, but John, once again, connects the Christian rebirth in Baptism (by which we are configured to Christ’s birth) with the Christian life (by which we are configured to Christ’s public life).

In this year’s Johannine extract, that link is spelt out as a call to discipleship. Just as in the case of Samuel, of whose call we hear in the first reading, so that Christian is

called by God to live the life of Christ in his own time and place. Just like Samuel, the Christian has to learn to be attentive to God’s call and to reply, when it comes and is heard, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

So, in the gospel, John, after the baptism of Jesus, points out to his disciples the Lamb of God. In effect, he invites his disciples to stop following him (John) and to become disciples of Jesus. This does not mean merely listening to Jesus; the crowds, after all, can do that (and, if they like, nothing more). A disciple, in those days, lived with the Master; he not only took to hearts the Teacher’s words but observed and imitated his way of life. That is why, when Jesus asks, “What do you want?”, they reply, “Rabbi, where do you live?” And to this comes the answer, “Come and see.”

They stay with him for several hours—enough to show them that John was right in directing them to follow Jesus. Some of them are already convinced that Jesus is the Messiah. They start bringing other disciples of John to Jesus—including Peter, whose significance for his preaching mission Jesus immediately sees.

What lesson are meant to take from all this? Surely we should take the hint of—

Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah:

Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

Pope Francis seeks your family synod input: Hard copies for those who do not have a computer are available in the gathering area. For those who are able to access the Survey online www.surveymonkey.com/s/family-synod-2015.

Hard copies should be mailed to Janette Davidson, Parish Support Unit, DBB. P.O. Box 340, Pennant Hills NSW 1715. **All responses must be completed/received by 10 February**

Liturgy Team meeting Thursday, 22nd January, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Family Ministry meeting Thursday, 22nd January, 1pm in the Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

Catechists meeting *changed* to Thursday, 29th January, 9am in the Leo Mahon room.

St. Vincent de Paul Members and Volunteers monthly Mass Saturday, 24th January, 9am.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 23/01/2015: Jo Salter, Jane Rutherford, Paul Rutherford, Philomena Curtis.

Bus Trip – Pokolbin Hunter Valley Sausage Sizzle. Leaving 8.30am, Wednesday, 4th February. \$25. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Due to the popularity of this trip a **second trip – same destination has been organized**, morning tea and lunch etc. provided, Wednesday, 25th February leaving 8.30am. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family extend their prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of John Donnelly and Clare Wren who were buried from our Parish in the past week.

Cash Housie: Every Saturday night 7.30pm, Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd., Woy Woy. Come along and enjoy the fun and friendly atmosphere at our own parish operated bingo night. 50 games from 7.30pm-10.30pm. Prizes are all \$100, some \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 jackpot. Celebrating 60 years continuous service. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Prayerful Congratulations to Len and Kath Player who celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 19th January.

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.

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

From the Parish Nurse: We are all pilgrims on the journey and so we need to be physically and spirituality healthy. So why not start the year looking at your heart health. February is Heart Research Month, a month where everyone is encouraged to make his or her heart health a priority

'Living Faith' Booklets now available for collection in Piety Stall. \$2 ea.

The Just Word

A Feast of Love:

A family meal is more than a physical feed. It is time when we, as family members of whatever age or state of life, *deepen our love* for each other.

We eat not just to nourish our bodies, but to *nourish our relationship as a family*.

We 'feed' each other by...

- Spending time together.
- Listening to each other's stories
- Saying a prayer for thanksgiving.
- Sharing mealtime tasks.

In doing so we welcome the presence of Jesus in our midst and recognise ourselves to be *the body of Christ*,

A family meal doesn't have to be flash. It doesn't have to be 'perfect'. It doesn't have to be 'done' a certain way. It just has to be a sincere attempt to 'say' certain things. Things like

**I love you.
We belong.
We believe.**

Above all family meals need to be a *priority*.

Not just for families with young children, but for all of us.

Not just on special occasions but on 'ordinary' days as well.

Without prioritising, planning and effort, this precious part of our family life can easily be swamped by work, studies, sport, television shows, computer games and a host of other activities that fill our lives.

Bishops' Committee for Family and For Life.

From the Diocese and beyond

Journey into Truth series will run at Our Lady of Good Counsel. An information night with Fr. John Flader is on Tuesday, 3rd February, 7.30pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Centre, 9 Currie Rd. Forestville. More information contact French Forest Catholic Parish 8451 5097. The introduction video can be viewed at <https://www.mustardseed.org.au/catalog/journey-into-truth-john-flader-p-3917.html>.

Pathways of St. Paul: Join parishioners from Holy Innocents's on a 20 day Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, departing Monday 20th April. Walk the footsteps of St. Paul, visit places where he lived, worked and was imprisoned. Also visit the island of Patmos, where St. John wrote the book of Revelation, Basilica of St. John built over the tomb of "The Divine" Apostle and the "House of Mary" where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. For Itinerary Brochure and Booking Form please contact Fr. Peter Krigovsky,

admin@holyc.org.au or download from www.holyinnocentscroydon.org.au/news-and-events/parish-pilgrimage

The Wisdom of Teresa: Divine Friendship: spiritual guidance in prayer, holiness and mission from the writings of St. Teresa of Avila. Jan 30 – Feb 1. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St. Andrews Rd. Varroville. Cost \$220 (concessions available). Presenter: Fr. Paul Maunder, O.C.D. Contact: 02 8795 3400. Email: retreats@carmelite.com www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Bruce Janiga

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 18

1 Sm 3:3-10, 19
Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20
Jn 1:35-42

Today's readings present us with the call narratives of the prophet Samuel and Jesus' first disciples. Samuel's story bridges the time of the Judges with the establishment of the monarchy in biblical Israel. The Book of Judges narrates a time when Israel fell into disarray and sin. As the final verse of the book tells us, "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in their own sight" (21:25). The author of the Book of Samuel tells us that in Samuel's day "the word of the Lord was scarce and vision infrequent" (see 3:1). Young Samuel begins a long line of prophets who will bring God's word to the people, for "the Lord was with him" (v 19).

In the Gospel today Jesus begins to gather disciples. His first two are originally followers of John the Baptist. When John points Jesus out to them, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (v 36), they begin to follow Jesus. One of them is Andrew, who proceeds to bring his brother Simon to Jesus, telling him, "We have found the Messiah" (v 41). Like Samuel, these men are called by God to lead others to encounter God too.

Paul writes to the Corinthians in response to a letter they sent him. He offers advice concerning problems in their community. He cannot be with them, but he can provide guidance through his correspondence. Today's advice concerns sexual immorality. Paul reminds us that our "bodies are members of Christ" (v 15), and so we should treat them with the appropriate respect. Since Christ redeemed us, the Spirit dwells within us. So Paul calls us to "glorify God in your body" (v 20).

For reflection: How would I describe my own call narrative? What has God called me to do?

Fr 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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 25

Jon 3:1-5, 10
Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mk 1:14-20

Paul writes to the Corinthians with the expectation of Jesus' imminent second coming. His view on this will change in later letters, but at this point he believes that "time is running out" (v 29). This means the people should live with a strong awareness that "the world in its present form is passing away" (v 31).

In Mark's text today we encounter another call narrative of the first apostles. Today's story is the more familiar one: Jesus calls the fishermen to drop their nets and follow him. For Mark, their immediate response—"they abandoned their nets and followed him" (v 18)—emphasises Jesus' authority. The sons of Zebedee also leave everything, including "their father ... in the boat" (v 20), to follow Jesus. They will learn from him and take part in his mission to call others to "repent, and believe" (v 15). The call is not merely to reject sin but also to embrace the way of the gospel; we are to reject evil and choose good. Jesus' call is to a radical reorientation of our lives. We are to live our lives in response to God's call.

Like the apostles, Jonah was called to preach God's word, specifically the call to repentance. After initially rejecting the calls, he embraced his mission and went to Nineveh. Jonah is unusual in that his preaching is addressed to gentiles, the citizens of Nineveh. His original reluctance is based on his belief that as sinners outside of Judaism, the people in that city did not deserve to hear the word of God, much less be transformed by it. We hear that as a result of his preaching, "the people of Nineveh believed God" (v 5) and thereby avoided the evil God "had threatened to do to them" (v 10).

For reflection: What am I willing to sacrifice for the sake of my call to be a disciple? Have I ever experienced or witnessed a radical conversion like that of the citizens of Nineveh? How did it serve as a sign of God's grace?



In today's first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, "Here I am!" each time the Lord calls him. May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

SEE 1 SAMUEL 3:4; 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 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"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

Fr Stephen Wayoyi, A.J. *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene McLenaghan & 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 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 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.

“Come and See”

(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

ferred to Samuel and John's disciples: the Sundays that follow are our chance to “come and see.”

What is meant by this, of course, is that we learn, not only to listen to Jesus, but also to live with him. Living with him includes our sacramental relationship with him, especially in Sunday Mass, together with that “listening” that is the condition for real prayer—so that we learn about him and from him through the conversation of listening and responding.

And that is where Paul comes in. Each of the years of the three-year cycle begins its second reading with extracts from 1 Corinthians—not only because it is such a long letter, and takes time to expound, nor even because the letter probably consists of several letters, which do not “hang together” very easily for modern ears, but mainly

because Paul is one who, without knowing Jesus “in the flesh,” nonetheless learnt to listen to him, and so was able to guide Christian neophytes through the dangers of pagan society after their conversion.

This year Paul deals with a number of questions put to him by the Corinthians, or with issues that have reached him through others and have caused him concern. As with today's extract, many of these issues are very confronting, but Paul deals with them honestly, without diluting Christian truth with political correctness.

As far as Paul is concerned, these issues are not matter for compromise. Anyone who lives with Christ, listens to him and is nourished by him, could not possibly allow himself to live in a way unworthy of Christ's disciple. Maybe we shall emerge from this year with out Christian sensitivities similarly sharpened.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay