



The Voice

27th April 2014

Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

Psalter Week 2

EASTERTIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Mary 'Dorn' Schumacher,
Mavis Garard, Natalie Mrvica,
.Sr. Maureen Sykes, r.s.m.
Timothy Groom.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bishop William Murray,
Wyn Reagan, Maggie Moreau,
Kevin Toohey,
Maureen Ayers.
- **And the sick:**
Grace Williams, Vince Ashley,
Lola Proctor, Alan Harland,
Fr. Geoffrey Bugden,
Beryl Allen, Therese Payne,
Hanaa El Khatib, Mary Leger,
Wanda Grima.

Easter: Gift and Call

The Fifty Days of Easter endeavour to celebrate a many-faceted event: the resurrection of Christ, his ascension, and the gift of the Spirit. All in all, they commemorate what God has given us and to what he calls us through that gift.

We sometimes speak of "the Christ Event." We are speaking of the entire life and achievement of Christ, from the Incarnation of the word, his private and public life, his Passover to the Father in his death and glorification, and his eternal presence to the Father on our behalf—but the high point of the Christian Year is the paschal dimension of that Event, what we celebrate in Lent and Easter.

One can read reality as made up of things or events. From the beginning of western philosophy, the emphasis has been on things, but there have been some who have seen it otherwise. Heraclitus (535-475 B.C.), for example, held that the fundamental reality was fire, because things are always changing. One might talk about a river as a thing but in fact it is an event: it is never the same. Lightning and candle flames are further examples.

That is why we talk about the Christ *Event*. There is a sense in which we can say that Christ "happened" and is still happening. One can take that as an event or as

a series of events, but the best way to see it is as an event that we break up into smaller units in order to make the Event itself more comprehensible to our limited human minds.

That is what we do in the Fifty Days. We reflect on the resurrection, the ascension and the sending of the Spirit, but we are really reflecting prayerfully on one event that encompasses all three.

Jesus speaks a great deal in St John's gospel of his "glory." Jesus is "glorified" in his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Spirit. His Glory is what holds all those ideas together.

As I said earlier, Jesus continues to "happen", particularly in his church. The Church *happens*. Many people think of the Church primarily as an institution, as a (merely human) organisation, consisting of clergy, religious and laity. Some, in fact, use the word "church" to refer only to the Vatican or to the bishops. In other words, it is a *thing*.

Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J. (1918-2008), wrote a book many years ago called *Models of the Church*. He showed that there are other ways of thinking about the Church— as a community, as a herald, as a sacrament, as a servant and (later) as a

Psalm Response

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Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures for ever.

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during the 4pm Mass on Friday 2nd May.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Natalie Mrvica and Mary 'Dorn' Schumacher buried from our Church the past week and Mavis Garard whose funeral is tomorrow.

Bus Trip: Wed. May 7th. Gosford RSL for lunch and shopping at Spotlight. Enquiries: Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Cash Housie every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. and McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games start 7.30pm and finish 10.30pm. Cash Prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Enquiries: Rob on 0427 990 818.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster for 2/5/14: Pam Hickey, Kevin Glacken, Judy French, Mary McCumstie.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for May are Sat. 3rd, 10th, 17th. Enq: Linda Thurlow. Ph: 4342 9092.

Enrolment at St. John the Baptist Catholic Primary School:

An Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 29th April, 7.30 pm in the school hall, (21a Dulkara Road, Woy Woy). for all families considering enrolling at St. John's in 2015.

On Wednesday 30th April, the school will hold an under 6 year old 'fun morning' and tour of the school which will take place from 9.30am – 11am. Enquiries: 4341 0884.

Confirmation Enrolment 2014:

A compulsory information night will be held on Thursday 1st May at 7.30pm in the Walter Baker Hall. Children in Year 2 or 7+ years, are eligible for enrolment in this year's programme and Enrolment forms will be available for collection this night **only**. Please note *your child is not required to be present at this meeting*

Welcome: We pray for and welcome into our Faith community Leanne Blackman, Jack Blackman, Finn Duncan and Madeline Hewitt – Van Rooyen who were received into the Church at Easter.

First Holy Communion: Please remember in your prayers the children who are receiving this Sacrament throughout the months of April, May and June.

Sincere Thanks to all for your prayers and support during my illness and operations. Your prayers were answered and the operations successful. I feel like a new woman. Maureen Wardrop.

Thank You to our wonderful bus drivers who worked so hard for the Lenten and Easter services especially on the trip down to the Cathedral in the dark and rain. Mary Wood.

New 'Vinnies' Shop at West Gosford Now Open! Spend \$20 by the end of April and you may win prizes from other local shops. See notice Board for full details.

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayers. Sunday 27 April Sacred Heart Chapel 2.30-3.30pm.

The Catholic Weekly Sunday April 27 issue contains a Special souvenir, 84 page full-colour supplement, to mark the cononisation of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

Social Justice

Prayer for Peace

Almighty God, the source of all our good. You call us from oppression and conflict to freedom and co-operation for the good of all. Help people everywhere to build a world of peace ever more solidly established on the four pillars: truth, justice, love and freedom.

A Peace Blessing

May God banish from our hearts whatever might endanger peace. May God transform us into witnesses of truth, justice and love. May God enlighten the rulers of peoples so that in addition to their solicitude for the proper welfare of their citizens, they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May God enkindle the will of all,

so that they may overcome the barriers that divide, cherish the bonds of mutual charity, understand others, and pardon those who have done them wrong. May all peoples of the earth become as one, and may the most longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always among them. *Pope John XXIII Pacem in Terris.*

From the Diocese and beyond

Pope Francis Mission –Evangelii Gaudium: Learn about the Holy Father's Apostolic Exhortation in a half day seminar comprising two lectures and a workshop. Thursday 8 May. 9am – 12.30pm. Delivered by Fr. Noel Connolly ssc. Broken Bay Institute. Caroline Chisholm Centre. Bldg 2. 423 Pennant Hills Rd. (enter via City View Rd.)

Diocesan Pastoral Care Course: If you are someone who loves to meet new friends, learn some extra "life" skills, are open to making a difference, have fun and build community then this course is for you! This practical course will provide you with the required NSW Health Dept. 40 hr training with a time commitment of one day per week, FOR FREE. If, at the end of the course you feel you would like

to take Communion to those of our Catholic communities in hospital you are able to!

The Pastoral Care Course at St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Warnervale, 91 Sparks Rd., Woongarah. May, 5th, 12th, 19th, 25th and June 2nd. Phone Parish office 4393 4501 to enrol. Morning tea and lunch provided.

Annual May Procession in honour of Our Lady, Waverley College to be held 4th May, 2pm. It will commence in the College grounds in Birrell Street with seating available in the College Quadrangle. All old boys and Friends of the College are invited to be part of this event and join the Brothers, staff, students and parents in this act of devotion to the Mother of Jesus. 131 Birrell St. Waverley. Ph: 9369 0600.

Annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa 18/5/14. Coach bookings \$25 pp. Full details on notice board.

Conversation Series: All are invited to this presentation on 30th May, 7.30-9pm (Coffee/tea from 7pm) at St. Agatha's School Hall, Pennant Hills. Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald is the former president of the Pontifical Council for inter-religious Dialogue who will be discussing his experiences of inter-religious relations with Geraldine Doogue who is a popular Australian journalist and broadcaster well known for her work on "Compass" and "Saturday Extra." RSVP 23rd May. Book via www.trybooking.com/EKWF

Scripture Readings

27th April 2014

Bruce Janiga

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 27

Acts 2:42-47
Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Pt 1:3-9
Jn 20:19-31

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Today's Gospel reminds us that believing is seeing things differently. John tells us that the disciples, who are hiding "for fear of the Jews," are visited by the risen Christ on Easter night, "that first day of the week" (v 19). For our evangelist, belief in Jesus leads to "life in his name"; this is the goal of his text: "These things are written that you may come to believe" (v 31). John's text provides revelation that fosters faith, leading to salvation. We see in the scene with Thomas that when Jesus reveals himself to him, Thomas makes a strong statement of faith by declaring Jesus "my Lord and my God" (v 28).

In Acts, Luke gives us a picture of the early church in Jerusalem. Their life is dedicated to prayer and "breaking bread" in their homes (v 46), an early term for the Eucharist. Nourished by this meal, which for them is a way of being in the presence of the risen Lord, their lives progress in holiness, and "every day the Lord added to their number" (v 47). Believing, they come to approach the world in a different way. Their faith leads them to a new way of life on earth, which leads others to desire to join them.

In Peter's letter we hear of the "new birth to a living hope" we receive from God "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (v 3). The author speaks of faith "even though you do not see him" (v 8), encouraging us to persevere in that faith, even in the face of "various trials" (v 6). Like John, this writer tells us that "the goal of your faith" is "the salvation of your souls" (v 9).

For reflection: How has God's revelation strengthened my faith? Do I see things differently because of my faith? How is this manifest in my life?

3rd Sunday of Easter, May 4

Acts 2:14, 22-28
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
1 Pt 1:17-21
Lk 24:13-35

Many wonder why so few people in Jesus' day accepted him as the Messiah. A simple answer is that Jesus did not meet their expectations of what the Messiah was going to be. Luke's Emmaus story shows us that even Jesus' own disciples were slow to believe. "We were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel," they say (v 21). But their hopes were crushed when "our chief priests and rulers both handed him over / to a sentence of death and crucified him" (v 20). This was not what they were expecting from the Messiah. But the risen Jesus, unrecognised by them, interprets the Scriptures for them, showing that it was "necessary that the Christ should suffer these things" (v 26) before coming into his glory. It is only after "their eyes were opened" (v 31) that they recognise him and begin to understand his words. This text teaches us that sometimes it is difficult for us to comprehend God's plan, but with God's help we gain understanding.

In Acts, Peter's speech reinforces the idea that Jesus' death was a necessary part of God's plan. Jesus, who "was a man commended to you by God" (v 22), was "delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God" (v 23). But even death could not defeat him: "God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death" (v 24).

The letter of Peter interprets Christ's death for us, telling us that we "were ransomed ... with the precious blood of Christ" (vv 18-19). This was God's will for us, in order that we might share in God's eternal life. Christ, dying for us, paid the ultimate price in his self-sacrifice. Because of this, Peter says, we should "conduct [ourselves] with reverence" (v 17) in light of our dignity as children of God.

For reflection: When has doubt been a part of my faith journey? How did I overcome it?



Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do I need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?



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 & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Thursday

9.30 am. – 3.00 pm., 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 Dulakara 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.

Easter: Gift and Call

(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

school of discipleship. These are not mutually exclusive definitions—that is why he referred to them as “models.” What you will notice about these alternatives is that there is more of happening than of “thing” in them.

Where does the Church “happen”? It happens where the gospel is proclaimed (herald), where the poor are served (servant), where the community gathers (community), where the Church brings about unity and peace (sacrament) and where (in the last model) disciples gather to learn from their Master.

I am talking about the local parish. The Church does not happen at the lofty heights of administration or discipline; it happens

where the sacraments are celebrated and the word of God is preached. The Church happens, e.g., in the celebration of Mass, in baptism, in matrimony, and so on. The Church happens at the grass roots.

This is one of the principal ways in which Christ still happens. That is the gift. The call is to be part of the happening—the bringing about of the Kingdom which Christ preached and brought about. To work out how best to serve the Kingdom is to happen with the Church—not to see the Church as an institution to which we are passively related, but as a living happening of which we are a part.

Work out how you can be part of that. Join the PPC, or undertake a ministry, such as catechist, or reader, or altar server, or extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. Be part of the action.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay