



The Voice

12th April 2015

Second Sunday of Easter, Year B

Psalter Week 2

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Fr. Tony Redden,
Clare Richen, Edith Germyn,
- **Anniversaries:**
Pedro and Damiana Bulual,
Eleuteria and Ireneo Alejaga,
Susana Alejaga, Eve Stanislas,
Gwen Patricia McCarthy,
Mary Gatt, Kevin McDade.
- **Remembrances:**
Arthur, Muriel and John
Brown and the Brown Family,
Bill and Stella Gordon,
John and Sue Gatt,
Charles Gatt.
- **And for the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Ian Wilks,
Julia Neal, Lila Emery, Phillip
O'Neill, Renie Hunt, Grace
Williams, Mary Dwyer,
Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh,
Alan Harland, Peter Crookes,
Terry Curtis, Charles Knowles,
Irene Beck, John Mortimore,
Beryl Allen, Madge Wood,
Grace McNeaney, Lola Proctor,
Peter Kenneth Thorson,
Meli Ladd, Tui Tuilekutu
Steve Paino, Mary Leger,
Lorna McGregor.

Faith and Love

Our diet during Easter every year is from the Acts of the Apostles (first reading) and the Gospel according to John. In this second year of the three-year cycle, the second reading is from the first letter of John.

Today's second reading comes from chapter 5, late in the letter; it is not part of the sequence of the letters that starts next Sunday. It is taken out of order, so it is important for today: it is about belief that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God. From this faith flows (a theme of the first letter) the love that we have for one another.

We can see that last connection spelt out in the first reading: *The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul.* Belief in Christ led to practical charity.

The gospel shows us what nourishes this faith and charity. They assembled on the first day of the week, on two successive Sundays, and on each occasion Jesus came and stood among them. This is not just an account of two appearances of the Lord at the beginning of Christianity - it is what still happens when Christians assemble on the Lord's Day, the day when Christ rose from the dead.

When Christians assemble on the Lord's Day - the day when Christ rose, the day when the Spirit came down on the apostles, the day when God created light, and so on - the Lord comes and stands among

them. When they gather in his name, he is in their midst. This is how they grow in faith, and in charity for each other and for the poor. He has risen from the dead and still changes the lives of those who believe in him.

On the second Sunday, Jesus invites Thomas to touch his wounds. In part, this addresses the challenge of Thomas after the first occasion: he will not believe unless he puts his finger into the place of the nails, and his hand into Jesus' side. He is concerned lest his fellow disciples be deluded or be seeing someone other than Jesus: touching the wounds will establish that this risen person is in fact the one who died on the cross.

But more important than this is the fact that faith begins and grows from touching the wounds. Thomas' response is faith: "My Lord and my God." Our faith begins and grows in the same way: in Baptism it begins and in the Eucharist especially it grows, but also in all the other sacraments.

On Sunday the Lord is with us as he was with the disciples in the Upper Room. Thomas's faith grew because he touched Christ's wounds. Our faith grows when we touch his wounds through the sacraments.

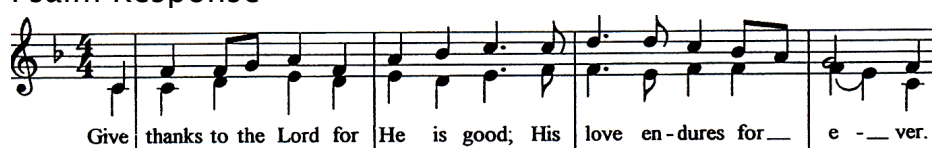
FR JACK ROBSON, P.P.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Eggs: Easter Symbol of New Life	3
Directory	4

Psalm Response

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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

As a parish we warmly welcome to our community Fathers Jack, Timothy & Philip. We give thanks for their vocation and ask that Our Lord bless them abundantly.

Message from the Parish Pastoral Council Friday, May 29. Save the date for dinner with Fathers John & Stephen. A time to celebrate, congratulate, thank, reminisce, laugh and wish them every blessing as they take their next steps. More details soon. But for now, get a group together as tickets will be strictly limited.

Farewell gifts for the Fathers. Leaving collections will be organized in May if you would like to contribute. A farewell journal (card) for each priest will be available in the gathering area. There are plenty of pages, so please select a new page for your message. These will be presented on the 29th May.

Prayer Congratulations to Felix and Sadah Seady married on 7th April, 1947. (68 years) and not out!

The Just Word

Homily of Pope Francis, Easter Vigil, 19 April 2014:

After the death of the Master, the disciples had scattered, their faith had been utterly shaken, everything seemed over, all their certainties had crumbled and their hopes had died. But now that message of the women, incredible as it was, came to them like a ray of light in the darkness. The news spread: Jesus is risen as he said. And then there was his command to go to *Galilee*; the women had heard it twice, first from the angel and then from Jesus himself. Galilee is the place where they were first called, where everything began! Jesus had walked along the shores of the lake as the fishermen were casting their nets. He had called them, and they left everything and followed him (Mt. 4: 18-22). To return to Galilee means to re-read everything on the basis of the cross and its victory, fearlessly: 'do not be afraid'.

From the Diocese and beyond

How does the Anzac Legend Speak to us Today? - A Conversation with Dame Marie Bashir and Ray Martin: In a conversation series event to commemorate the 100th

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayers. this Sunday 2.30pm-3.30pm in Sacred Heart Chapel.

From the Parish Nurse: The 7th April was World Health Day and this year the focus was on safe food.

There are estimated 4.1 million cases of food borne gastroenteritis each year in Australia (foodstands.gov.au). In 2010 there were approximately 30,600 hospitalizations and 70 deaths related to food borne illness. In the light of the recent episode of contaminated berries it is timely to review our individual practices around food safety.

Do the 'how safe is your food' quiz and pick up the Five Keys to Safer Food brochure in the gathering space. The following websites contain easy to read information and tips on keeping food safe. Foodstandards Australia: www.foodstandards.gov.au OzFoodNet: www.ozfoodnet.gov.au Health.gov.au

For each of us, too, there is a 'Galilee' at the origin of our journey with Jesus. 'To go to Galilee' means something beautiful, it means rediscovering our baptism as a living fountainhead, drawing new energy from the sources of our faith and our Christian experience. To return to Galilee means above all to return to that blazing light with which God's grace touched me at the start of the journey. From that flame I can light a fire for today and every day, and bring heat and light to my brothers and sisters. That flame ignites a humble joy, a joy which sorrow and distress cannot dim, a good, gentle joy. In the life of every Christian, after baptism, there is also another 'Galilee', a more existential 'Galilee': the experience of a *personal encounter with Jesus Christ* who called me to follow him and to share his mission. In this sense, returning to Galilee means treasuring in my heart the living

Bus Trip Wednesday 29th April to Wollombi and Cessnock. Lunch at the club. Leaving 8.30am. Cost \$15. Enquiries: Susie Casey 4344 1742.

St. John the Baptist Primary School 2016 Enrolment information Evening at the school, Tuesday 28th April, 7.30pm. Enquiries: Contact school 4341 0884 or email sjbwww@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Children's Liturgy Roster 19/4/15: Brenda Sweet, Therese Carroll, Grace Douglas.

First Holy Communion: Please pray for our children making their first Holy Communion over the next six weeks.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in Leo Mahon room due 20th April, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

memory of that call, when Jesus passed my way, gazed at me with mercy and asked me to follow him. To return there means reviving the memory of that moment when his eyes met mine, the moment when he had me realise that he loved me. Today, tonight, each of us can ask: *What if my Galilee?* I need to remind myself, to go back and remember. Where is my Galilee? Do I remember it? Seek and you will find it! There the Lord is waiting for you. Have I go off on roads and paths which made me forget it? The Gospel is very clear: we need to go back there, to see Jesus risen, and to become witnesses of his resurrection. This is not to go back in time; it is not a time of nostalgia. It is returning to our first love, in order to *receive the fire* which Jesus has kindled in the world and to bring that fire to all people, to the very ends of the earth. Go back to Galilee, without fear! Let us be on our way!

All very welcome. The Light of Christ Centre, end of Yardley Avenue, Waitara. Saturday, 18th April. 10.30am – 12.30pm. RSVP Wed. 15th April to www.trybooking.com/HAEW

Eggs: Easter Symbol of New Life

David E. Fedor

We enter the great 50 days of Easter after immersing ourselves in the sacred Triduum. Overflowing with rich signs and symbols, the Triduum draws us from the earthly life of Christ, through his death and conquest of death, into the fulfillment of the Father's promise of a life that will never end. Christ is indeed raised from the dead! We too inherit this promise, for through Christ the doors to eternal life are open to all.

We tell this story in our liturgy, which is full of symbols of the paschal mystery: bread, wine, light, darkness, water, oil, and a host of other common things that take on new meaning with the eyes of faith. But in addition to all the symbols and signs that are part of our liturgical life, we also have nonliturgical customs and traditions that express and reinforce our beliefs. We know that our predecessors in faith often took ordinary things and imbued them with deeper meaning. Although not part of the rites of the church, the ordinary egg has been part of the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ from the earliest Christian times.

In those days, the process of reproduction was somewhat mysterious. Rather than birthing live babies, birds (among other animals) produced eggs, which exhibited no signs of life — until it was time for each youngling to break out and begin its life. People easily associated the dormant egg and the new life that would break its way out into the world with the resurrection of Christ breaking free from the tomb.

Eggs, being an abundant staple, both by themselves and in other foods such as breads and pastries, were a major part of meals during the Easter season. Having followed a strict Lenten fast — in many cultures, meat, dairy, and eggs were not eaten for the entire season — people looked forward to the Easter celebration. As chickens laid their eggs, people preserved them by boiling or some other means. As Easter drew near, the women of the household decorated the eggs in preparation for the feast. Some of these eggs were part of the food that was blessed on Holy Saturday; families brought their baskets containing the foods that were not consumed during Lent: rich breads, meats, freshly churned butter, and eggs. This feast,

eaten on Easter morning, broke the fast of Lent.

Although we do not know exactly when the egg became a symbol for Easter, the custom of decorating eggs for the paschal celebration seems to have been widespread by the Middle Ages. Decoration might be simple in some cultures and elaborate in others. Single-color eggs were very common; initially, the typical color was red, to represent the blood of Christ. Often a cross or other symbol was painted on the egg. Over time, some cultures turned decorated eggs into an art form. This most notably occurred in eastern European countries, especially Russia and Ukraine. They developed a method of decorating using beeswax and a stylus. Beginning with a plain white egg, the stylus was dipped in hot wax and was used to draw the lines that would be white on the final egg. The egg was dipped in a yellow dye and was now yellow, except for the lines that had been drawn with wax. The stylus and wax were again used to add lines that would be yellow, and the egg was dipped in the next dye, often orange. The process of drawing with wax continued, using progressively darker dyes; each time, the waxed lines prevented the previous colors from being covered. When finished, the egg was polished with a warm cloth to reveal its elaborate design and vibrant colors. The name for this type of decorated egg is *pysanky*, which means "to write."

Decorated eggs were shared with family and friends as a symbolic way of wishing eternal life for each other. As I experienced Easter at my Ukrainian grandparents' home, the first food to be eaten was a beautifully decorated egg. This boiled egg would be peeled and cut into as many pieces as there were persons at the table; it was passed around, with each person taking a piece and exchanging the dialogue, "Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed!" Sharing in this one egg was a sign of the new life we share in the risen Christ. Now we could begin the Easter feast!

In addition to giving away decorated eggs, people often saved a few to place in the coffin of a family member that might die during the year. In a like manner, *pysanky* would

(Continued on page 4)



The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.



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"

Fr Jack Robson, *Parish Priest*
Fr Timothy Raj MSFS & Fr Philip Thottam MSFS,
Assistant Priests
Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Margaret Cooper & Raelene McLenaghan
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.

Eggs: Easter Symbol of New Life

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(Continued from page 3)

be placed on the graves of those who had died since last Easter. Newborn grandchildren were also given an Easter egg.

The common egg, with its connection to new life, spreads the message of hope in the resurrection through the rituals and customs of people throughout the Christian world. Simple, ordinary, everyday things, acted on in faith, can proclaim the profound mysteries of God acting among us. ML

ML

David Fedor holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for 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.



Diocese of
Broken Bay