



LENT

2nd Sunday in Lent

Year A

12th March 2017

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Elizabeth Kenney, Sadie Monaghan.
- **Anniversaries:**
Monsignor Ian Burns,
Fr. John Wakeling, Liz Goetz,
Stella Thompson, Carlo Bevilacqua,
Bruno De Souza, Lucy De Souza,
Bishop Patrick Murphy.
- **Remembrances:**
Peter John Grima.
- **And the sick:**
Alan Ford, Kevin Houghton,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Alan Harland, Tracie Passlow,
John Allen, Audrey Barsendich,
Maureen Cowsls, Kath Hardy,
Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Lola de Souza,
Pat Burgmann. Mary Scarfe.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Three key people of the Old Testament are given to us in today's readings: Abram, Moses and Elijah. Unfortunately most of what we know about these men is fairly sketchy. Who can blame the young children, then, who wrote down the following answers in an exam on the Old Testament?

'Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth was to always humour thy father and mother.'

The Jews of Matthew's community, however, would have been able to remember by heart every detail about Abram, Moses and Elijah. These men remain the Jews' greatest heroes. The first hearers of the Transfiguration story would have immediately made all the connections between Jesus' story and Abram, Moses and Elijah's experience of God on a mountaintop, where each has a life-changing encounter with the presence of God and is illuminated in every way. Each of them is called by God to fulfil a special task and so descend from the mountain with the strength to see it through.

Matthew is especially interested in the story of Moses. One of the refrains of the entire Gospel is that Jesus is the New Moses, the fulfilment of the law and the light that illuminates the darkest night. As interesting as the similarities are between Moses on Sinai and Jesus on Tabor, the differences are even more revealing for us on our Lenten journey. Moses goes up the mountain alone, Jesus takes companions with him who share in

the experience and witness to it. The face of God is hidden from Moses whereas on Tabor Jesus is given to us as the face of God for the world. On Sinai Moses receives a code of law and is told to make sure the people obey it. On Tabor Jesus receives a proclamation of God's love and we're told to listen to him.

While Moses' face shines, Jesus' whole body is transfigured with light. Moses descends to enforce the law; Jesus comes down to die that we might live.

Just when some of us think Lent is a grim season of self-denial, the Church gives us the story of Jesus' Transfiguration to put our sacrifices in context. The only reason we deny ourselves anything or commit ourselves to actions of service for these 40 days is to grow more deeply in love with the God who loves us into life.

Penance is not meant to attack our self-esteem, it's intended to help us sort out what really matters, to cast some light in the darkness of our lives and to focus on the relationship which gives meaning and purpose for this world and the next. The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives. On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world. In this context anything we can do this Lent that helps remove the blocks in our full response to his love, must be worth effort.

© Richard Leonard SJ.

Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*



Around the Parish

Stational Mass – Bishop Peter & clergy from our Deanery will celebrate Mass in our church Tuesday, 14 March at 7.30pm. Please refer to the back page for more information

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be available every Wednesday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be followed every Wednesday at 4pm and every Friday at 7.30pm during Lent.

Fr. Jack's Thank You Dinner: BOOK NOW- Friday March 24 - 6:00pm for 6:30pm, Gosford Golf Club, in the beautiful Magnolia Room - delicious 3 course dinner. Tickets are \$50 per person (buy your own drinks at the bar). Show your gratitude and wish Fr. Jack a happy retirement. Come as a single, a couple, make up a table or leave it to us! Bookings (and monies) **M U S T c l o s e o n** Thursday March 16, so be quick! Call Susie Simmons on 0411 566 622 or put your name down on the list in the gathering area if interested. The Parish bus will be available to transport parishioners on the night.

Social Justice

Climate Change brings hunger to the Pacific:

A new environmental report released by Caritas shows the Pacific Islanders are facing major challenges due to climate change.

Produced by Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga, the report shows that over the last 12 months the Pacific—a region known for an abundance of food and water—has been hit by multiple big weather events, supercharged by El Nino.

This has affected about five million people across 13 countries, leading to food and water shortages. The El Nino

Please call the Parish Office to book a seat.

A leaving collection for Fr Jack's gift will be made on the weekends of 11/12th & 18/19th March.

Parish School Dance Saturday, 29th April. \$45 Ticket. Live Band, Roast Dinner. Nibbles and champagne on arrival. Tables of 8-14. Tickets available at the school or the Parish Office.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due Monday, 20th March, 11.30am-3pm. If you would like to join us phone 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Bus Trip to Newcastle Wednesday, 15th March, leaving at 8.45am. Cost \$20. Morning tea included. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639/ 43441742

Bus Trip to Morpeth Thursday, 23rd March, leaving at 9.00am. Cost \$20. Morning tea included. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639 / 4344 1742.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 17/3/17: Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen, Lisa Ann Rae, Mabel Torres.

forced people to walk for days seeking sustenance, to rely on food with poor nutritional value and, in some cases, to become severely weakened or die from malnutrition.

More Pacific communities are losing ground to coastal erosion and coastal flooding, disrupting food gardens, cemeteries and homes. As the sea continues to rise, bringing future unknown changes, Caritas continues to hear more stories of whole communities moving because of these rising seas and stronger king tides.

For example, the main hospital of the Solomon Islands will be forced to relocate. At a cost of \$US100 million.

"Australia needs to honour the

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 16th March, Leo Mahon room, and all Thursdays in Lent. You need to bring your bible.

Senior and Junior Altar Servers: New rosters available for your collection in Servers Sacristy.

Dr. Pavel Kohout: Parishioners who attended the recital given by renowned Czech organist Dr. Pavel Kohout in our parish church last year will know what a superb artist he is and will be glad to know he is returning on Thursday evening 30th March (this month) to give another recital on the piano and organ from 8pm-9pm. The programme features works by well-known Czech composers as well as by J.S. Bach and Theodore Dubois. Tickets (at the door) are very reasonably priced for a concert by such a distinguished musician and parishioners are warmly invited to attend. There are details of the concert programme in the leaflets within and in the gathering space.

promises that were made in Paris and set emission targets that are in line with limiting the rise in global temperatures to well below 1.5°C." said Caritas CEO Paul O'Callaghan.

"Countries across Oceania are among those most affected by climate change even though they have contributed minimally to its causes," Mr. O'Callaghan said. "Australia needs to contribute its fair share of funding to support vulnerable countries to adapt to climate change, over and above the existing aid budget."

To access the report, go to www.caritas.org.au Hungry for Justice. Thirsty for Change—State of the Environment for Oceania.

From the Diocese and beyond

Memorial Mass for Most Rev. Patrick Laurence Murphy, First Bishop of Broken Bay: Bishop Peter warmly invites the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Broken to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the passing of our founding Bishop, Most. Rev. Patrick Laurence Murphy, to Eternal Life. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am on Saturday, 18th

March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Yardley Ave. Waitara.

The Triumph—the battle has begun: Wyoming Parish invites you as our neighbours to this film presentation. Upcoming Screenings are Wednesday, 15th March, 7.30pm with wine and cheese or Sunday, 19th March, 11am Morning Tea. In the OLR School Hall, 92 Glennie St. Wyoming. Entry by donation.

BYO plate to share. Proceeds to go towards OLR Restoration work.

Invitation: German speakers are cordially invited to Star of the Sea at Terrigal for a German Mass held every 3rd Sunday, 11.30am due 19th March. Following the Mass we have a get together with tea/coffee in the parish hall. All welcome!

Transfigured Bodysouls

by Fr Michael Tate

One often hears the comment: 'All religions are the same. Somewhat different packaging, but really they all believe in the same things.' But do they? For example, what do they say about our final destiny? Some believe that the soul is more or less trapped in the body. The best thing would be for the soul to be freed from the body, leaving the old corpse behind and enjoying heaven simply as a soul ...forever.

Well, that might be what the ancient Greeks taught, but it is not what Christians believe. What do we believe?

The soul is not a miniscule dot of energy in some hidden core of our body. In fact, the soul is not in the body so much as the body is in the soul! There is no part of my body which is not immersed in my soul. I am my bodysoul.

So it is my whole person, bodysoul, which needs to be saved. As Thomas Aquinas says: 'If only my soul is saved, I am not saved.' What might this involve?

It will involve my whole person, bodysoul, being transformed, sharing in the radiance of God's Glory. There is a hint of this in old holy pictures, or the Stations of the Cross. Notice the halo of light, a golden glow, around the head of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel gives more than a hint as to what we believe. This was no out-of-body experience of religious ecstasy. This was an utterly bodily experience. Jesus' body was translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light.

Note that the transfiguration was not a solitary experience for Jesus. Peter, James and John witnessed it precisely because it told them what our Heavenly Father desired as *their* destiny beyond martyrdom, if only they would 'listen to Him'.

Could a person share in the transfiguration experience of Christ, exhibiting that sharing in their own bodies?

Let me recount my favourite story of

the life of a saint. (Conversation of St Seraphim on the 'End of the Christian Life' in *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* by Vladimir Lossky, St Vladimir's Seminary Press, New York 1976, pp 227-229.)

A disciple of St Seraphim of Sarov recounts this story. St Seraphim is talking to him,

'Why then, my friend, do you not look me straight in the face? Look freely and without fear; the Lord is with us.'

'Encouraged by these words, I looked and was seized by holy fear. Imagine in the middle of the sun, dazzling in the brilliance of its noontide rays, the face of the man who is speaking to you. You can see the movement of his lips, the changing expression of his eyes, you can hear his voice, you can feel his hands holding you by the shoulders, but you can see neither his hands nor his body - nothing except the blaze of light which shines around, lighting up with its brilliance the snow-covered meadow, and the snowflakes which continue to fall unceasingly.'

'What do you feel?' asked Father Seraphim.

'An immeasurable well-being,' I replied.

'But what sort of well-being? What exactly?'

'I feel', I replied, 'such calm, such peace in my soul, that I can find no words to express it.'

'My friend, it is the peace our Lord spoke of when he said to his disciples: "My peace I give to you," the peace which the world cannot give; "the peace which passeth all understanding." What else do you feel?'

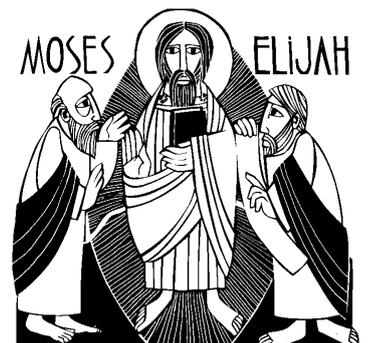
'Infinite joy in my heart.'

That is the promise our Heavenly Father makes to you and to me, personally and individually. You and I can be, and with God's grace *will* be, bodysouls radiant with Divine Light, translucent to Divine Glory, filled with 'immeasurable well-being' - 'infinite joy in our hearts'.



"Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

See 2 Timothy 1:8b



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.

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).

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 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

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

CATECHISTS

Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost.

Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

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.

A Lenten Invitation...

One of the beautiful faith traditions is the Stational Mass – a special opportunity that offers a way to greater prayer with the universal Church during particular seasons throughout the year.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli is calling for the people of Broken Bay to join him in making the pilgrimage of Lenten Stational Masses in Broken Bay.

Across our five Deaneries during Lent, all parishioners are invited to gather and pray as one body, We particularly welcome Parish RCIA teams to bring candidates who are being received into full communion with the Church, and their families. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to encourage and pray for one another on this graced journey to Easter

Please join us at one or all of the following Masses celebrated by Bishop Peter:

7 March	7.30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary Church, The Entrance
14 March	7.30pm	St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy Peninsula
21 March	7.30pm	St Kieran's Church, Manly Vale
28 March	7.30pm	Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara
4 April	7.30pm	Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood