



The Voice

27th July 2014

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 1

ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Sr. Philomene Tiernan,
Sr. Josepha Clancy,
Poppy Whitford,
Florence Saville,
William 'Bill' Passlow
Fr Frank Vaughan.
- **Anniversaries:**
Sergei de Souza, Diana and
William Whittington, Patricia
Snell. r.s.c.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Mary Harrison, Lola Proctor,
Therese Payne, Vince Ashley,
Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,
Silvana Anzalone, Irene Beck,
Alan Harland, Therese Payne,
Mary Leger, Hanaa El Khatib,
Grace Williams, Wanda
Grima, Grace McNeaney, Bev-
erley Purser, Cissy Tuilekutu.

Bows, genuflections, etc.

Reverence and courtesy are important in the liturgy. They sometimes take an old-fashioned form (and are therefore subject to revision), but the principle remains: informality does not render good manners obsolete or redundant.

It is indeed true that church etiquette (if I may call it that) derives from court etiquette. Courts have gone, because kings have gone, but they have, as it were, left behind a residue.

The common form of monstrance, a few centuries back, was like the sort of clock one sees in museums: the Host was exposed inside a glass tube. But when Louis XIV of France began to speak of himself as the "Sun King," Christians thought, 'If it is true of a king, it is much more applicable to God,' and so monstrances of the modern form appeared, in which the Host is enshrined in a sunburst..

So it was with bows and genuflections. Kings of England, at one time, were approached with a threefold genuflection. If one had to do that to a mere king, people thought, how much more appropriate was it for the Blessed Sacrament! But when one no longer had to genuflect to the king (although a curtsey is a sort of genuflection, so it is still there to some extent), one wondered how to behave to the Sacrament.

You hear occasionally the abrupt statement, 'I will bow to no man.' There is a mistake here. Respect is the issue, but there are two forms of respect: that given to an individual human being because of intrinsic personal qualities; another, given to an individual because of the role he plays. The armed services have, in this respect, the principle: one salutes the rank, not the man. (I am told that when an officer is not wearing his cap, one does not salute.)

If, when in Canberra, you decide to visit the High Court or a House of Parliament, you will be instructed to bow to the Bench, the Speaker or the President. Whatever you think of the individuals concerned, you treat their office with respect.

It is important to keep this in mind when one goes to Holy Communion. First of all, we remember that we are in a procession, not a queue; we are approaching the altar as God's People, not as individuals unconcerned for each other.

How do we express our respect at this moment, while keeping our fellow communicants in mind?

The Australian bishops have said that it is sufficient to bow the head before receiving Communion. This is done while the per-

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Psalm Response

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I love your law, O Lord. I love your law.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Thank You and Farewell to Fr. Tom for his care of us during the past two months. We will miss his smiling face and sense of humour. Now the Parish Office can return to its usual normal routine.

Father Hill's Card (Journal Book) on stand in the gathering area this weekend. Please choose a separate page with your preferred bible quotation on the bottom of each page and write your message.

For all those who contributed to Fr. Hill's gift, we were able to present him with a fob watch and a personal cheque at his luncheon last Sunday.

Commemorative holy cards and book marks of Fr. Hill's Golden Jubilee available for all on table in the gathering area.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during the 4pm Mass this Friday, 1st August.

Baptisms: We welcome into our faith community and pray for Mia Lamond, Byron Haggett and Charlie Allan who were baptized last Sunday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 1/8/14: Linda Potestas, Sally Doyle, Kevin Glacken and Julie Vanderputt.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for the month of August are 2nd, 9th and 16th. Enq:

Linda Thurlow on 4342 9092.

Grand-parents are a treasure" (Pope Francis): The role of grandparents/grandparent figures is becoming increasingly significant today and each year on or close to the Feast we are invited to raise awareness and celebrate the important role grandparents and grandparent figures play in family life. Please collect a copy of the handout 'Grandparents Great Presence' available on the table in the gathering area.

Mary Mac's Garage Sale:

Mary Mac's Place is planning on holding a Garage Sale on October 11th. We are putting a call out for quality and interesting items for sale. Please no junk as we have to pay to get rid of it. You can assist by saving goods for the garage sale and drop them off *when a drop off date is announced*.

Regrettably Mary Macs does not have room to store items for the sale.

We would love to hear from anyone who has an area we could store items.

As you would be aware Mary Mac's is continually struggling to meet the ever increasing demand for assisting people in the community who are 'doing it tough' and trying to deal with the many difficulties in

their lives.

Raising funds is essential for the ongoing support we offer to those less fortunate so we can not only supply a hot mid day meal but pay for our operational costs such as electricity, washing powder, maintenance and repairs etc.

The garage sale is one of Mary Mac's major fund raising initiatives for the year.

Remember the old saying — one man's junk is another man's treasure. Mary Mac's thank you in advance for all your efforts to help us with your unneeded treasures.

Christine. Project Administrator 0417 671 973.

Thank You to all my friends at St. John the Baptist for kindness shown to me, during the past 9 weeks. Your visits, cards and phones greatly appreciated. Beverley Purser.

Understanding Dementia presented by Mary Ford this Thursday, 31st July, 7.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. A special invitation to those who take communion to parishioners.

Bus Trip—Mary MacKillop Healing Mass, North Sydney. Thursday 31 July. Leaving at 8.30am. Cost \$10. Enquiries ring Susie 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Social Justice

National Missing Persons Week begins:

National Missing Persons Week is an annual event to raise community awareness of the issues and impacts surrounding missing persons.

Young people may go missing for many reasons including es-

caping from violence, bullying, drug or alcohol abuse, depression and rebellion.

Communication is vital in preventing young people from going missing and in finding them once they have become a missing person.

National Missing Persons Week

has two primary aims: to assist in the resolution of missing persons cases through heightened awareness, and to raise community awareness about the issues facing persons and their families and friends.

For more information:

www.missingpersons.gov.au

From the Diocese and beyond

UNSA—Upper North Shore Adoration: An hour of Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults held on the last Tuesday of each month due 29th July from 7pm. Supper will follow and Catechesis till 9pm. Holy Name Parish, 35 Billyard Ave. Wahroonga. More information contact Tomek on 0405 393 872.

Australian Church Women Inc. Fellowship Day 2014. 'Building up the Body of Christ' Friday, 1st August 10am Service. St. Luke's Anglican Church, 151 Blackwall Rd. Woy Woy. Morning tea

11am. Guest Speaker: Mrs. Natalie McLeod, NSW State President for Australian Church Women 2014-16.

'Living with a Victorious Mentality'. Joshua — Strength and Courage: St. Patrick's Parish, 76 York St. East Gosford will host the Catholic School of Evangelisation's Weekend Course on August 16th and 17th, St. Patrick's Primary School Library, Victoria Street Campus.

Saturday 16/8: Commencing with 9am Mass and then to the Library until 5.30pm.

Sunday 17/8: 9am to 4.30pm, with Mass at 3pm in the Church. By donation only.

Divine Mercy and the Holy Angels: Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal, will host, world renowned speaker, Father Peter (Piotr) Prusakiewicz Tuesday, 29th July at 6pm, as he speaks on Divine Mercy and the Holy Angels. Mass will be at 6pm and Fr. Peter will speak during this time. Supper will be provided in the Hall afterwards if you wish to stay. More information see flyer in the Gathering Area.

Feeding them ourselves

Mary Amore

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.

The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot

from their towns.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said,

“This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages

and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away;

give them some food yourselves.”

But they said to him,

“Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.”

Then he said, “Bring them here to me,”

and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven,

he said the blessing, broke the loaves,

and gave them to the disciples,

who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied,

and they picked up the fragments left over – twelve wicker baskets full.

Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

(Mt 14:13-21, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

After an emotional day filled with the sad news of the imprisonment of his cousin, John the Baptist, Jesus is moved with pity for the vast crowd of followers. Rather than dismissing them so late in the day, Jesus tells his tired and bewildered apostles that they should feed the people themselves. The apostles wondered how they were going to accomplish this task with only five loaves and two fish.

Jesus, on the other hand, isn't deterred by the problem at all. Taking the simple gifts of creation into his sacred hands, he offers blessings to God, breaks the bread, and distributes the miraculous food to disciples, who in turn share the abundance of bread with the thousands gathered. In this moment of mass feeding, no one dared to ask where the food came from; rather, people ate until they were full.

How interesting that Jesus chooses not to feed the people directly but rather instructs his disciples to take on this responsibility. In doing so, Jesus offered us a model for discipleship.

In a way, having the apostles actively share in the feeding of the people is a precursor to what occurs at the eucharistic liturgy. During the eucharistic prayer, the priest, acting

in the persona of Christ, takes the ordinary gifts of bread and wine into his hands, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, these ordinary table gifts of bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. As disciples we approach the altar table seeking our spiritual nourishment, and we are transformed into the very mystery that we receive, so that we may then go out and spiritually nourish those in our lives. As in the Gospel story, Christ depends on us, his followers, to feed one another, both in body and in spirit.

“Give them some food yourselves” is a divine call for each of us to care for one another. Our world is in desperate need of spiritual nourishment, and through our encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, we have the power and the ability to feed the hungry souls of those who seek God. How? We can satisfy the spiritual and physical hunger of those around us by offering mercy and love to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the homeless instead of criticising them or ignoring them. Pope Francis is modeling Christ in this very manner, and people are taking notice. Francis is dedicated to helping the poor and the forgotten – shouldn't we do the same?

All people in the Gospel story were fed by the miraculous fish and loaves – not just the believers. As followers of Jesus, we can nourish hungry souls by accepting our differences instead of condemning individuals and groups because they seem different from us. We can bear witness to the saving power of Christ by inviting God to act in and through us so we can offer reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing to wounded and broken souls who hunger for wholeness.

But are we willing to “give them some food ourselves,” as Jesus directs? Are we willing to cast aside our selfish tendencies in order to care for the needs of those around us?

Are we willing to be spiritual nourishment for our family, friends, and those whom Jesus sends into our lives? ML

Mary Amore is the executive director of Mayslake Ministries in Lombard, Ill. She holds a doctorate degree in liturgy and master of arts degree in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union. She is the author of *Primary Symbols of Worship* and *The Call to Participation* as well as numerous articles. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



“The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces,” says the psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

See Psalm 119



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, 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 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.

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.

Bows, Genuflections, etc.

(continued)

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son in front is receiving – waiting until it is one's own turn turns the procession into a queue and holds up the process. We similarly bow before receiving from the chalice.

If you want to go further and genuflect, consider what this might entail if the person behind is not ready for this, and that good order makes it preferable that we all show reverence in the same way; in any case, once again, this is done while the person in front is receiving; you don't wait until it is your turn.

The important point is that we should show reverence for what we are about to receive; as St Augustine says, 'we receive because we adore.' We do not treat the Blessed Sacrament in an offhand way.

If you receive on the hand, extend your hands one above the other, like a throne; then step to one side and put It in your

mouth. Don't snatch at It; receive It.

Remember that Communion by "intinction" (dipping the Host in the Precious Blood) can only be done by the minister; the Church has excluded "self-service" in this area. The dangers of profanation are too great.

Meanwhile, other courtesies also should prevail. The server presenting things to the priest bows, and the priest bows in return: nothing more than courtesy. The reader bows to the presider, just as we bow to the presiding officer at a meeting. None of this is a big deal, and no offence is taken if it is not done, but the atmosphere of courtesy is strengthened.

As Belloc once put it, 'the grace of God is in courtesy.' Reverence and courtesy go together when we all treat each other as fellow members of the Body of Christ.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay