



ORDINARY TIME

THE VOICE

23rd February 2014

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Gregory Boyle, Joy Keegan, Cristalina, Mary Cray.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bill Finlayson, Les Gordon, Sr. Teresa Corcoran, o.c.d., Kathleen McLean, Melanie Andrews, Sid Flakelar, Terry Ayres, Fr. Karl Huber. s.j., Fatima Fawzy.
- **And the sick:**
Helen and David Hopkins, Mary Scarf, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, Michael Cox, Susie Simmons, Mary Wood, John and Patricia Welsh, John Osborne, Grace Williams, Sara Selim, Ken McLean, Lola Proctor.

Mary Mac's

There have been some changes at Mary Mac's, and I would like you to know about them, before rumours start circulating.

Mary Mac's began, as you know, in the parish community centre that operated next to the old presbytery in Blackwall Road (both now demolished).

People began dropping in, asking for something to eat, and the parishioners prepared meals for them. The operation was informal and (if you like) amateur; needs were met in a simple way.

Unfortunately, the visitors started sleeping under the house at night; neighbours objected; and the service was suspended for a while.

Later, however, it was resumed under the name, "Mary Mac's", but it did not have a home. For a while, it was located over the St Vincent de Paul Centre in Brick Wharf Road and, afterwards, in the premises of St Jude's Hostel.

About this time a government grant was obtained, through CentaCare, to employ a Coordinator. An arrangement was gradually reached in which Mary Mac's was recognised as a parish enterprise in cooperation with CentaCare; there was also financial support from the St Vincent de Paul Society; gradually, many local businesses and clubs, as well as generous people with historical ties to the Parish, became regular supporters. Volunteers from the wider community also joined the original group of parishioner volunteers. A Steering Commit-

tee (chaired by the Parish Priest) was in overall charge.

As part of the building project in 2005-2007, the Parish was finally able to give Mary Mac's some stability, providing suitable premises in the Ethel Cox Centre. In the context of erecting a church, presbytery, hall and parish centre, this contribution to the operation of Mary Mac's was regarded as "tithing" the whole project.

Meanwhile, CatholicCare (as it became) took over the functions of financial management and coordinator supervision.

It has now been decided that Mary Mac's needs a neater and more efficient mode of governance. CatholicCare will assume overall direction; the Coordinator will be accountable only to them; the Steering Committee has been abolished; in its place, a fund-raising body, with links to the Parish and the wider community, will be established.

The Parish, in other words, is stepping back a bit from the operation. It will not be involved in day-to-day management, but the operation will continue to be conducted on parish property. Control by CatholicCare will open the way to more government grants and better support to the Coordinator.

As we make this move, we thank the pioneers of this service and all those who have helped in any way. As things proceed, I shall keep you up-to-date.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Moving Forward in Faith	3
Directory	4

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Piano Recital.

The first piano recital will be given in the Church, Sunday, 2nd March, 3.30 pm. Mary-Ellen Wallace will perform the works of Debussy, Mozart and Rachmaninoff with stories about the composers and the background to the music. A very pleasant time is assured. Entry is FREE but there will be a leaving collection to go towards the installation of the new pipes in the organ.

Have you ever wondered how the organ works? There are over 1000 pipes in the organ chamber. The pipes you see on the façade are only a fraction of the total and some of them are only decorative. The rest are contained in the organ chamber. Our esteemed organ builder, Darrel Pitchford will conduct tours of the chamber after the 9.15am Mass, Sunday 9th March and will explain how our magnificent instrument works. Only small groups of four or five at a time can be accommodated so it is important to indicate your participation by writing your name on the list in the gathering space as total numbers are limited. The tours are free but par-

ticipants will have the opportunity to make a small donation if they wish towards the cost of installing new pipes in the organ – progress on which will be seen on the tours.

World Day of Prayer. This year's World Day of Prayer service for Woy Woy Peninsula will be at St. David's Presbyterian Church, Friday, 7th March at 10am followed by morning tea at 11am. The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. Everyone is welcome to attend the service including men and children.

Pancake Night. The annual Ecumenical Pancake Night is to be held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 360 Ocean Beach Road. Tuesday 4th March commencing 7pm. If coming, for catering purposes, please put your name on the list in the gathering area. This is a social event that we take part in with parishioners of the Anglican and Uniting Churches and is a very pleasant gathering. Admission is by discretionary

donation.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 28/2/14: Gary Martin, Jo Salter, Kevin Glacken, Christina Thorsen.

Catechists' Meeting Thursday, 27th February 9am (please note earlier start) 9am- 12md. In the Leo Mahon room.

Liturgy Team Meeting Thursday, 27th February, 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

Family Ministry Meeting Thursday, 27th February, 1pm, Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

Baptism. We welcome into our faith community and pray for Eli Zane Mitchell baptized last Sunday.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group will meet Thursday, 27th February, 10am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All welcome to join us.

'El Shaddai' Group meetings for March are 1st, 8th, 15th. Enq: Mary Owen Ph: 4341 7612.

Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Rosters now available in Servers Sacristy.

The Just Word

How it made our hearts sing to see on our TV screens those trucks and semi trailers laden with hay from the farmers who

had had rain, to those in the north west without any rain, to feed their starving animals. The truck drivers who gave their time

and effort and those who donated the petrol were all part of this act of Social Justice. God bless all involved.

From the Diocese and Beyond

St. Edward's Christian Brothers' College Year 7, 2015: Enrolments for Year 7, 2015 open on Tuesday 25 February, 2014. The closing date for applications is Friday 9 May, 2014. Please contact the Enrolment Secretary, Mrs. Simone Bartlett on 4321 6420 for a Prospectus.

Broken Bay Youth Ministry Conference 2014: All young people,

youth leaders invited. "Here am I; Send me" Is. 6:8. Keynote speaker, Fr. Dave Callaghan MGL. We will look at the call to ministry, *Anointed* by the Spirit. *Appointed* for greatness and *Powerful* in and through Christ. Full details see www.dbb.org.au/youth. Friday, 7/3, Saturday 8/3. 10am -5pm conference sessions. Fri-

day night, Praise and Worship including BBQ 6-9pm. Light of Christ Centre, Yardley Ave, Wai-tara. Contact Cathy Martorana 0427 960 918.

cathy.martorana@dbb.org.au
Cost: Full conference \$50 – Friday, Saturday and Conference Dinner or one day \$20. Conference \$20.

Forward in Faith (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

the local church and the body of Christ. The local church gathers regularly to be instructed by the word and nourished by the sacramental presence of Christ as we return thanks in the Eucharist. We who partake in the body of Christ become the body of Christ so that the world may know of God's love.

During the past 50 years, we have begun to understand and live out the vision of the Second Vatican Council. Although human forces at work in the church have at times disagreed on how to interpret the Council's vision, we continue to experience great progress in building up the body of Christ in the world. In our day, the good news is to be proclaimed to all; Pope Francis is reminding the church to centre itself on the gospel: "This church with which we should be thinking is the home of all, not a small chapel that can hold only a small group of selected people." Through the

redemption of Jesus Christ, the invitation to join is extended to all people for all time. Again, Francis makes it clear that this means everyone: "I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. ... Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else – God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life."

The work of building up the body of Christ is in the hands of the people of God – us. Our actions can "build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live"; moving forward in faith, we are called to build a place where "all are welcome." **ML**

David Fedor is a liturgist and pastoral musician. He holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame and writes ML's Ritual Formation column. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



Moving Forward in Faith

David E. Fedor

During this past year, the Catholic church has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, which convened on October 11, 1962. Conferences and discussions have been held, books written, and papers delivered. *Ministry & Liturgy* has taken a look at the last half-century with an eye toward understanding the dynamics that have been at work in the church. This year ML will discern where we in the church find ourselves in 2014 as we continue to understand and implement a new direction.

Many reforms were spawned by decrees of the Council. Almost every aspect of the church was examined, and the decrees affirmed the work that had been done in the life of the church in the past while mandating the implementation of changes for the future. We can clearly see this in today's approach to Scripture and its interpretation, liturgical practice, and other areas. New areas were also addressed: the decree on ecumenism resulted in a change in attitude toward non-Catholic Christians and non-Christian religions, and we were called to examine and restructure our approach to moral theology, centering it more on Scripture than on canon law.

One of the most important decrees to come out of the Council was the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, also known as *Lumen Gentium*. Among other things, this document redefined a centuries-old hierarchical approach that saw "church" as a pyramid — with the pope at the top, bishops and clergy next, religious men and women under them, and the faithful (laity) at the bottom. This image of church was based on levels of authority, with the assumption that the higher up the pyramid you were, the closer you were to God and the truth. The *Constitution on the Church* gave us a new understanding that has ramifications in all areas of life. Before considering anything else, we are to see the church first and foremost as the people of God. Everyone incorporated into the body of Christ through baptism is called to holiness. We are called to ministry and to live out the gospel in our daily lives. This new model of church was a radical departure from our commonly held understanding before Vatican II, when the laity were called to support the church, obey the authorities, and do good works to save their souls. The fullness of ministry was seen to be in the hands of clergy and religious; the faithful were merely called to support their efforts, primarily by prayer and almsgiving. If you wanted to engage in ministry, becoming a priest or religious brother or sister was probably your calling.

When we say that the church is the people of God, we do not refer only to the laity. The church is all of God's people. Recently, Pope Francis strongly and consistently reinforced this: "The image of the church I like is that of the holy, faithful people of God. ... The church is the people of God on the journey through history, with joys and sorrows. ... The church is the totality of God's people" (Antonio Spadaro, SJ, "A Big Heart Open to God: The Exclusive Interview with Pope Francis," *America* 209, no. 8 [Sept. 30, 2013], available online at <http://www.americamagazine.org/pope-interview/>). The pope's words clearly include everyone: the hierarchy, clergy, religious women and men, laity, and himself. We are called to work together in building the kingdom during our time here on earth; no one is excused, and all are responsible to actively engage in the ministry of Christ.

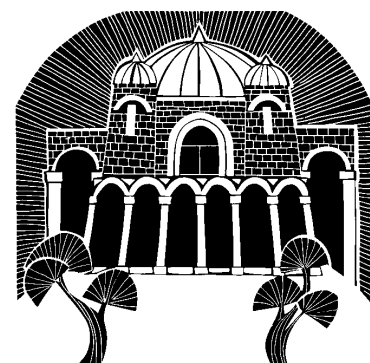
Our responsibilities and talents may differ. Some of the baptized are called to ordained leadership as shepherds of the community of believers. Other men and women become part of religious communities who focus their lives on caring for the sick, teaching in schools, ministering to the marginalized of our society, or engaging in other important ministries to those with various needs. Others join communities that live a contemplative life, caring for others through their prayer and meditation. The majority of the baptized are called to live out their membership in the body of Christ in their families, in the workplace, and in their works of justice and charity.

It has been said that there is strength in numbers. Francis reminds us that "belonging to a people has a strong theological value. In the history of salvation, God has saved a people. There is no full identity without belonging to a people. No one is saved alone, as an isolated individual, but God attracts us looking at the complex web of relationships that take place in the human community. God enters into this dynamic, this participation in the web of human relationships." God does not call us to "go it alone" but rather to work together.

If we want to focus on the place where the people of God can best come alive and live out their commitment to the mission of the church, then we begin in the local parish. Before Vatican II, people often experienced the parish as the place where sacraments were administered for the salvation of souls and where children were rigorously taught their faith. Many community activities (dinners, bazaars, parish picnics) were meant to strengthen the solidarity of the Catholic faithful and the parish. The parish prayed for and supported the missions, gave money for the poor, prayed for the souls in purgatory, performed good works, and so on, but the average parishioner was expected to do little else.

In the last 50 years, however, parishioners have undergone a tremendous change in how they see themselves. Today, for many of us, the parish is our home and the reference point for understanding and living out the gospel. It is here, as a community, that we are called to listen to the word of God, return thanks to God in the Eucharist, celebrate the presence of Christ within the community, and develop plans to identify and respond to the needs of others. A significant development in many parish communities has been the incredible growth in ministries. A glance at a weekly bulletin can demonstrate how strong people's response has been to live out the gospel. Invitations to get involved in this or that specific ministry are routinely made. True ministry has expanded beyond the parish priests. In the past, helping Father by working bingo, taking up the collection, and washing altar linens was about the limit of the laity's involvement. Today, lay ministry is not about helping Father; it is about sharing in the ministry of Christ as a member of the people of God.

We experience this in our liturgy, where we now find extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, lectors, ministers of hospitality (formerly ushers), music ministers, acolytes, and lay leaders for children's Liturgy of the Word. Members of the gathered assembly bring the Eucharist to those unable to come to liturgy. Others are involved in bereavement support and visiting the sick. Members of the parish community often staff religious education classes and volunteer in programs for



In today's first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbours as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that — to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.



(Continued on page 4)

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, Pamela Burton & 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 Dul-kara 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.

Moving Forward in Faith

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(Continued from page 3)

those preparing for baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriage. Ministry beyond the parish also abounds: lay people prepare hot meals for the homeless, hold Thanksgiving clothing and food drives, get involved in Habitat for Humanity, and participate in ministry at homeless shelters. I recently visited a parish that listed 39 committees, ministries, and organizations on the cover of its Sunday bulletin. The contact person for each of the entries is, in all cases but one, a member of the laity. We tend to take all of this activity for granted today, but these people of God have caused a transformation in parish life from where it was before Vatican II.

Ministries seem to beget other ministries. For example, one parish began a ministry to the homebound. Soon they added visiting the sick in nursing homes. Then, with the advent of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, those ministers could bring communion to the homebound and to hospitals and nursing homes. Next, attention was given to ministering to caregivers. Then, people who needed occasional help were able to call the parish to find a volunteer to provide a ride to the doctor's office or deliver groceries. Not to be left out, those who were homebound were encouraged to minister to others; a prayer ministry was cer-

tainly possible for many of them. Others who were able could knit, crochet, or craft items to be given away, bake cookies, and check in on others by phone or e-mail.

The expansion of the active involvement of parish members truly shows the presence of Christ in their midst. The eucharistic presence of Christ in our sacraments is only the beginning. As celebrated in our liturgy, we become aware of Christ present in the whole assembly and in each of its members. When we become involved in parish ministry, the listening ear of Christ, his healing hand, his loving heart, and his words of encouragement become a lived experience in those to whom we minister. The community reaching out is truly Christ reaching out.

Although the church is a worldwide community, in some ways the local community is most effectively experienced as the presence of Christ in the world. Each parish can become a community living out the gospel mandate. Each parish is (or has the potential to be) unique, using its particular talents and gifts to build up the church of Christ. The local parish is the body of Christ present and ministering in this time and place. The presence of Christ resides in each individual member. Gathered together, they form an assembly in which we also find the presence of Christ. Together they become

(Continued on page 2)

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay