



ORDINARY TIME

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

16th February 2014

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Nellie Calleja, Terence McGarvey, Eoin Murray, Julie Davis.
- **Anniversaries:**
Annette Barclay, Zarenu Borg, Josephine Borg, Paul Borg, Marie Meyer, Anthony Gerard Farnham.
- **And the sick:**
Helen and David Hopkins, Mary Scarfe, Anne Unger, Anne de Graaff, Michael Cox, Caterina La Creca, Susie Simmons, Mary Wood, John and Patricia Welsh, John Osborne.

The "Second Rite"

It is forty years since changes were introduced into the "First Rite" - which we explained last Sunday and which for most of us was the only form of Reconciliation we ever knew. It is also forty years since the "Second Rite" was launched; this was, for all of us, a complete innovation.

So, after forty years, what about a little revision?

Those of us who have experienced it would have to admit that the Second Rite can be a little awkward - a sort of unhappy combination between individual confession and general absolution.

It certainly takes some organisation. One needs to have a sufficient number of priests (not so easy these days), otherwise the ceremony will take too long and penitents will be tempted to leave after their own confession and not wait for the general thanksgiving at the end. If the congregation is to gain maximum benefit from the Rite's communal dimension, 45 minutes is the maximum time.

The individual confessions are important, in order to meet the requirement that confessions be "integral", i.e. , in accordance with the teaching of the Council of Trent, the penitents should confess all their mortal sins, 'according to species and number.'

The objection is sometimes made that this was not the case in the early Church, when sinners were reconciled at a public ceremony on Maundy Thursday, so that they could receive Communion at the Paschal Vigil. The objection lacks force, however, since what was at issue were public sins, especially adultery, murder and apostasy - matters that were known to the whole community, and therefore the question of confession did not arise. Nowadays, however, our serious sins are not (need not be) public knowledge, and we need to declare them to the priest as representing the Church - it is easy to say that one is a sinner, but if one seeks forgiveness, one must be prepared to say what those sins are.

When we put aside all the difficulties and inconveniences of the Second Rite, of course, its great advantage is that *the community helps the individual to make a good confession.*

Central to this form of the Sacrament is the word of God. We saw last week, in the context of the First Rite, how even a short passage should be read from Scripture, to challenge the penitent to true repentance. In the Second Rite the ideal is three readings, as at Sunday Mass. Circumstances may dictate two readings (as at weekday Mass) or even one (in which

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Psalms Response

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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



Greetings from my family and friends. Thank you all for your support and prayers during my holiday. I am happy to be back.
Fr. Stephen.

Lenten Discussion Groups: During Lent, groups will meet to pray and reflect on the significance of the season. Usually the groups follow prepared programs of prayers, readings and reflections. The following people will host groups and parishioners who are interested in participating should ring for further information by Wednesday, 19th February.

- Kath and Mike McCulloch. Ph: 4344 4978. Mob. 0411 015 774. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 7pm.
- Maureen Gleeson. Ph. 4342 3763, The group will meet on Fridays at 10am.
- Bernard Edwards. Ph. 4341 6343. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 10am in the Leo Mahon Room.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group during the Lenten period to be held every Thursday 10.30 am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We will read the gospel of the following Sunday and spend approx. 20 mins. in quiet prayer.

Project Compassion: Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/ or a set of Lenten

envelopes and give generously this Lent.

Piano Recital: The first piano recital will be given in the Church, Sunday, 2nd March, 3.30pm. 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 participants 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.

A Cuppa and a Chat: meeting this Monday, 17th February, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard on 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster for 23/2/14 will be the Parish Pastoral Council.

Bus Trip Tour of Fairground Follies at St. Peter's. Wednesday 26th February. 8am pick-up. Tour costs \$24 includes morning tea. Lunch (your cost) at Erskineville Club. Bus fare \$10. Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Children's Liturgy Roster 23/2/14: Geraldine Baxter (L). Marianne Bowyer (L). Jenny Fitzgerald (H).

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/2/14: Maria Wickens, Judy French, Don Anderson, Warren Sparrow.

Palms for Burning: Please bring last year's palms to be burnt and leave in the basket provided in the gathering area.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: In mid-March, 2014, St. Vincent de Paul is to open a new outlet in the West Gosford (Coles) Shopping centre.

This is an opportunity you've been waiting for; a chance to give of your time and talents to those less fortunate in our community. If you are interested and would like to find out more please drop in to the SVDP Woy Woy store (opposite Fisherman's Wharf) and ask for Janelle or call her on 4344 3261 to arrange an interview.

Social Justice

The Church and Social Justice: Catholic social teaching is the term given to the doctrine of the Church on social justice issues. Catholic social teaching promotes a vision of a just society that is grounded in biblical revelation, the teachings of the leaders of the early Church, and the wisdom gathered from experience by the Christian community

as it has responded to social justice issues through history.

Catholic social teaching: The permanent principles of the Church's social doctrine...are: the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. These principles, the expression of the whole truth about the human person known

by reason and faith, are born of the encounter of the Gospel message and of its demands summarised in the supreme commandment of the love of God and neighbour in justice with the problems emanating from the life of the society'.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church par. 160.

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant — Internal Auditor Diocese of Broken Bay: The Diocesan Head of Internal Audit is seeking to recruit a full-time Internal Auditor to assist conducting internal audits across all agencies. Details of the role can be found on the Diocesan website <http://www.dbb.org.au> The position is based in Pennant Hills and applications close 24 February, 2014.

Torah Study for Christians: Opportunity for Christians to reflect on the Scripture under the guidance of Orthodox rabbi and teacher, Rabbi Gad Krebs, Working closely with the biblical text, we will explore the methods and insights of the sages of Jewish tradition, their love for Torah. In this way, we will deepen our appreciation of a Torah tradition that is at the core of Jewish life,

which formed Jesus as a Jew and which is the root of our biblical tradition. 2014 Program. Last Wednesday of each month commencing 26 February, 6pm-8pm (all seated by 5.55pm) Caroline Chisholm Centre, Bldg. 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd.. RSVP 9847 0448 or 4332 9825. registrations@dbb.org.au See notice board for more detail.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 16

Sir 15:15–20
Ps 119:1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34
1 Cor 2:6–10
Mt 5:17–37 or 5:20–22, 27–28, 33–34, 37

The Book of Sirach dates to the second century BC. In today's text, Sirach deals with the topic of free will. This theme of "the two ways" is common in many Old Testament texts; we can choose God's way, the way of life, or we can choose to reject God and go our own way. "If you choose," we are told, "you can keep the commandments" (v 15). Sin is our choice, not God's plan, for God commands no one "to act unjustly" (v 20) but offers us the way of life.

Paul tells the Corinthians that God's wisdom is "mysterious, hidden" (v 7). It is not like the wisdom of the Greek philosophers or Jewish sages. It is not acquired through human reasoning; it has been "revealed to us through the Spirit" (v 10).

For Matthew, Jesus is a prophet like Moses was. Surrounded by a large crowd of people, Jesus delivers a set of teachings concerned with how we should live. He tells us that he has come "to fulfil" (v 17) the law and the prophets, a term used to refer to the Hebrew Scriptures. He tells us that not even "the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter / will pass from the law" (v 18). Jesus shows us that living the law is about more than just our actions; it is also about our thoughts and attitudes. It is not enough to refrain from killing; we must also avoid angry thoughts and words, for "whoever is angry ... / will be liable to judgment" (v 22). We must not only avoid committing adultery; we must also refrain from inappropriate thoughts, for otherwise we commit adultery in our hearts. He is telling us that in order to avoid sinful actions we must keep away from thoughts and attitudes that can lead us to sin.

For reflection: Do I view free will as a blessing or a burden? What are some ways I find effective to avoid temptation?

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 23

Lv 19:1–2, 17–18
Ps 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10, 12–13
1 Cor 3:16–23
Mt 5:38–48

The Book of Leviticus is filled with laws, primarily for the priests (who are from the tribe of "Levi") but also for all of the people. As the third of five books of the Torah, its message to the people is concerned with establishing a way of life based on God's commands: "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (v 2). Because they will be spending 40 years together in the wilderness, God also gives them guidance concerning how to live with each other: "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge. ... / You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (v 18).

Paul reminds the Corinthians that "the Spirit of God dwells in you" (v 16). This means that we live in this world, but we belong to God. Because we are each a "temple of God," we are holy. We are called to live lives guided by God's Spirit. Therefore we should not view ourselves in terms of the wisdom of this world, which is "foolishness in the eyes of God" (v 19).

In the Gospel today Jesus continues his exposition on the commandments, offering his interpretation of how they should be lived. Though Moses said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," Jesus' command is to "offer no resistance to one who is evil" (vv 38–39). The command to "hate your enemy" that Jesus refers to (v 43) is not found in the teaching of Moses, but it has been found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and would have been known to Jesus' contemporaries. Jesus calls us to not only love our neighbour but also "love your enemies / and pray for those who persecute you" (v 44). We are children of God, who sends the sun and rain to both "the bad and the good" (v 45), so we should follow this example.

For reflection: What does it mean to me to be called to be holy? How does loving my enemy change my attitude toward that person?



Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.



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.

The "Second Rite"

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case, it must be a reading from the gospels). The important thing is that, after the priest and servers have entered in procession accompanied by a hymn, and the opening prayer has been said, everyone have the chance to hear and meditate on Scripture, and hear the challenge to conversion and repentance. The presider should help the congregation through his homily; there should be time for an examination of conscience, and a prayer of the faithful or other litanic prayer should focus the congregation's mind on confession and forgiveness. As part of this, all should make a general confession of sin together (the Confiteor) and say the Our Father, with its petition for the forgiveness of our trespasses.

Each penitent then goes to a confessor, confesses his sins and is absolved, without making an Act of Contrition (he has already done that, with the congregation).

He receives a penance, is absolved, and returns to his place in the church to say his penance. When individual confessions are finished (or almost), the congregation sings a hymn of thanksgiving and praise. The presider then says a prayer of praise, and dismisses the congregation with a blessing.

The Second Rite has worked wonders for many Catholics. Singing together, listening together to God's word, and responding together to the prayers - all move the individual penitent to greater depths of conversion. It is no wonder, then, that the final act of thanksgiving is so important. God, after all, chose to save us, not as rugged individuals, but as his people: we are forgiven as a people and we give thanks for that as a people.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.