



# The Voice

25th May 2014

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Psalter Week 2

## EASTERTIME

## Charitable Works Fund

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Alison Freeman,  
Michael Hanrahan,  
Pauline Hall.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Erno Honyi, Richard Kemp,  
Sofronio Dayanan.
- **And the sick:**  
Vince Ashby, Lola Proctor,  
Alan Harland, Beryl Allen,  
Therese Payne, Hanaa El  
Khatib, Mary Leger, Wanda  
Grima, Anne Singleton, Louise  
Dunn, Beverley Purser, Grace  
McNeany, Silvana Anzalone.

Since we are today taking up the collection for the Charitable Works Fund, we have a good opportunity to tell you more about what CatholicCare and CCD do in this diocese. These are two diocesan agencies that depend on our generosity in this collection.

*CatholicCare* operations are divided into Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care, Out of Home Care, Family Centres and Children's Services.

The *hospital* area provides non-sacramental care (parishes still take care of the sacramental side!), Monday to Friday, at Royal North Shore, Hornsby, Sydney Adventist, Gosford, Wyong, Manly and Mona Vale hospitals. Visitors from CatholicCare provide a "ministry of presence" to patients, families and staff.

*Out of Home Care* is for young people from 12 to 18 years of age who are not able to live with their own families. There are residential care units at Pennington Hills (Sherbrook) and arrangements for foster care on the Central Coast.

*The Family Centres*—at Brookvale, Naremburn, Warnervale and Waitara—provide such things as conflict/dispute resolution, counselling, ageing and dis-

ability services, family and youth services, parenting and relationship education, and domestic violence advocacy.

*Children's Services* include long day care, family day care, in home care (for children aged between six weeks and twelve years), before - and after-school care, vacation care and early learning centres (for children aged between 5 and 12 years). We mentioned some of these last week; Woy Woy is about to join them.

*The CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine)* exists to bring quality Religious Education to Catholic students in State Government schools. It is parish-based and supported by the Diocese through the Charitable Works Fund. In our parish we have four State primary schools (with 529 Catholic students) to look after—Woy Woy, Woy Woy South, Umina and Ettalong—and one State high school—Brisbane Water, with campuses at Umina (with 416 Catholics in years 7-9) and Woy Woy. We are fortunate to have (not enough!) generous catechists and helpers to take the gospel to these children, but we still need your financial support for them to do their job.

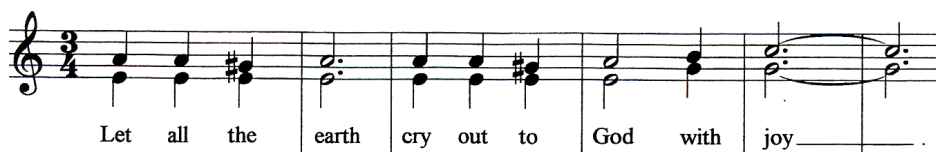
FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS  
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

## Around the Parish

**eConference – Pope Francis: Modelling the Ministry of St. Peter** will be held Wednesday, 11th June. 10am-3pm in the Leo Mahon room. Those attending please write your name on the sheet in gathering area for catering purposes. Information and updates visit <http://goo.gl/ANbn8g> or [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)

**Charitable Works Fund** collection this weekend. Your generosity would be appreciated.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for William Hood, Sophie Littlewood, Fletcher Richardson and Cohl Feeney, baptized last Sunday.

**'El Shaddai' Prayer Group** meetings for June - 7th, 14th and 21st. Enq: Mary Owen 4341 7612.

**Lectio Divina Prayer Group** meeting Thursday 29th 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

**Sympathy:** Please pray for Alison Freeman, Michael Hanrahan, James McDevitt, Pauline Hall who were buried from our Church last week.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** A Scholastic Book Fair will be held in

St. John the Baptist School Library this coming week. Monday 26/5 – Thursday 29/5. Times: Mon-Thurs: before and after school (8.20-8.50; 3.10-3.40) The Book Fair is being held to raise money which will be spent on new books for students.

All parishioners, parents and friends are warmly welcomed to this wonderful event! Most books will be priced between \$10 and \$20. A great opportunity to buy a beautiful book gift and also to support our school. We hope to see you there!

**Urgent – Volunteer Drivers** for parish bus needed to join a roster transporting parishioners to and from Mass on weekends. Must have an LR license. Please contact parish office 4341 1073 if you can help.

**Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Minister numbers need bolstering:** Are you perhaps a young retiree with newly acquired time on your hands and looking for a fulfilling way of living our faith? Our parish has a small but dedicated band of parishioners who regularly take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, home bound

and hospitalized members of our faith. They bring the comfort of Our Lord to those in poor health but sadly their numbers are dwindling.

**Lost Sunday missal:** Recently a new Sunday Missal was left behind after Mass. It does not have a name inside but does have family holy cards of great sentimental value. Please check and if you find you have this missal place it on gathering area table marked to the attention of the parish office. Just the return of the holy cards alone would be appreciated.

**Bus Trip:** Budgewoi Barbecue Picnic. Wed. 26th June. 10.30am pick up. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 / 0403 417 639.

**From our Parish Nurse:** Thank you to everyone who has made a prayer shawl; your prayers will be accepted with love and thanks from the parishioners who receive them.

**Congratulations** to Thelma & John Lenehan on their 70th Wedding Anniversary who were married at Holy Cross Woolahra on May 13th, 1944.

## Social Justice

### Human Dignity

The Catholic Church teaches that human life is sacred because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human dignity is inalienable. The human dignity and human rights of asylum seekers must be respected, regardless of their citizenship, visa status or mode of arrival.

**The Catholic Church teaches that the demands of human dignity always come before the national interest**

### Devotion to Humanity

The Catholic Church teaches that all nations have a right to regulate migration across their borders. The right is coupled with the duty to protect and help

innocent victims and those fleeing for their lives. The right of nations to regulate their borders is an extension of the right of all persons to live a dignified life in their community. Borders are for the protection of people, not for the exclusion of people seeking protection.

[www.acmro.catholic.org.au/policy](http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/policy)

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Bethlehem College Ashfield:** All former students and staff are invited to attend the Ex-Students' Association 2014 annual reunion day on Sunday, 15th June. The day will commence with Mass at St. Vincent's Church at 10am. Morning tea will be in the College hall, with one College tour at 11.30am, followed by a light luncheon. Further information and to RSVP before June 6th, contact [www.bethlehemcollege.nsw.edu.au](http://www.bethlehemcollege.nsw.edu.au)

**Free e-book for computer or e-reader: Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-2.**

This e-book may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader, offers the Gospel for every day of the Liturgical Year A-2 (Sundays Year A, weekdays

Year 2), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. It contains the Gospel passages not only for this present but for any A-2 Liturgical Year in the future, together with their respective reflections. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the imprimatur of the Bishop of Parramatta. *may be accessed at the following address:* [www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/](http://www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/)

**I Believe in One God:** How to understand the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed our profession of faith? For a deeper appreciation of what it means to say 'I believe'. Seminar over 2 Wednesday nights, 11th and 18th June. 7pm-8.30pm. St. Ce-

cilia's Church Hall, 23 Byron St. Wyong. RSVP Friday, 6th June 9847 0448 or 4332 9825 or [registrations@dbb.org.au](mailto:registrations@dbb.org.au) More detail see notice board.

**Morning of Quiet Reflection:** Open invitation reflecting on some writings of Teresa of Avila that speak to our lives and times. Silent meditation and an opportunity to share thoughts in a group. Grail Centre, 22 McHatten St. Nth. Sydney. Ph: 9955 3053. Tues 3 June, 10am-12 noon. Small donation to cover costs.

**Day Retreat 'Come Holy Spirit'. Who is this Holy Spirit and how does He work in our lives.** Fr. Aloysius Rego, o.c.d. June 7th. Cost: donation. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre. June 7th. Ph: 8795 3400. Email: [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com)

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 6th Sunday of Easter, May 25

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17  
Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20  
1 Pt 3:15-18  
Jn 14:15-21

In the Gospel today Jesus continues to speak to the disciples at the Last Supper. Knowing that he is about to leave them, he promises, "I will not leave you orphans" (v 18), pledging the gift of the Holy Spirit "to be with you always" (v 16). Jesus' death and resurrection are part of God's plan and will lead to a deeper union between Jesus and his followers. The gift of "another Advocate" (v 2) assures us of his never-ending presence.

Ironically, the persecution of the church leads to its growth. In Acts, after Stephen's death, Philip, another deacon, goes to "Samaria ... [proclaiming] the Christ to them" (v 5). That he is empowered by the Spirit is indicated by the fact that he speaks with power. "The crowds paid attention to what was said" (v 6), and he performs miracles, exorcising demons and healing those who are paralysed or crippled. He is doing the work of Jesus (see Jn 14:12). This evangelisation leads to a visit from Peter and John, who "prayed for them" (v 15) and "laid hands on them," as a result of which "they received the Holy Spirit" (v 17).

Peter writes with an awareness that believers will suffer for their faith. But this should not discourage us, "for Christ also suffered" (v 18). We are called to be examples of integrity, practicing "gentleness and reverence" (v 16), even in our dealings with those who persecute us. We are also called to be a people of hope, because Christ's suffering has a uniqueness about it that leads us to God. Christ's suffering unites us to God in a way that our suffering alone could never achieve. He died, "the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous" (v 18).

*For reflection:* Do I see value in suffering in my life? In the lives of others? How do I

experience the presence of the Spirit in the church?

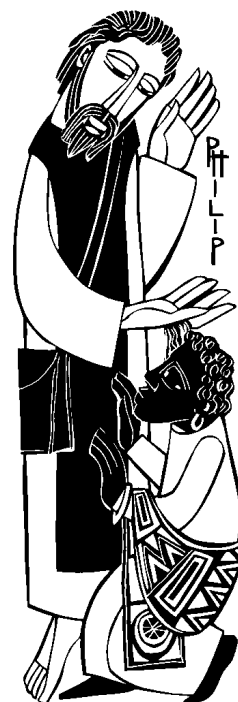
## Ascension of the Lord, June 1

Acts 1:1-11  
Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Eph 1:17-23  
Mt 28:16-20

Luke begins Acts by referring to his "first book" (v 1), the Gospel, and summing up the final days of the risen Christ on earth. Then he narrates the story of Jesus' ascension. For Luke the ascension is the bridge between the story of the earthly Jesus and the ongoing story of the church, which is an open-ended story in which we are called to play our parts. To assist the church in its task, Jesus promises "power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you"; this power will transform the disciples, enabling them to preach the gospel "throughout Judea and Samaria, / and to the ends of the earth" (v 8).

In the verse preceding today's second reading, Paul gives thanks for the Ephesians (see v 16), a standard feature in Greco-Roman letters. He prays that they may gain knowledge of God, leading to "the hope that belongs to [God's] call" (v 18). Our hope is based in Christ, who after his resurrection took his seat at the right hand of the Father in heaven. This is a place of honor, signifying that he is "far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion" (v 21). As "head over all things" (v 22), Christ is head of the church, and we are united to him.

In Matthew's final scene, Jesus meets the disciples in Galilee. This is where he first met them and where much of his public ministry took place before he journeyed to Jerusalem in Judea to die. Jesus tells them that he has been given "all power in heaven and on earth" (v 18), and he commissions them to "go ... make disciples" (v 19). They are to do this by teaching "all that I have commanded you" (v 20) and "baptising them" (v 19). Matthew concludes by having Jesus promise, "I am with you always" (v 20), reinforcing his identity as Emmanuel, a name Matthew associated with Jesus in his first chapter (see 1:23).




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Those who obey the commandments, Jesus says in today's Gospel, are the ones who really love Him. Does my stewardship reveal my love for Jesus?

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## 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](mailto: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.

## Ephphetha Rite

Paul Turner

Traditionally, the ephphetha is a ceremony in which the community prays that a person to be baptized will have an open ear to hear God's word and open lips to give God praise. For infants, the ceremony comes after baptism.

In Mark's Gospel, a deaf man who has a speech impediment is cured when Jesus says the word "Ephphetha!" – that is, "Be opened!" (7:34). This is one of the few places in the Gospels where the original Aramaic language of Jesus has been preserved. The deaf man has become a symbol of those seeking baptism, who yearn to have their ears opened to the gift of faith and their lips freed to proclaim it.

In the ceremony, the celebrant touches the ears and lips of the person to be baptized, while saying a command inspired by that of Jesus: "Ephphetha: that is, be opened, / that you may profess the faith you hear, / to the praise and glory of God."

In the history of baptism ceremonies, this action preceded the Creed. After the minister prayed that the person's lips would be

opened, the catechumen spoke the Creed. This is still the practice today in the preparation rites on Holy Saturday, ceremonies that are found in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

When the Rite of Baptism for Children was revised after the Second Vatican Council, the ephphetha rite was made optional and placed after baptism because an infant would be incapable of reciting the Creed until years later. The text changes to show the community's hope for the future of this child: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2014 Resource Publications, Inc., 5369 Camden Ave., #260, San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

We're on the Web!  
[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of  
Broken Bay