



# The Voice

10th May 2015

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Psalter Week 2

## The Great Commandment

# EASTER

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Pauline Shiels, Marie Dixon,  
Dominic McBride,  
Mary Harrison,  
Mary Moulds, Teresa Tanti.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Richard Kemp  
Leonard Proctor,  
Stanley Joseph Gleeson.
- **And the sick:**  
Fr. Bill Meacham, Ian Wilks  
Lila Emery, Philip O'Neil,  
Renie Hunt, Lorna McGregor.  
Grace Williams, Mary Dwyer,  
Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh,  
Alan Harland, Peter Crookes,  
Charles Knowles, Terry Curtis,  
Irene Beck, John Mortimore,  
Beryl Allen, Madge Wood,  
Grace McNeaney, Meli Ladd,

The Italian film, *Life is Beautiful* vividly portrays the truth of today's Gospel. It shows a father convincing his five-year-old son that the concentration camp is an elaborate game that the Nazis had invented to test the Italians. Some members of the Jewish community criticised this film because they claimed it made light of the holocaust. Writer and director, Roberto Benigni, however, argued that the heart of the film lies in the fact that most parents will do anything to spare their children the reality of evil. Most parents who have seen and wept through the film know exactly what he's talking about.

And if parents could take such risks and go to such lengths for their children, how much more has God done for us in Christ Jesus. We are the only world religion to believe that our God took our form and died out of love for us so that we might understand the love God has for us, and the love we are called to have for each other.

It isn't, however, just any old love Christ calls us to practise. It's not about a fleeting feeling or having a warm fuzzy inside. Jesus tells us today that the character of Christian love is the degree to which it's sacrificial. This is a challenging way of working out who we really love, isn't it? The people we love are those for whom we are prepared to sacrifice something of ourselves, maybe everything. If that's the case we could decide to stop telling people we don't love that we love them. The goal of the Christian life is to love everyone, but until we achieve that, the more we lie about love the more we lower its currency. It's perfectly acceptable to like, enjoy, be fond of, respect, admire and be grateful to others, and not love them. There are a very few people for whom most of us would be prepared to lay down our lives. This criteria sorts out our intimates fairly quickly.

We could also decide to stop saying we love things, animals, ideas or organisations which cannot love us back. Human beings can only truly love people. Jesus did not die for an ideology or an institution. He was put to death because of his uncompromising love for all humanity everywhere. If we find ourselves saying we love our pets, house, car, job, our ideology, even our Church more than we love other human beings, then we're in trouble.

That's what I like best about the model of loving Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Just when we might expect to find him using the analogy of a family, he talks about us being his friends. Sometimes we can hear people lament that they are 'stuck' with their families, and that they prefer their friends. It's an instructive moment, usually born out of a bitter and unloving history.

We choose our friends, and the strength of any particular friendship is usually found in how we know their history and story, and they know ours, in the way we give them time, attention and affection. A true friendship is mutual. Jesus loves us, his friends, enough to know us, be available to us, challenge and forgive us. And his love is mutual. The only thing stopping us from having a deeper relationship with Christ is our desire for it.

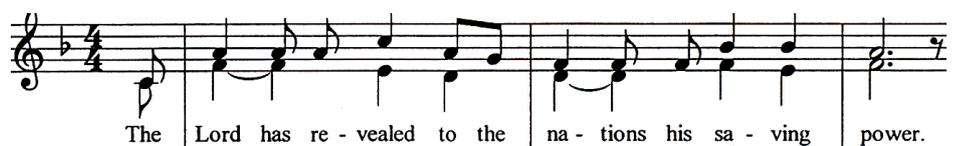
But Jesus also shows how friends are prepared to give their lives for one another. That's what we celebrate here each Sunday, that Jesus the Lord showed the quality and care of his love for us so that we might be empowered to go out and enable others to know and experience his love in the joyful way we sacrifice ourselves for them. No one promised us that the Christian life would be easy. All we have is our brother Jesus and all our friends, our family in faith, to support us in every loving sacrifice we make.

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### Psalms Response



### 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

**Thank You Celebration Dinner** for Father John and Father Stephen. Friday 29th May, 6pm for 6.30pm. Everglades Country Club. Three course dinner (Drinks available for purchase only at the Club—no byo.)

Bookings with Jenny on 4342 3293. Tickets are \$40 per head, exact money please, and can be left at the Parish office A.S.A.P. Tables of 10. Make up a table or ask us to seat you at one.

To secure your booking, monies must be paid by May 22; no refunds after May 25.

**A Leaving Collection for Fr. John and Fr. Stephen** will be at all Masses for the next two weekends, 9th/10th and 16th/17th of May.

**Dear fellow parishioners.** You will be aware that over recent weeks, children of the parish have been making their First Holy Communion. (75 in total). In a couple of weeks, the Parish Sacramental Team will begin preparing more children for Confirmation in June, then later in the year for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion at Easter 2016.

I would love to hear from anyone willing to join the team who prepare our parish children for the sacraments. Time asked is not great, and the children are prepared in small groups of about 8, so please phone Dorothy Fulton for more information on 4341 7610.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Faith Smith, Byron Scott, Oscar Wellington and Maxim and Zac Milczarczyk who were baptised last Sunday.

**Bus Trip to Wollombi via Cessnock.** 20th May, leaving 8.30am. Lunch at the club. \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning.** Please note there will be *no* cleaning on 15/5/15. There is an urgent need for volunteer church cleaners. Volunteers would be required once a month on Friday morning for 1-1/2 hrs. Contact Christine French 4342 4548.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 17/5/15:** Kylie Spicer, Therese Carroll, Grace Douglas.

**Music Workshop:** Following a very successful workshop at St. John the Baptist last year, the Royal School of Church Music will be holding another workshop here on Saturday, 30th May 2015, commencing 1.30pm. The singing of the Psalms and the various ways in which this can be done is the theme of the workshop which will be led by Oliver Brett, Assistant Director of Music at St. Mary's Cathedral with Michael Butterfield accompanist. Participants are invited to stay for the 5pm Mass afterwards. The cost of the workshop, which covers music and printing is \$30 per person (\$20 for RSCM members).

**Cake and Jam Stall** held last Sunday has raised \$710 which goes toward the upkeep of the parish bus. Thank you all for your generosity.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** Thursday 14 May, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

## The Just Word

### St. Joseph the Worker:

*Pope Francis has renewed the call of the Church to make the dignity of the human person the central focus of national and global economies. His Apostolic Exhortation of November 2013 comments on economies in which masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized" and crisis free market competition, which has left many without work, without opportunity and on the fringes of society.*

...some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naïve

trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralised workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting.

Clearly Pope Francis doesn't agree with the saying that 'a rising tide lifts all boats', which has been used to describe the benefits of economic growth. Nor do a growing number of economists and policy experts who recognise that the outstanding performance of the economy can have very unequal outcomes...

...(E)conomic growth alone has not worked. As a nation, we need to consider those who have been excluded from the benefits of growth and devise a system of 'inclusive growth' that is more equitable in spreading wealth and opportunity.

*...What Australia faces is not a 'welfare crisis' but a 'job crisis'. Reframing the debate to consider the failure of the market to create adequate employment would result in a new approach. Australia would invest more in training and skills development and move beyond the current emphasis on job search driven by tough compliance and penalty regimes. Instead of keeping allowance payments low, we would increase them to lift people out of poverty and assist in their transition to work.*

*The flagship of labour market policy would be a government-led job creation strategy, not a work-for-the-dole programme*

*Bishop Christopher Saunders, 'Putting People First: The call of an economy of social inclusion', Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, ACSJS, 1 May 2014.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Nepal:** Caritas Australia staff are in Kathmandu working with Caritas Nepal, said Fr. Perumana. "We are overwhelmed with rescue assistance requests and assistance requests from all over the country."

Donations to Caritas Australia's Nepalese disaster response can be made at [www.caritas.org.au/donate](http://www.caritas.org.au/donate) or by calling 1800 024 413.

'Liturgy of the Hours' Fr. David Orr, OSB, rescheduled now Sat-

urday 16th May, 9.30am for 10am-11.30am. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish The Entrance. R.S.V.P. 11th May. Call Colleen/ Lianne 9847 0448 or 4332 9825.

Email: [registrations@dbb.org.au](mailto:registrations@dbb.org.au)

# Striking the Breast

Paul Turner

When reciting the Confiteor at Mass, all strike their breast one time when saying, "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." The gesture has always been part of the post-Vatican II Mass. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, the priest and servers recited the Confiteor to each other and struck their breast three times. The gesture was reduced to a single strike.

Also before the council, people struck their breast during the Lamb of God and the "Lord, I am not worthy" before communion. However, these gestures were not carried into the post-Vatican II Mass. Some people have struck their breast during the Kyrie and the Gloria, but this was never officially requested.

Today, when the priest recites Eucharistic Prayer I, he strikes his breast when saying the words, "To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners ...." Along with the Confiteor,

these are the only two instances of striking the breast in the post-Vatican II Mass. In both cases, the gesture accompanies an acknowledgment of sin.

The gesture has biblical origins. In the Old Testament, women beat their breasts as a sign of loss – for example, the maidens of Nineveh at the conquest of their city in Nahum 2:7 and the women of Jerusalem at the devastation of their pleasant fields and fruitful vines in Isaiah 32:12. The New Testament offers two references, both in the Gospel of Luke, and these probably link more directly to the later liturgical practice. The tax collector, in contrast to the Pharisee, beats his breast while praying, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (18:13). Those who witness the death of Jesus on the cross return home beating their breasts (23:48).

When we strike our breasts during the Confiteor, we acknowledge that we are sinners and that our sins have consequences.




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Jesus' commandment is that his disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself – my skills and talents, my time and resources – will best demonstrate my love for God's people?

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# Tabernacle Veil

Paul Turner

The front of the tabernacle in a Catholic church may be covered with a veil. The practice is not universal, nor is it required. However, something should indicate that the tabernacle holds the Blessed Sacrament. Above it a baldachin may be decorated with a cloth that is white or the colour of the liturgical day (Sacred Congregation of Rites [July 3, 1965], Prot. N. 33/65, cited in *Notitiae* [Jan.-Apr. 1965], 308, #90). Some other effective means prescribed by the competent authority may replace the veil (SCR, Eucharisticum Mysterium [May 25, 1967], 57). In some churches, the tabernacle's decoration itself may suffice. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is silent about the tabernacle veil, perhaps suggesting its secondary significance. No legislation governs its colour, but traditionally it is white, gold, or the colour of the vestments for the day or season.

The veil recalls the instructions in the Book of Exodus for the tabernacle housing the ark of the covenant, which contained, among other items, some manna, the bread from heaven (Heb 9:4). A veil separated the Holy of Ho-

lies, where the ark was kept, from the adjacent space (Ex 26:31-37; 40:3).

At the death of Jesus, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two (Mt 27:51), and the Letter to the Hebrews says that we have entrance into the heavenly sanctuary through the veil, which is the flesh of Jesus (10:20). In Catholic tradition, the sacred box for the consecrated bread remaining after a Mass is called a tabernacle. It contains the bread of life, come down from heaven, which gives life to the world and which Jesus proclaimed was his very self (Jn 6:32-35).

The tabernacle veil suggests that what lies behind is very different from what is in front. It conceals the holiest of holy places.

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Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. Comment online at ML Current Issue Discussion.



## Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Koolewong, Tascott,  
Blackwall, Booker Bay, St Hubert's Island, Empire  
Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy

**St John the Baptist Church**, corner of  
Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre  
P.O. Box 264 Walter Baker Hall  
54 Victoria Road 100 Blackwall 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"

Fr. Jack Robson, *Parish Priest*.

Fr. Timothy Raj MSFS & Fr. Phillip Thottam MSFS.  
*Assistant Priests.*

*Office Staff:* Helen Cameron, Margaret Cooper,  
& Raelene McLenaghan

*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 7.30 am, 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 7.15 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 Dulkara  
Rd. South Woy Woy 2256 .Ph: 02 4341 0884 Fax: 0243 445049.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** For information and events  
contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

**CATHOLICCARE** Counselling and Family Relationships. Ph: 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 in-  
formation, 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 approx 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m.  
Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

## Nuptial Epiclesis

Paul Turner

Newly added to the Catholic marriage rite is a prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the bride and groom. This has long been a feature in the Eastern Rite, in which it is an essential component of the sacrament. In the Roman Rite, we believe that the sacrament takes effect when the bride and groom exchange their consent ("I, N., take you, N."), but in the East people believe that the sacrament takes effect when the Holy Spirit comes on the couple to bind them as one. The Roman Rite has never even had such a prayer. Until now.

The prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit, called an *epiclesis*, appears in the nuptial blessing, which the priest prays over the bride and groom after the Our Father at a wedding Mass or after the prayer of the faithful at a wedding outside Mass. A deacon says the nuptial blessing whenever he presides.

The Vatican issued a slightly revised marriage rite in the year 2001, but its translation into English was deferred until

the completion of the third edition of the Roman Missal. The new missal includes some of the prayers from the rite of marriage, and among these are the nuptial blessings; the missal therefore includes the revised blessings even before the rest of the revised marriage rite has been made available.

People now hear prayers such as these over the bride and groom: "Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit / and pour your love into their hearts, / that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant" (from nuptial blessing A); "Graciously stretch out your right hand / over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray, / and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit" (B); and "May the power of your Holy Spirit / set their hearts aflame from on high" (C).

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[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of  
Broken Bay