

The Voice

20th November 2016

Solemnity of Christ the King, Year C

Psalter Week 2



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Vince Zappavigna, Peter John Grima.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. Patrick (Paddy) Croke,
Clesio Tremonti.
- **Remembrances**
Mary Justic, Catherina Justic,
Frank Justic.
- **And the sick**
Maryanne Diorio, Alan Harland,
John Allen, Celeste Boonaerts
Keith Oakes, Margaret Jackson,
Lorna Russom, Nicola (Nick) Bubici,
Jason Wellin, Maureen Cowls,
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J.
Tracie Passlow, Beryl Allen,
Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon,
Maureen Carlon, Keith Carlon,
Kevin and Sheila Houghton,
Elizabeth Anne Kenney, Irudaya Mary,
Les Spiteri, Ian Wilks, Steve Paino,
Ralph Weate.

The Power of Remember

Memory is an awesomely powerful phenomenon. A passing comment or even aroma can lead to the vivid recall of some event, some person, and we can still feel the joy or sorrow, the happiness or trauma.

But it can decline. One of the sadnesses about a person suffering from Alzheimer's Disease is that one cannot be sure that one's dearly loved father or mother really remembers you, and you desperately want to be 'brought to mind'.

Again, if you memorise something, you are said to 'know it by heart'. That is why we want to be remembered by someone important to us: we want that person to 'know us by heart'.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to know that God *always* remembers you, remembers me, that we are *always* 'in mind', that God 'knows us *by heart*'. That would be a powerful remembering.

In today's Gospel, amidst all the scoffing and jeering and the taunting of Our Lord: 'If you be the king of the Jews ...', one of the criminals crucified with Jesus simply pleads:

'Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.'

'Jesus'. Surprisingly, this is one of only two instances in the Gospels where Jesus is addressed by his name. 'Jesus' is a short form of the Jewish name 'Joshua' which means 'Yahweh helps' or 'may Yahweh help'.

This poor tortured criminal recognised in his fellow crucified someone who embodied the power of God to save him – to save him from the realm of everlasting death and to transfer him to the divine realm of everlasting life.

Unlike the jeering and taunting leaders, he saw the truth of the inscription: 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.' He was invoking the Kingly power – the power of absolute pardon responding to a petition for mercy.

But he does not plead for mercy in so many words. He simply pleads: 'Remember me'. It was enough for him if this Jesus would 'bring him to mind', would 'know him by heart'.

It was enough for him to be imprinted on Jesus' memory, and saving consequences would follow. Even after the dissolution of the body in death, he could be remembered in heavenly glory.

This is an exercise of sovereignty which befits 'Christ the King'.

At times, the church has emphasised the all too worldly aspects of that title, symbolised perhaps in the bestowing of the triple crown on the Pope at his coronation in years past.

However, the true sovereignty of Jesus Christ is perfectly shown in this little episode in His dying moments on the throne of the cross: 'Today, you will be with me in Paradise.'

Jesus demonstrates all the kingly power you or I will ever need and he shows that he will do so not by lording it over us, but, as with the criminal on Calvary, being close enough to really gaze at us so that we are imprinted on his mind.

So one of the tasks in life is to put ourselves in a position where we can be confident that Jesus is alongside us:

in our acts of practical compassion for the poor;
in forgiving someone who has wronged us;

in coming to Mass in response to Jesus' imperative at the Last Supper: 'Do this in memory of me.'

Do these things and we can be sure that Our Lord is present, close enough to gaze on us, close enough at the moment of death to hear our voices joining that of the criminal on Calvary:

'Jesus, remember me, know me by heart.'

And He will, and when He does, that is our salvation – *that* is to be in Paradise.

© Fr Michael Tate

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Sunday 27th November (9:15am) will be Fr Jack's last Mass as Parish Priest as his resignation has now been accepted by the Bishop. Due to health issues, Fr Jack will be leaving the Parish after returning from rehab. following his surgery. He will be moving out of the Parish in the New Year. **A morning tea** will be held following the 9.15 am Mass. Please bring a plate to share. A farewell night will be arranged for Fr Jack following his rehabilitation & recuperation - details will be advised closer to the time.

Mass at local Cemetery: St. Patrick's East Gosford will have a Mass said at Pioneer Park, Pt. Frederick on Friday, 25th at 9.30am. All are welcome to attend this Mass, especially those whose loved ones rest at this cemetery.

Children's Liturgy Roster 27/11/16: Geraldine Baxter, Joanna Baxter, Rebecca Lalor.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 25/11/16: Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen, Lisa Ann Rae.

Liturgy Team Meeting this Thursday, 24th November, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Cash Appeal will be held 3rd/4th December. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience. Your generosity would be appreciated. The need is great and support is sought in giving what you are able to give. All monies are used to support local families on the Peninsula.

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Appeal 26/27 November.

Children Liturgy of the Word: Come and join us at 9.15am Mass, St. John the Baptist Parish. Children 5-12 yrs. Operates most 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. Enquiries; Christine French 4342 4548.

Helpers Needed: Children's Liturgy of the Word helpers (Sunday 9.15am Mass) and church cleaners for 2017 required. Please contact Christine French 4342 4548.

Bus Trip—Hunter Valley via Cessnock. Wednesday, 23rd November. Leaving 9am. Cost \$20. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

Christmas card Packs containing 4 various designs. \$5 a pack now on sale in Piety Stall.

Live, Pray, Love Project: St. John the Baptist Parish and School Picnic Sunday 4th December, 11am-4.30pm, St. John the Baptist Primary School, 21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy South. BYO food and drinks. NO ALCOHOL. Enquiries: Phone Gladys 0421 312 362.

Catechists' Meeting Thursday, 24th November at 9.30am in the Leo Mahon room.

Christmas Hampers: All hampers need to be returned by 10th/11th December. Single items can be left in the gathering area. No cigarettes, alcohol or perishables. If you know of anyone in need of a hamper, please phone Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

National Church Life Survey 2016 available in gathering area. Surveys to be returned by 28 November. Our Church Code is TA229101.

The Just Word

A Prayer for Solidarity:
God of all creation, You have given us the beautiful land we call Australia.
Rich in ancient culture and tradition,
Rich in landscape, plants and animal life;
Rich in resources, laws and social structure,
Offering safety and opportunity.
Teach us to see those who are at our gates,
To act justly so all may come to the table, to weep for those who perish before they are invited.
Where there is hunger in our world, may we share our food and resources and contribute our skills

and knowledge to create a sustainable food supply.
Where there is disaster, may we respond quickly and generously to bring relief to those injured and deprived of homes and help them to rebuild their lives and communities.
Where there are people who are disabled, may we see them as people and work tirelessly to ensure they are always included and have the resources to reach full potential.
Where people are displaced from their own lands, especially those who seek refuge on our shores, may we dare to put ourselves in their shoes and welcome them to

share in the life gifted to us.
Where Indigenous communities are displaced in their own land, may we acknowledge the wrongs of the past and recognise the richness of their culture and empower all Indigenous Peoples to determine their own future.
God of all creation, give us clear eyes to see the whole world, so that we may never take for granted the gifts you have given or think they belong to us alone.
Give us open hearts to reach out from our own comfort and open our gates to walk in new solidarity with our neighbours.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

From the Diocese and beyond

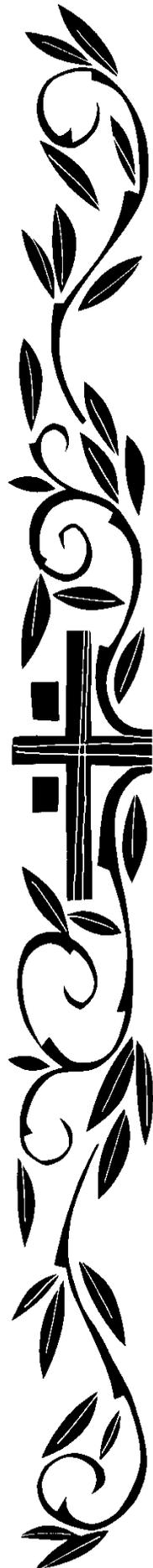
Seasons for Growth's Loss and Grief Workshop to be held at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, 5th December. Interested parishioners are most welcome to register with mmpevent.bookings@soj.org.au

Bianca G. Plunkett Gooley, a parishioner of St. Patrick's, East Gosford, has written a book entitled: **I am...I can...I will. A**

Young Mother's Journey through Triple Negative Breast Cancer and Life.

Bianca was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer at 31 yrs, with a three year old and 5 month baby to care for. The book is based on her journal from 2009 prior to diagnosis to 'finally being three years cancer free' milestone. If you or someone you know may

benefit from reading her book, you can order at: www.biancagpg.wixsite.com/writer for \$25 with part of the proceeds going to BCNA, the Cancer Council and ARCF.



Christ the King, 20th November

2 Sm 5:1-3
Ps 121:1-5 R. see v.2
Col 1:12-20
Lk 23:35-43

We close our liturgical year with the solemnity of Christ the King, established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI. It serves as a reminder that we as Christians are called to acknowledge Christ as king of our hearts, pledging our lives to him who gave his life for us.

After the death of Saul, Israel's first king, the southern tribes accepted David as king while the northern tribes, known as Israel, refused to accept him for more than seven years. Today's first reading narrates their ultimate acceptance of David when the "elders of Israel" and David "made an agreement" (v 3). David's reign is the beginning of a dynasty that will rule in Jerusalem for more than four centuries. After the monarchy ceased, biblical Israel looked to the future with the expectation that God would re-establish his rule with a descendant of David. For us as Christians, this hope is fulfilled in Jesus.

The letter to the Colossians, thought to have been written by Paul while he was in prison, presents us with an early hymn concerned with Jesus' identity. The beloved Son is "the image of the invisible God" (v 15), we are told, and "all things were created through him and for him" (v 16). As "head of the body, the church," Christ has made "peace by the blood of his cross" (v 18), reconciling us to God.

A king dying on a cross is not what the world would expect, but that is how our king saved us. Though the inscription announced Jesus as "the King of the Jews" (v 38), the witnesses to his execution mocked him as a false king. Only one person is presented as recognising Jesus' true identity, the "good thief" who pleads with Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom" (v 42). And Jesus, whose death means life, promises him a place "in Paradise" (v 43).

For reflection: Is Christ central to my life? Do I accept him as king? How can I better serve my king with my life?

1st Sunday of Advent, 27th November

Is 2:1-5
Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9 R. see v.1
Rom 13:11-14
Mt 24:37-44

Before we make preparations to commemorate Christ's birth 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, Advent reminds us that we live today in expectation of his future coming as judge of the living and the dead. In a line just before our Gospel text today, Jesus warns us that "no one knows" (v 36) the day or hour of his return. But it is assured that "the Son of Man will come" (v 44), so we are called to live lives of active vigilance. Matthew's chapter 24, frequently called the Eschatological Discourse, contains a collection of Jesus' sayings about the coming judgment, which will bring about the realisation of the reign of God.

Isaiah, writing more than 700 years before Christ, envisions a day when "all nations shall stream toward" the mountain of Jerusalem, "the mountain of the Lord's house" (v 2). As "the highest mountain," it will be a place for instruction in God's ways. From this mountain "the word of the Lord" will go forth to enlighten the nations; this will be a time of global peace and cooperation as other nations seek to "walk in his paths" (v 3). "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares" (v 4), turning weapons of warfare into tools for farming.

Writing to the Romans, Paul also has a heightened sense of urgency. "The day is at hand" (v 12), he tells them. "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep" (v 11). Night-time and darkness are associated with evil behaviour. As people who share in God's light, we are to live good and holy lives in anticipation of Jesus' return. Some 2,000 years later, we still wait for his coming, and like Paul's audience we are called to "conduct ourselves properly" (v 13), walking in God's light.

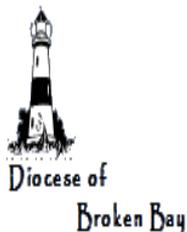
For reflection: How can I make this Advent season more a time of spiritual reflection concerning Christ's return? Are there any swords in my life that I need to turn into ploughshares?



Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of my life?



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, Blackwall,
Booker Bay, Pearl Beach,
St Hubert's Island,
Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point,
Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

Parish Office *Ethel Cox Parish Centre*
PO Box 264 *Walter Baker Hall*
54 Victoria Road *100 Blackwall Rd*
WOY WOY NSW 2256 *Woy Woy*

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214

Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

Parish Priest: Fr. Jack Robson.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron,
Raelene Spithill and Margaret Cooper.

Office Hours:

9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30pm 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, 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am 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 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

PARISH CHOIR — Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm.

Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

CATHOLICCARE Marriage & Family Relationships.

Phone: 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.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with Volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference. Please ring Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

CASH HOUSIE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.



Mary Mac's Place

Presents an evening with

Central Coast Philharmonia Choir

evergreen
LIFE CARE

yallambee yallambee coast home

Come enjoy the wonderful music and support Mary Mac's Place

SATURDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 7.00 pm

Walter Baker Hall, St John the Baptist Parish

**Tickets will be on sale at Saturday night & Sunday morning Masses
this weekend (19th & 20th) & next weekend the 26th & 27th November
or on the night from 6.30 pm**

Adults \$15; Pensioners \$10; Children \$5

Tickets may also be reserved by contacting Louise (0401 551 864) and collected on the night