

The Voice

1st January 2017

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Psalter Week 1



CHRISTMASTIME

OF YOUR CHARITY

PRAY FOR

THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Kath Evans, William Quillan,
Denis Newey, Margaret Wahlin,
Keith Henry.

• **Anniversaries:**

Barry David McKeowen,
Enid Irene McCormack.

• **And the sick:**

Maryanne Diorio, Alan Harland,
John Allen, Audrey Barsendich,
Keith Oakes, Margaret Thoms,
Margaret Jackson, Lorna Russom,
Nicola (Nick) Bubicic, Jason Wellin,
Maureen Cowls, Beryl Allen,
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J.
Maureen Carlon, Irudaya Mary,
Kevin and Sheila Houghton,
Elizabeth Anne Kenney,
Ian Wilks, Steve Paino,
Ralph Weate, Celeste Boonaerts,
Kath Hardy, Helen McKeon,
Fr. Jack Robson, Carren Quinn,
Chev Shengi, Mary Scarf,
Don Mathesan.

The Calendar-Shattering Mary

It is fitting that on this day when we note the start of a New Year, we celebrate the advent of an entirely new calendar-shattering event in human history, the extraordinary role that a young woman in Galilee played in God's plan for the human race.

The Greek word for this Feast day describes Mary as 'Theo-tokos' – God-Bearer.

It is a way for the Church to say that the One whom Mary bore in her womb was no mere prophet or guru or wonder-worker, but EMMANU-EL – God with us, God embodied, God enfleshed. Hence: Theotokos, Godbearer.

But, in the Western Church, the title 'Mother of God' was used to convey the same truth, and I prefer it. It is less clinical, more relational, less instrumental, more personal – in short, it is maternal. As soon as one proclaims Mary to be 'Mother of God', one immediately signifies a relationship, a loving, nurturing relationship which goes well beyond carrying in the womb to a safe birth.

We can quite easily imagine that relationship which was not altogether placid and straightforward. One thinks of her anguish and fright at his disappearance at the age of twelve. Humanly speaking, he was undergoing his growing awareness of his true identity. She was experiencing the pangs of a certain distancing by this adolescent son.

Yes, she was pre-eminently a Mother, with all that that entails, including the horror of seeing her son tortured and done to death on the Cross.

Yes, she was a mother, but Mother of God.

How can this be portrayed for our minds to grasp? How did Divine Revelation picture the event which set all calendars going? We need to go to the very beginning, the Book of Genesis which commences the Hebrew scriptures.

Billions of years ago, the creative act which began all reckoning of the passage of time and seasons was signalled by the Divine Wind hovering over the formless void. Light, and then the whole of the beautiful order of the cosmos came into existence at the word of the Creator.

When that Holy Gust hovered over Mary, and she responded: 'Be it done unto me according to thy Word,' the Light of the World was united to our human nature. The human existence of Our Lord Jesus Christ began.

On this calendar-changing day of 1 January, it is indeed fitting that we celebrate the maternity of Mary, the calendar-shattering event which is the fulcrum of history and from which we count the passing of the years.

At the end of all history, at the end of all calendars, may we share in Divine life with Mary of Galilee, Mother of God.

by Fr Michael Tate

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of
Broken Bay

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”

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.

Assistant Priests: 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).

HOLY HOUR—EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

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.



Wednesday nights
7.30pm-9pm.

Commencing
February 15, 2017

Catholics Returning Home

Is a five week support programme that aims at helping
Catholics return to the Church.

This programme is designed

- * to recognise the feelings of each participant
- * to help each participant to understand that they're not alone.
- * to give the participant the opportunity to view things in a new light.

For most Catholics who have been inactive, coming home to a personal relationship with God is challenging.

The Catholics Returning Home Programme will provide a welcoming space in your own Faith community to help you take that first challenging step.

For more information, there are brochures on the gathering area table.