



Catholic Parish of

The Voice

27th March 2016

Easter Sunday

Psalter Octave

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:

- **Recently deceased:** Desmond Langevin, Lynn Botha, Lola Proctor, Eileen Davis, Dolly Toussaint.
- **Anniversaries:** Marion Broad, Br. Brian Horton, fms, Sr. Kathleen Gilchrist, rsm, Bruno de Souza, Sr. Brenda Twomey, rsm, Thomas Boylan, Bill & Elizabeth Hari, Dudley Juratowitch, Geertruida Voormeulen.
- **Remembrances:** Bishop Barry Collins, Fr. Cletus Heffernan, Hilliard Brothers, Mary and George Hilliard, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Sally King.
- **And the Sick:** Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham, Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin, Kate Tinson, Audrey Barsenbach, Beryl Allen, Rene Glase, Vinice Zappavigna, Arnold Diorio, Irene Beck, Maryanne Diorio, Pat Fitzgerald, June Ferry, May Leger, Alan Harland, Carren Quinn, Jack Moulds, Carol Cross, Bruce Spence, Dawn Torrens, Dian Balce, Keith Maiden, Brian Moloney, Pat Quinn, Mary Ann Gormly, Frank Schmidt.

A man was driving along the road when he saw the Easter Bunny hop into his lane. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny, but couldn't do so. The basket of eggs went everywhere. The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman saw the man and pulled over. 'What's wrong?' she asked. 'I accidentally killed the Easter Bunny', he explained. The woman knew exactly what to do. She went to her car, pulled out a spray can, walked over to the bunny, and sprayed the entire contents over the little furry animal. Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up his eggs, waved at them and hopped on down the road. Not far away the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around and waved again. He kept doing this for as far as they could see. The man was astonished. 'What in heaven's name is in that can you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?' The woman showed the man the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.' For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival. In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ. Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb, as our driver resuscitated the bunny in today's story. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds. Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified. What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus. That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all: 'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!'

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Psalm Response

This is the day the Lord has made; Let us re-joyce and be glad.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

A very happy Easter to all and a warm welcome to our visitors. May our Risen Lord bless you during this holy season of Easter-tide.

A Very Special Thank You to Jack Moulds and family for the kind donation which enabled us to purchase the bust of St Mary of the Cross, in honour of Mary Moulds. Also, a kind thank you to Kevin Glacken & co-workers for the construction of the base.

Fr Jack.

Public Holiday Monday 28th March: Morning Mass will be at 9.00am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Parish office is closed and re-opens Tuesday 9.30am.

Easter Offering Envelopes available in the church for your convenience for those who do not have planned giving envelopes.

Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood: the Body of Christ is received in the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.

Bishop Peter will be visiting the Parish on Friday, 1st April & then again for the weekend Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th April.

School Mass: On Friday, 1st April at 12midday, Bishop Peter will be visiting the school & presiding at the School Mass. Parishioners are most welcome and encouraged to join this special celebration.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday, 1st April. It is hoped that Bishop Peter will be celebrating this Mass.

Bishop Peter would like to meet with parishioners on Saturday, 16 April from 10.30am -12.30pm to discuss his vision for the parish & the Diocese. Please write your name on the list in the gathering area if you will be attending.

A sausage sizzle is being proposed for Saturday, 16th after 5pm Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you are able to assist on the night.

Home Blessings during Easter: Fr. Timothy has made himself available for those who wish to have their homes blest during the season of Easter. Please phone the Parish Office 4341 1073 with your name and address.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 1/4/16: Mary McCumstie, Linda Potestas, Kevin Glacken, Rano Spiteri.

St. John the Baptist Kinder Enrolment Information Evening Tuesday, 5th April, 7pm in the school hall.

St. John the Baptist School: Under 6 morning and tour of the school, Wednesday, 6th April 9.30am.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group: Thursday, 31st March, 11am in Leo Mahon room.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers with meditation on Mercy from the words of Pope Francis, 3rd April, St. John the Baptist Church, 2.30pm-3.30pm

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for April are 2nd, 9th, 16th, in Walter Baker Hall.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of Lola Proctor who was buried from our church the past week

St. Vincent de Paul Society on the Peninsula assist and give a hand 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 on 0422 272 339.

Daylight Saving ends next Sunday, 3rd April. Clocks turn back one hour.

The Just Word

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery

Globalising Fraternity, not slavery or indifference: Pope Francis urges us to form a new worldwide solidarity to overcome the 'globalisation of indifference' and to begin by acting in our own daily lives.

Let us ask ourselves, as individuals and as communities, whether we feel challenged when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have

been produced by exploiting others. Some of us...close our eyes to this. Others, however, decide to do something about it, to join civil associations or to practice small, everyday gestures—which have so much merit!—such as offering a kind word, a greeting or a smile... (We are facing a global phenomenon which exceeds the competence of any one community or country. In order to eliminate it, we need a mobilisation comparable in size of that of the phenomenon itself. (#6)

What does the term 'fraternity'

mean to you?

What action can you take on this issue?

Make sure that goods you buy are not made by slave labour. For suggestions, go to 'Help trafficked people' section of the website of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH): <http://acrath.org.au/take-action/your-role>.

Find out the Australian Government's policy on human trafficking. Go to: <http://acrath.org.au/links/australian-links/government-police-human-rights>.

From the Diocese and beyond

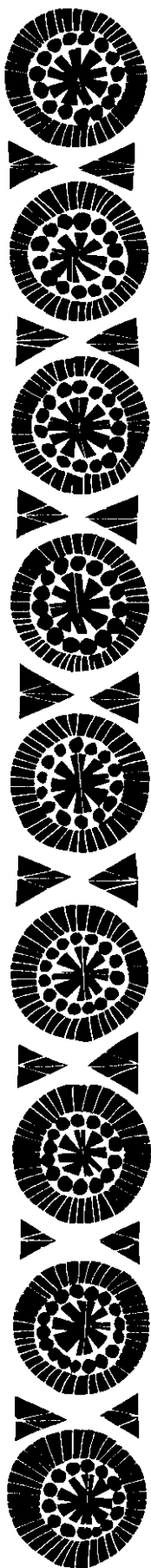
Monthly Hour for Vocations: Last Wednesday of each month, 30th March, 27th April, etc. 7pm-9pm. St. Agatha Parish, 17 Trebor Rd. (enter through car park), Penant Hills. Adoration, Reflection on Scripture, Evening Prayer of the Church. After prayer a social gathering will be held and meal provided. Booklets with prayers provided. Cost: Free.

A Weekend Conference for Catholic Families in 2016: The 'National Association of Catholic Families' will be hosting a Weekend Family Conference April 8-10, at Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong, Talks and activities for all ages

so come and enjoy the excellent speakers, including our own Bishop Peter Comensoli. The Conference includes family catechesis and prayer, evening social entertainment and the wonderful company of other Catholic families. Please contact: nacf.sydney@hotmail.com or phone Mary 02 9875 3664 or Karen 0413 539 378. Registration and bookings are also available at www.trybooking.com/159690

Family Support: CatholicCare family support provide home and centre based support for families. Service provided include individual support, home visits, playgroups, group work (on subjects such as

parenting, domestic violence, conflict resolution, self-esteem and protective behaviours), family advocacy, counseling, community development, referral and financial assistance. We work from a strength and culturally sensitive perspective, recognizing that all families have strengths and sometimes need practical assistance to assist in difficult times. Our Family and Youth Support Service provide children, young people and families with one to one support, advice and assistance. Contact Central Coast family centre for more information Ph: 4356 2600.



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday, 27 March 2016

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

On this, the most important celebration in the Christian calendar, it is a shame that the reading chosen for the Lectionary is something of a let down. Certainly, within the gospel reading we have the discovery of the empty tomb by Mary of Magdala; the disbelieving disciples running to find things exactly as Mary had described; and the dawning realisation of what Jesus had meant when he so frequently spoke about rising from the dead. However, if the editors of the Lectionary had chosen to also include the next nine verses of the gospel we would have also heard the magnificent encounter between Mary and the risen Lord, confirming that it was a woman, Mary Magdala, who was the first witness to Christ's resurrection. As it is, we never hear this account as part of the cycle of Sunday readings.

The discovery of the empty tomb – although so simply told – is an astounding event that completes the Paschal Mystery: the passion, death AND resurrection of Jesus. Whilst Christ's willingness to go to his death on the cross was an extraordinary statement of God's love for humankind, it is his rising again from death that offers all Christian people hope. It is the second disciple – the one whom Jesus loved – who is the first to grasp the meaning of what has happened inside the tomb. The gospel tells us that upon entering the tomb and seeing Jesus' burial cloths lying there, 'he saw and he believed'. Unlike the later encounters with the risen Lord, this disciple recognised the truth and significance of what he saw in the empty tomb. He didn't need to see the risen Lord to believe. Perhaps it is he that we today can best identify with. Not in a position to physically encounter the risen Christ, we are capable of seeing the signs of his resurrection and continuing presence in the world and choose to believe.

Historical Context – Mary Magdalene

Mary Magdalene, or Mary of Magdala, plays an important role in the gospel accounts of the resurrection. She was obviously a significant follower of Jesus, being named as a witness to the crucifixion, discovering the empty tomb and the first to encounter the risen Christ. One would think that she would hold a prestigious place in the Church, but for many years she was confused with another character identified in the gospels and was portrayed as a prostitute and sinner. Mary is named in each of the four gospels and not once is it indicated that she was a sinner or prostitute. She has been a victim of mistaken identity for 2000 years.

Gospel Focus – The disciple Jesus loved

In this week's gospel we see reference to a disciple as 'the one Jesus loved'. It is generally agreed that this disciple is John. There is some suggestion that the disciple, John, is in fact the John ascribed as the author of this gospel. If

this is so, to describe himself as the disciple Jesus loved is merely a means of avoiding using a personal pronoun – I or me. Just as Jesus described himself as 'the Son of God' or 'the Son of Man' rather than say 'I', John uses the same convention to avoid naming himself. It is not to suggest that Jesus didn't love his other disciples.

Different View – An empty tomb?

There are some writers who have questioned the historical accuracy of the empty tomb account of the resurrection. Some theologians and biblical scholars (e.g. members of the 'Jesus Seminar') argue that historically, it is far more likely that the victim of Roman crucifixion would be left to rot on the cross or buried in a shallow criminal's grave – not laid to rest in an expensive private tomb. However, they do not argue against resurrection. They maintain that Jesus' body was not 'resuscitated' or 'reanimated'. What happened to his corpse, they argue, is irrelevant to Christ's resurrection.

Questions for Adolescents

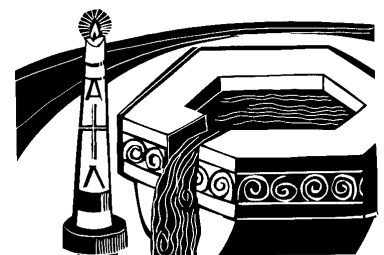
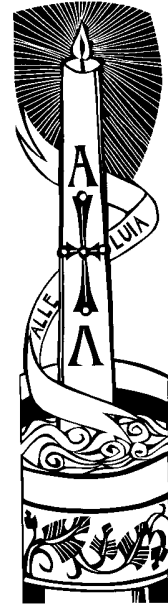
- Q. What emotions do you think Mary might have experienced upon discovering the tomb?
- Q. Why did the gospel writers portray the disciples' initial disbelief and doubt about the resurrection?
- Q. What Christian belief/s flow from the resurrection of Jesus?
- Q. In what ways does the account of Jesus' resurrection inspire hope in Christians?
- Q. In what ways is Jesus still present in the world?

Questions for Adults

- Q. Why is the passion, death and resurrection central to Christian belief?
- Q. What message do you take from the beloved disciple who 'saw and believed'?
- Q. Does the significance of the Easter events receive proper recognition in society today?
- Q. Why do you think the cross became the symbol of Christianity, rather than the empty tomb?

Learning moments

Read the section of the gospel immediately following this week's passage (John 20:10-18) which relates Mary Magdala's encounter with the risen Christ. In what ways does this 'complete' the story of the empty tomb? Prepare a 'Consequences Chart' to identify the chain of consequences for us today that stem from belief in Christ's resurrection. (Because we believe in Christ's resurrection, then ..., etc) Locate artistic images of the empty tomb story and create a virtual gallery of images with comments about why each image appeals or not. (Locate images through online image searches.) Traditionally, a lot of emphasis is placed on the season of Lent, leading up to Easter. How might we better celebrate and focus on the season of Easter that continues from now until Pentecost Sunday?



Catholic Parish of

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South, Umina,
Umina Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Koole-
wong, Blackwall, Booker Bay,
St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,
Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay,



St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office
PO Box 264
54 Victoria Road

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
Walter Baker Hall
100 Blackwall Road
Woy Woy NSW 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@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, 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).

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.

Fr Jack's Dates for April

Friday, 1st	12:00 p.m. Mass at school
Saturday, 2nd	5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, 3rd	7:30 a.m. Mass
Sunday, 10th	9:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Masses
Saturday, 16th	5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, 17th	9:15 a.m. Mass
Sunday, 24th	9:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Masses
Saturday, 30th	5:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday, 1 May	7:30 a.m. Mass