

# The Voice



## ADVENT

*1st Sunday ADVENT  
Year B  
3rd December 2017  
Psalter Week 1*

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Clare Ryan, Morris Blanch,  
Bruce Spence.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Eileen Meyer, Denis Newey,  
Margaret Wahlin.
- **Remembrances:**  
John Anthony Snell,  
Mabel Catherine Snell.
- **And the sick:**  
Pat Burgmann, Mary Drinan,  
Margarita Gomez, June Towson,  
Therese Corner, Margaret Davin,  
Helen Taylor, Patricia Dwyer,  
Roy Beverage, Laura Krauss,  
Marylou Tafilagi, Matilda Tawake,  
Mick Nino, Kevin Houghton,  
Nellie Brown, Ken Thorson,  
Janet Dean, Bobby Sutherland,  
Dianne Briemer, Grace Wellins,  
Courtney Wellins, Tom Thorton,  
Olive Brittliff, Audrey Kirkman,  
Malina Tugaga, Abigale Tugaga,  
Maria Wise, Elizabeth Skinner,  
Beryl Reynolds, Terry Wilkinson,  
Helen Tilkins, Victor Gauci,  
Brian Finlayson, Marta Panczyna,  
Teresita and Jorge Villasanti.  
Ian Wilks.

These days most people keep vigils because they are anxious. We wait in hospital corridors for news of a sick relative. A parent stays up with an infant who may be teething or has a high temperature. We might even sit by the phone waiting to be reassured that a loved one is safe and well, or that we have passed the exam or got the job. Many of these occasions are highly stressed vigils. Some of the younger or more hardy ones amongst us sometimes keep vigils that are filled with excited anticipation, as when some of us sleep out to get tickets to a sports game or concert, or when we see the old year out and the new year in.

It was not long ago, however, that vigils were a much more common feature of people's lives. We often kept vigil with the dead. We used to keep all night vigils of prayer, especially when parishes had perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps before any of us can remember, there were also vigils kept with the bride the night before her wedding, when she waited and watched for the sign of her approaching groom and his attendants. The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil.

This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future

event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate.

This is unique. All other feasts of the Church either remember a past event, like those of Holy Week or Pentecost, or they are 'title feasts' which proclaim a truth about God's action among us which the entire church holds to be true, like Trinity Sunday. But not the First Sunday of Advent. Rather than talk about the coming of Jesus at Christmas it helps us reflect on the final coming of the Lord at the end of time. It is the bridge between the 'last days' of the Church's year, which we have been celebrating over recent weeks, and the first days of the Church's New Year.

And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As on a vigil. Not a vigil of anxiety, where we never want to hear the worst news. Not a vigil of excited anticipation where we pin our happiness on entry into an event. But a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death. We place our hope in Jesus the Christ, our brother, saviour and friend. This First Sunday of Advent we look beyond Christmas to the final moment when heaven and earth will be united and our vigil will be complete. On that day we believe the Son will have dawned once, and for all, on the world. Now, don't you think that's something worth being awake to see?

The first week of Advent is like the first days of other vigils wherein we pitch out tents and begin the wait to make sure we have front row seats for what is going to be, when it arrives, the best show in town!

Richard Leonard SJ.

### Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



**St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cash Appeal** this weekend. An extra collection will be held at all Masses. The need is great. Your generosity is appreciated.

**Immaculate Conception:** Personal prayer . Hour of Grace. Friday 8th December, 12 noon-1pm, Woy Woy Church. We will especially pray for the young people gathered for the Australian Catholic Youth



**Working Bee:** will be held on Saturday 16 December from 10am.

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation** will be held Tuesday, 19th December at 7pm. Please note change of time.



**Bus for Christmas Masses:** The parish bus will be available for the 6pm Vigil on 24 December & both morning Masses on Christmas Day. Please call the parish office on 4341 1073 to book a seat.

**Ecumenical Event:** Please join Fr. Timothy on Saturday 23rd December at 7pm. for a Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke's Anglican Church 147-149 Blackwall Rd., Woy Woy.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Fr. Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets:

Youth of the Streets is proud to announce the opening of The Lakes College on the Central Coast this Year.

The school has opened to provide alternative education to disengaged young people on the Central Coast of NSW, The expansion of our education services builds on the success of our existing schools. They have achieved positive results assisting young people to obtain their RoSA (Recognition of School Achievement), HSC (Higher



## From the Diocese and beyond

**CatholicCare:** Did you know CatholicCare Central Coast Family Centre provides outreach support each Wednesday through Mary Macs? CatholicCare provide a range of essential community assistance programs on the Central Coast with priority access afforded to

**Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers:** List of various types of hampers needed are on display in the gathering area. Hampers to be returned by the weekend of 9/10 December. Single items may be left in boxes at the back of the church. For more information contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639 or Mary Dolan 4343 1401 or 0407 431 401.

**Frantastics Choir Family and Friends Christmas Concert** will be held Thursday, 7th December at 2pm in the Walter Baker Hall. This event is a fundraiser for Mary Mac's Place. Doors open 1pm. Tickets at the door. Entry \$5.00. Gold coin donation for afternoon tea. Information: Ph: 02 4343 1995.

**Columban Calendars 2018** \$9.00 each. **Christmas Cards** \$5 a packet, now on sale in the Piety Stall.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 8/12/17:** Mabel Torres, Anisha Burns, Elena Egan, Lisa Ann Rae.

**Children's Liturgy : for 10/12/17 has been cancelled.**

School Certificate) qualifications and job-ready skills. We are certain The Lakes College will achieve the same results.

John Martin, School Manager of our Chapel School and Aspire program, says that The Lakes College provides a wonderful opportunity to keep young people engaged with their education on the Central Coast. "Our programs are specifically designed to cater to the specific needs of our students, Our classes are small so we can best connect them with career paths

**Morning Tea Roster 10/12/17:** Spanish Speaking Prayer Group.

**Liturgy Meeting** Thursday 14th December, 7.30pm in Parish Office. *Please note* there will be no Liturgy meeting in January.

**LOST** a 1962 Vintage Prayer Book left in the church at the weekend. If someone has found it, please phone the office on 4341 1073.

**Come along, try your luck and enjoy the friendly atmosphere at our own Cash Housie/Cash Bingo night:** Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Every Saturday night. Games 7:30pm-10.20pm. Selling commences 6.30pm. Hall opens 5.30pm.

**Prizes:** \$100, \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 Jackpot. Reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within the specified number of calls. Prizes subject to sales.

For further details or enquiries phone Rob on 0427 990 818 or [wwwcphousie@hotmail.com](mailto:wwwcphousie@hotmail.com).

and relevant opportunities."

Fr. Chris Riley, CEO and Founder at Youth Off the Streets, said "Education is the key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage, but the most important thing is to ensure our kids are getting the right education. Our decision to expand into the Central Coast is beneficial for the area and its young people. We have much to offer the community and look forward to continuing our work in the area."

Homeless Support, Family Violence Support, Emergency Relief, Family Support and Hospital Chaplaincy. Feel free to visit Mary Mac's any Wednesday or call 4356 2600 to find out more.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 1st Sunday of Advent, December 3

Is 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8  
Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
1 Cor 1:3-9  
Mk 13:33-37

Advent is a time of remembering and a time of waiting. We remember Christ's birth into our world, and we watch and wait for his second coming. During the first weeks of the season, our focus is on the latter. It is only in the final days of Advent that our focus shifts to commemorating his birth in Bethlehem.

The Book of Isaiah is attributed to three different authors writing at different times. In the final part, the section called Third Isaiah, we encounter a prophet living among the people returned from exile. He and his people are anticipating a glorious restoration of the nation and God's return to them. "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down" (v 19), he implores, hoping that God will once again dwell in the midst of the people. For us this hope is fulfilled in Jesus, God with us.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to "be watchful [and] alert!" (v 33). This message had a greater sense of immediacy in the early days of the church because many believed that Jesus's return was imminent. Obviously, they were mistaken. But we are still called to live lives of watchfulness in anticipation of his return. We share in the mission of the church to transform the world as God's reign unfolds in anticipation of the parousia.

Paul and Sosthenes greet "the church of God that is in Corinth" (see vv 1-2) with "grace ... and peace" (v 3). They go on to thank God for the spiritual gifts given to the Corinthians "as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v 7). The gifts are given by God for the good of the church.

*For reflection:* As we await Christ's return, how can I use my spiritual gifts for the good of the church? Do I use the season of Advent to reflect on Christ's return?

Fr Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216

## 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10

Is 40:1-5, 9-11  
Ps 84:9-14  
2 Pt 3:8-14  
Mk 1:1-8

Today we hear from the prophet known as Second Isaiah. Beginning in chapter 40 the tone of the book changes, as does the perspective. A book that formerly presented words of judgment and doom to the people of Judah and Jerusalem now turns to prophecies of "comfort" (v 1), addressing the exiled people in Babylon. The prophet announces that their "guilt is expiated" (v 2) and calls them to "prepare the way of the Lord" (v 3), who comes to deliver them and bring them home to Jerusalem. "Here is your God!" (v 9), the prophet cries out.

In Second Peter we are encouraged to live in anticipation of the Lord's return, conducting ourselves "in holiness and devotion" (v 11). God desires "that all should come to repentance" (v 9), and so what seems like a delay is an opportunity for us to reform our lives, a message echoed by the prophets of the Old Testament and John the Baptist.

For Mark, the ministry of John the Baptist is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy of "a voice of one crying out in the desert" (v 3). Today's Gospel is unusual in that while it anticipates Jesus's presence, he is not yet present. We hear from the precursor, John, who is presented in imagery echoing the prophets of biblical Israel: "clothed in camel's hair, ... [feeding] on locusts and wild honey" (v 6). John calls us to "prepare the way of the Lord" (v 3). Joan Chittister, in her book *The Liturgical Year*, reminds us that "it is while waiting for the coming of the reign of God ... that we come to realise that its coming depends on us" (62). As we wait, let us prepare by transforming our lives with the power of God's love, that we may welcome him when he comes.

*For reflection:* What can I do to help prepare the way of the Lord? Has there been a time in my life when I experienced God's patience with me before I repented? How can this insight help me in my relationship with others?




---

We are the servants of God,  
each with his or her own task.  
We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

---



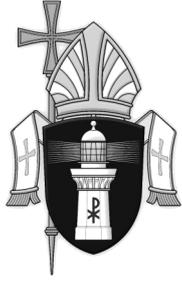
# Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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,**  
Cnr 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  
**Website:** www.woywoycatholic.org.au  
Out of hours **medical emergency**  
0438 631 327.

**"He must increase, I must decrease"**

**Administrator:** Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

**Office Staff:** Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.

**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 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).

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

## MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

**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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. . For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

**CATECHISTS** conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

**CATHOLIC CARE** 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.

**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 Peter 0425 358 376 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 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

Weekend and Christmas Mass times 2017			
	2017		OBLIGATION
Saturday	23 December	Vigil 5:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunday	24 December	7:30 a.m.	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunday	24 December	9:15 a.m.	<b>Sunday</b>
Sunday	24 December	6:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas</b>
Sunday	24 December	8:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas</b>
Sunday	24 December	10:00 p.m.	<b>Christmas</b>
Monday	25 December	7:30 a.m.	<b>Christmas</b>
Monday	25 December	9:15 a.m.	<b>Christmas</b>

**For Sale**

**Parish Car**

2012 Mazda 3 Maxx Sport  
Sedan

BL Series 2 Auto MY13

4 Cyl, 2 litre engine.

79 500 km's. Black.

Rego until 1.9.18.

Great condition. \$14,000.

Please call the Parish Office,  
4341 1073 if interested.