



# The Voice

18th February 2018

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

Psalter Week 1

## LENT

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR  
THE SOULS OF

- **Anniversaries:** Sid Flakelar, Noel John Carson, Saviour Grima, Ned Borg, Josephine Borg, Fatima Fawzy, Bill Finlayson.
- **And the sick:** Mary Drinan, Val Simpson, Helen Tilkins, Laura Krauss, Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor, Patricia Dwyer, Mick Nino, Nellie Brown, Janet Dean, Donna Vella, Bonny Sutherland, Donna Briemer, Joy Ball, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido, Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Beryl Reynolds, Kevin Houghton, Rene Glaze, Pamela Power, Teresita and Jorge Villansati, Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff, Oscar James Morreti, Mary Scarf, Darcy Green, Frank McLenaghan.

Have you ever noticed that Jesus begins and ends his public ministry in the wilderness? These deserts are the geographical bookends of the greatest story ever told. In today's Gospel we have Jesus in the desert for forty days. Much later, when condemned to death, Jesus is led out of the city and crucified at Golgotha, another dry and desolate location. In both places Jesus is tempted. In Mark we are never told what Satan's temptations in the desert were about. Luke and Matthew fill in those details. On the cross, however, Mark tells us that the crowd tempts Jesus to work a miracle, come down from the cross and save himself. In the first desert Jesus is ministered to by the angels and emerges to proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the later desert Jesus is ministered to by his women disciples and is put to death as a consequence for the way he lived out the Kingdom he proclaimed.

It's clear from all the Gospels that the desert and the temptations stayed with Jesus throughout his life. What a comfort this is to us. Many of us do not need to go out and find a physical desert to know its claim on our lives. Temptations do not know geographical limitations. Indeed, the greater the number of options, the more temptations we have to take a destructive path.

When we look at how the desert is used in the Bible, mythology, art, literature and the cinema two competing images emerge. The first is that the desert can be a place of loss and ruin where some great heroes have gone and not returned. In another equally venerable tradition journeys to the desert, while filled with a mixture of pleasure and pain, are abundant with revelation, transformation and recreation.

These two descriptions do not have to be

contradictory. As we find in Jesus' example, we do not have to give in to the temptation that the desert is only about loss, but we need to find a path there to negotiate a way out of it so that we can emerge recreated, the richer for the experience.

It's important to remember in our own particular deserts that temptation is not sin. To be tempted by something is not the same as doing it. Temptations are the allures that make destructive choices look good. In one sense, the bad news is that we know from the lives of the saints that the closer we get to God, the more temptations increase. The good news is that we can learn how to deal with them. Usually, temptations have a context and a history. They can come when we are feeling most deserted and vulnerable and they normally strike us at the most susceptible points in our character. To deal with them we need to be aware of their pattern, the way they con us into believing that the destructive behaviour is 'not that bad', will be 'just this once', or 'for the last time'. As well, it helps if we are aware of the danger signs in our lives that can weaken our defences. Tiredness, boredom, anger, alcohol and drug use, lack of good communication and a poor self-esteem are common realities that can leave us more exposed than usual.

This Lent, as we venture with Christ into our figurative deserts, let's do anything that helps our self-esteem, deal with our anger, attend to why we might work or drink too much, and ensure that we are less stressed. Contrary to what we might think, these activities could be the most helpful ways we can make sure we emerge from our desert the better for having been there.

Richard Leonard SJ

### Psalm Response

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Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your cov-e-nant.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## Around the Parish

### The Light is On for you:

All churches in the Diocese will be open during Lent for quiet time and prayer with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday evenings, 7pm-8pm. February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23. There will also be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church on these nights.

**Stations of the Cross** will be followed every Friday 6.15pm before "The Light Is On for You" and every Wednesday 4pm commencing Friday 16th February.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every Wednesday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm during Lent.

**Stational Masses:** Most Rev Peter A Comensoli is calling for the people of Broken Bay to join him in making the pilgrimage of Lenten Stational Masses in Broken Bay. Locations & dates for Masses in the Diocese are listed on the last page of this newsletter or on flyers in the gathering area.

**Project Compassion:** Your donation to Project Compassion gives expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Project Compassion envelopes available in the gathering area.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room 11.30am-3pm due this Monday 19th February. If you would like to join us please ring Bernard 4341 6343.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 25/2/18:** Mary Wood, Carol Yates, Shadeeqh Quai Hoi.

**Church Cleaning Roster 23/2/18:** Kevin Glacken, Laurie Jarvis, Christina Thorson, Jo McMillan.

**Lenten Prayer Group:** Gladys Leger will hold a group on Fridays at 7pm at her Umina home. Please phone 0421 312 362 if interested.

**Lectio Divina and Bible Study Group:** Monday 19th February, 2.30pm-4pm. Upstairs meeting room in parish office.\*\*Change of venue for this week only.

**First Communion 2018.** Information night for parents enrolling candidates, Monday, 19 February, 7.30pm in the Walter Baker Hall.

**The Woy Woy Youth Group** presents an event for the whole parish at 10.15am on 25th February. Gerard Nicholls will perform in the church, a concert of solo piano music. The event will be free and open to the public, although donations for the Youth Group would be appreciated. All are welcome to attend Mass at 9.15am prior to the concert.

**Morning tea** Sunday 25 February will be hosted by the Youth group & the school P&F.

**Bus Trip:** Lower Hunter Valley Wed 28th Feb, leaving 8.45am. Cost \$20. Call Susie 0403 417 639

**World Day of Prayer.** This years service will be held at St. David's Presbyterian Church, 118 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. To be held on Friday 2nd March, 10 am. Refreshments will be served afterwards. The Service has been written by the women of Suriname, a small country in the North of South America. Everyone is welcome.

## The Just Word

**Closing the Gap?** The community Development Program (CDP) supports about 335,000 remote job seekers in more than 1000 communities. The aim is to "build skills, address barriers and contribute to their communities through a range of flexible activities.

But critics say the CDP is leaving people without food due to harsh non-attendance penalties and that the scheme is a "discriminatory" and "racist", with 84 percent of participants being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As part of the CDP's "work for the dole" system, people are fined one day's Centrelink allowance if they miss one of their scheduled activities or arrive late.

In two years, at least 300,000 fines have been imposed, mostly on Aboriginal people, according to Church Resources, a procure-

ment organisation that services and supports not-for-profit organisations. For a person on Newstart, which is generally under \$300 a week, penalties are about \$50 per breach.

The Senate Committee was told these punishments were unreasonable, due to the long distances people often had to travel to meet their commitments.

The stringent CDP work hours have also come under fire. CDP participants must do 25 hours of "work-like" activities per week to receive a welfare payments, up to three times longer than metropolitan work-for-the-dole participants.

One CDP provider, the Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre at Hermannsburg, told the inquiry the payment system was "leaving people" without funds and causing hardship to the most disadvantaged in our society."

"It is unrealistic to expect community members to participate for 25

hours per week, 52 weeks a year. The lack of flexibility in relation to participation is a major flaw of the current program, as it does not allow sufficient space for family, cultural and community events," the Tjuwanpa submission said. "In addition, many participants don't have access to phones/communication technology to contact Tjuwanpa if they are unable to meet their participation requirements for a valid reason.

"We would like to see a reduction in the participation requirement to an average of 15 hours per week with some flexibility from week to week, including for example, the capacity to bank hours."

The Aboriginal Peak Organisations group (APO) has suggested an alternative program, the proposed Remote Development and Employment Scheme, which is more focused on creating jobs so participants can get off welfare and live independently. *Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.*

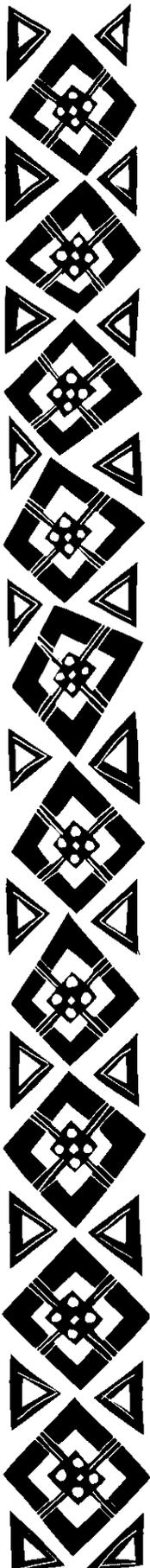
## From the Diocese and beyond

**Parenting for Love**—an opportunity no parent will want to miss. Embracing their Greatness! Giving parents the tools to help their children discover God's unique plan for their lives! Guest Speaker from the United States—Christina King. Saturday, 24th February, 12.30pm-2.30pm. St. Agatha's Catholic Church School

Hall, 20 Boundary Rd. Pennant Hills. For More information contact Steven Buhagiar, Life Marriage Family Diocese Broken Bay 0415 600 290. See notice board for more detail.

**A Joyful Vision of Love, Marriage and Family:** A time of marriage enrichment, practical discussions

and family focused prayer. Star of the Sea Parish, Terrigal. 4 March, 10am Parish Mass. 11am Family Hospitality. 11.30am Marriage enrichment talk and discussion. 12.45pm Family Prayer time. 1pm. Close. RSVP Thursday 1st March. Steven.buhagiar@dbb.org.au or Ph: 029847 0502 or 0415 600 290



## “Healing in the Family” by Sister Margaret Scully RSC

The Live Pray Love project ministry extends a warm invitation to you and invites you to come along and hear a talk by Sr Margaret Scully on “Healing in the Family”.

*“When a person seeks healing because of a particular need - be it physical, spiritual, mental or emotional - one tends to focus on **that** particular need. Healing, however, has to do with the **whole person**, not just one area. To be cured of something does not mean one is healed. The question is, “What is the **root cause** of the problem?” And with help, learn how to deal with it, not only for the ‘now’, but also for the ‘future’. Because Jesus **is the Healer**, he is the one who sets us free”*

*Sr Margaret Scully.*

**Venue: Leo Mahon Room, inside the church**

**Date: Sunday 18 March 2018**

**Time: 10.30 – 12:30pm**

10.30am -11.30am What do I understand “*Healing*” ..... “*Inner Healing*” to mean?.....What within me, within my life, needs to be **healed**?

(short 15 min break – tea/coffee provided)

11.45am – 12.30pm “*Ancestral Healing*” or “*The Healing of the Family Tree*”.....What does this mean for me in the ‘now’?

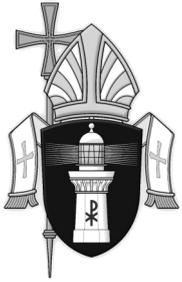
General Prayer for Healing

## *Banchetto Italiano* FEAST OF ITALY FOR YOUNG ADULTS



**WHO: YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 18-30)**  
**WHAT: FINE WINE, MUSIC AND FOOD**  
**WHEN: 6PM ON 24TH FEBRUARY (SAT)**  
**WHERE: HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, KINCUMBER**

# 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**  
**WOYWOY 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:**

Midday 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.

One of the beautiful faith traditions is the **Stational Mass** – a special opportunity that offers a way to greater prayer with the universal Church during particular seasons throughout the year.

All parishioners are invited to gather and pray as one body on this graced journey to Easter. Please join us at one or all of the following Masses celebrated at 7.30pm by Bishop Peter:

20 February	St Patrick's, Gosford
27 February	Mary Immaculate Church, Manly
6 March	St Agatha's Church, Pennant Hills
13 March	Our Lady of the Rosary Church, The Entrance
22 March	St Philip Neri Church, Northbridge

## Walk the Lenten Journey on your Mobile Phone!

The Xt3 Lent Calendar App 2018 is available for download on Apple and Android devices (search for Xt3 Lent) and can be viewed from the website:

[www.xt3.com/lent](http://www.xt3.com/lent)

The Lent calendar will run from Ash Wednesday to Divine Mercy Sunday. Each day will unlock a new video, meditation or podcast, to help you prayerfully journey through Lent. The theme for the Xt3 Lent Calendar 2018 is

"Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus."