



Catholic Parish of Wy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

ADVENT

*2nd Sunday of Advent
Year B
10th December 2017
Psalter Week 2*

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Connie Ellul, Jack Little,
Una Connolly, Janet Dean, Ada Wise,
Abigale Tugaga, Owen "Pat"
Kavanagh.
- **Anniversaries:**
Deacon David Huntley,
Frank McLenaghan, Keith Henry.
- **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, Ian Wilks,
Brian Finlayson, Marta Panczyna,
Teresita and Jorge Villasanti.

During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.' Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true either so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter. 'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more, I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is a little bit of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings - Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark.

These scriptures remind us that God

has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love and how to transform our world for better.

The image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer that we can find ourselves lapsing into it all the time. 'If you make me well, God, I will lead a better life.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.' 'I will raise my children Catholic if I have a fine day for my wedding.' This is all dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time to the preaching of John the Baptist, to the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ and to the continuing work of the Holy Spirit among us today, that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Richard Leonard SJ

Psalm Response

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response:

Lord, let us see your kind - ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All people shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Cash Church and Amrei Frese who were baptized last Sunday.

Second Rite of Reconciliation Tuesday, 19th December at 7pm. Please note earlier time.

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

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the church for those who do not have weekly envelopes.

Working Bee will be held next Saturday, 16th December from 10am. The more the merrier!

Piety Stall selling Columban Calendars \$9 each. Christmas cards \$5 a pkt.

Parish Pastoral Council: next meeting this Monday, 11th December at 7pm in the Parish Office.



The Just Word

The Just Word:

'This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger' (Luke 2:12)

The Truth: The idea of any child going to bed hungry is abhorrent, but worse is that nearly half of all deaths in children under five globally are due to malnutrition, according to Unicef data.

Undernutrition makes children more prone to illness and infection, and with a weakened immune system from hunger, getting better is much harder. Undernutrition in the first 1000 days of life impairs physical and mental development irreversibly. Maternal undernutrition also impacts on a child before they are born. It increases the chances of stunting by the time the child is two years old, as does the low rate of exclusive breastfeeding from



Liturgy Meeting *this* Thursday, 14th December, 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 15/12/17: Tom French, Reg Harrington, Emma Baker, Maria Wickens.

Children's Liturgy Roster for 17/12/2017: Therese Carroll, Anne Maree Tonkin, Carol Yates.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday 18th December. If you would like to join us please phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

SVdP appeal: On behalf of those whom we assist, the members of the Peninsula conferences extend their grateful thanks for your donations. An amount of \$6076.30 was raised. Peter Smith.

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

birth to six months. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that 795 million people globally don't get enough food. Of those, 780 million are in developing countries.

We are winning:

The good news is that we are winning this battle. The percentage of the world's population suffering from malnutrition has dropped by almost half since 1990, although the reduction has been slower in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There is enough food: The simple truth is that we grow enough to feed everyone in the world. The issue is that we waste too much, and the distribution is terrible. In the developed world, we waste more than one third of all the food we grow. In Australia, that equates

From the Diocese and beyond

Counselling: CatholicCare Relationships Counselling provides counselling to adults, young people, couples and their children, at all stages of the relationship cycle including pre

-marriage, marriage, (including de facto relationships), separation and remarriage. Counselling supports the establishment and maintenance of strong positive family relationships as well

Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: For those available to assist at the Christmas Masses, please write your name on a list in the servers sacristy.

Housie: Every Saturday night. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy. Games 7.30PM - 10.20PM. Selling commences 6.30PM, hall open 5.30PM. **Prizes:** \$100, \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 Jackpot* Reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within specified number of calls. Prizes subject to sales. This is the original parish fundraiser since 1960's in Ettalong and continues to raise essential funds for the parish.

Latest News: Friday sessions 16th December 2017 (more dates to come in 2018) 50 games, \$100 prizes \$1000 Jackpot.

Contact Rob on 0427 990 818 or wwwcp housie@hotmail.com.

to \$8 billion a year—money that would go a long way to stopping starvation.

Support Female Farmers:

Women make up 43 per cent of the world's agricultural labour force, and over 50 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Asia, yet female farmers are not treated the same as men.

Women in developing countries face more extreme poverty, have less education, lower literacy rates than men, and often face barriers to accessing loans for seeds, fertiliser and equipment, as well as owning land. The FAO says addressing this would have a huge impact. "If women had the same access to productive resources as men, the total agricultural output in developing countries would increase by up to 4 per cent and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 per cent."

as counseling about the care, welfare and development of children of the relationship. Contact Central Coast family centre for more information on 4356 2600.

Two Gospels

Fr Michael Tate

An inscription has been found dating back to nine years before Jesus of Nazareth was born. It celebrates the birthday of the Emperor Augustus whom it describes as a god and announces that his birth was the beginning of 'gospel' (good news) for the world.

Around the mid 60s, in the midst of a terrible persecution of Christians in Rome, a document was written by St Mark which took aim squarely at this pretension of such Roman Emperors.

It has a title which announces itself: 'Beginning of the "gospel" (good news) about Jesus, Christ, the Son of God.'

St Mark is telling us that a great contest is going to unfold between the emperors of this world and the figure of Jesus. And the superior Gospel will be that of Jesus because he *is* the Christ, he *is* Son of God.

There will be a battle as to who will reign over the world, a battle which will not be won by overwhelming military power but with ... with what, by whom?

Here, St Mark immediately introduces the strange figure of John the Baptist to start to supply the answer. He was a man living in dire poverty scavenging for the honey of wild bees and eating grasshoppers.

He attracted quite a following to the River Jordan where he would immerse his disciples in water. The Greek word for plunging someone into water is 'baptiseo'. So John was called, 'John the Immerser', or 'John the Drencher' = 'John the Baptist'.

But John realised that the baptism he performed was only half the story. It symbolised the washing away of sins. It put the past in the past and prepared his followers for the future, but he could not bring about that future. John knew he did not have the power to effect a completely new future for humanity.

But what if someone came on the scene who *could* inundate people, flood their lives with Divine Power? John's baptism would pale by comparison. This is why John says: 'Someone is following me, someone more powerful than I am ... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

There is someone who can immerse, dip, drench people in the Holy Spirit, in the dynamic life of God. John does not identify the 'Someone', but we know that the 'Someone' is the One announced in the heading: 'Jesus Christ, Son of God'.

He is the One who will inaugurate the reign of God, and the reign of the Emperor will be superseded. That is *the* Good News. That is *the* Gospel.

There is a superior dynamism at work in human history: the Holy Spirit. Christians have been immersed in that Spirit when they were baptised as the Lord commanded, '... in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of *the* Holy Spirit.

The emperors of this world, over the centuries and even today, the emperors of this world: political supremos, social elites, financial overlords, force or brainwash people to do them homage, to bend the knee, like Augustus, to treat them as gods.

But there is a worldwide community with a different allegiance. Sometimes, actually quite often, we need to remember that we are a worldwide community of dissidents: a worldwide community which sees that most emperors have no clothes.

This is the worldwide community baptised into 'the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the *Holy Spirit*.' This Spirit-filled community, the Church at its best, introduces a new dynamic into human history.

That is bad news for most emperors. It is very good news, very good Gospel for the whole world, for the whole of human history.



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.	Sunday
Sunday	24 December	7:30 a.m.	Sunday
Sunday	24 December	9:15 a.m.	Sunday
Sunday	24 December	6:00 p.m.	Christmas
Sunday	24 December	8:00 p.m.	Christmas
Sunday	24 December	10:00 p.m.	Christmas
Monday	25 December	7:30 a.m.	Christmas
Monday	25 December	9:15 a.m.	Christmas

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.