

The Voice

28th February, 2016

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

Psalter Week 3



Lent

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Austin Gabriel, Colin Sutton, Roxanne Jager.
- **Anniversaries:**
Loretta Baroquillo, Paul Hogan, Kenneth McDonnell, Eileen Gleeson.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary & George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Arthur, Muriel & John Brown & Brown Family, Frank McLenaghan.
- **Sick:**
Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Bill Hunt, Neil Cameron, Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen, Rene Glaze, June Ferry, Lola Proctor, Jack Moulds, Irene Beck, Alan Harland, Lindsay Hardy, Arnold Diorio, Maryanne Diorio, Carol Cross, Mary Dolan, May Leger, Fr. Bill Meacham, Bruce Spence, Pat Fitzgerald, Natalie Rankin, Dian Balce, Vince Zappavigna, Audrey Barsenbach, Pat Quinn, Keith Maiden, Brian Moloney.

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The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?'

In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.

The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again. Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



Around the Parish

Stations of the Cross are followed every Wednesday, 4pm, and every Friday 7.30pm, throughout Lent.

A Pilgrimage to the door of Mercy and **Stations of the Cross** Holy Cross Church, Kin-cumber. Leaving our car park 9.30am, Fr. Philip will lead us in the Way of the Cross.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available after Wednesday morning Mass during Lent in addition to the regular times.

St. John the Baptist School Mass at the school, Friday, 4th March at 12md. for those who may wish to attend.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 4/3/16: Elena Egan, Anisha Burns, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm. Thursday 3 March and all Thursdays in Lent. Lectio Divina for first 30 mins. followed by a portion of Scott Hahn's online Bible Study 'The Lamb's Supper: The Bible and Mass'. You need to bring your Bible.

The Just Word

'Devils in the detail' of TPP

The TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) is not about free trade, but about stronger monopoly rights for corporations," said Patricia Randal, coordinator of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network (AFTINET).

The TPP gives global corporations the right to sue governments for billions of dollars in international tribunals if they can argue that changes in law or policy harms their investment, known as investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). The tribunals consist of investment lawyers who are not independent judges but can continue to be practising advocates, with obvious conflicts of interest.

"Increasing numbers of cases against health, environment and even mini-

From the Diocese

Discernment—Retreat for Men: 11-13 March. Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush. This weekend will include time for personal prayer, sacraments, spiritual guidance, a movie, time with seminarians and discussions. See notice board for further details and the various speakers. Information and registration phone 9307 8424.

www.vocationcentre.org.au

"Sara's Place" a non-denominational foundation providing free, confidential, non-judgmental and personalized care for teens, women and couples who discover

Dear Parents and Carers:

Over the years it has been the custom for boys and girls to volunteer to work as Altar Servers. This can be of benefit to them. It also helps me as Parish Priest to get to know them better especially now that the new school year has begun and it will soon be time for parents to seek acceptance into surrounding high schools and in particular St. Eddie's and St. Joey's which require the Parish Priest's endorsement. It is difficult for me to do this when I do not know the child.

To this end primary school students in years 5 and 6 are invited to join our wonderful and dedicated team of junior servers who assist at Sunday Masses. Your child will find it spiritually rewarding as they learn more about their faith and play an active role in their parish. Training will be provided and parents are asked to contact the parish office and leave their details.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Jack.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Maria Mhilli who was baptised last Sunday.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday, 4th March.

St. Vincent de Paul, Woy Woy

require donations of single beds. (Mattresses and frames) urgently. We have some families who require assistance and your help would be appreciated. We can organize pick ups on the Peninsula. Phone Joan 0422 272 339.

St. Patrick's Day Concert: For a little break from Lenten observance, come to a grand recital at our church on St. Patrick's Day, 17th March at 7.30pm.

Daniel Moulton (Organ) and Paul Goodchild (Trumpet) will give a recital of organ and trumpet music with some Irish surprises. Both artists are renowned musicians and a memorable concert is assured. Admission is free with a leaving collection to cover costs.

Bus Trip Wednesday, 9th March, leaving at 9am. Sightseeing then lunch at Penrith Leagues Club. Cost \$15. All enquiries, bookings and payment for the trip need to be made with Susie on 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for March are 5th, 12th and 19th in the Walter Baker Hall.

mum wage laws show that ISDS can undermine democratic and sovereign rights to regulate. Claimed 'safeguards' in the TPP do not address these fundamental flaws.

"The agreement still strengthens corporate rights at the expense of consumers and citizens, which is the opposite of 'free' trade."

Dr. Randal said campaigning from public health groups had forced governments to exclude future tobacco control laws from ISDS cases.

"This is an important win, has angered the tobacco lobby, and should prevent future cases like the Phillip Morris tobacco company case against Australia's packaging law," she said.

"But it also begs the question of how effective are the general 'safeguards'. If tobacco regulation

needs a specific exclusion, it is clear that the general 'safeguards' do not prevent cases from being lodged against other public interest laws."

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF, or Doctors Without Borders)

remains concerned about dangerous TPP provisions that would delay access to lower priced medicines for millions of people in TPP countries.

AFTINET says Australian law on biologic monopolies will not change immediately, but the TPP text is ambiguous, referring to "other measures" which would "deliver a comparable market outcome" and to a future review, which could result in up to three extra years of monopoly.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

they are expecting a child. At Sara's Place they can provide information about your options if you are trying to decide what to do. They can also provide support and help for you during your pregnancy and beyond.

At Sarah's Place they value life from conception, we do not recommend abortion as the answer. However, support for women after an abortion is a vital part of our service. Contact 1300 851 592 for Central Coast appointment or www.sarasplace.org.au

World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Salvation Army, 9 Sydney Ave. Umina. Friday 4th March, 10am Service. 11am refreshments.

St. Edward's College Open Day:

Families are invited to the College Open Day Sat. 5th March, 10am-2pm. Entry via main gate at

13 Frederick St. East Gosford and you will be met by current students who will provide 20-30 minute tour. At the end of tour, there will be a sausage sizzle, tea and coffee.

Enquiries and packages available for all year groups.

Readings Today & next Sunday

28th February, 2016

Bruce Janiga

3rd Sunday of Lent, February 28

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15
Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
Lk 13:1-9

Tradition says that Moses spent 40 years away from Egypt before the Lord called him to lead the people out of slavery. During that time he had a family and tended his father-in-law's animals. It was an opportunity to develop the survival skills he would need to bring the Lord's flock into the same area. The mountain of the burning bush is also the mountain where they will receive the commandments. It is significant that Moses did not seek out God; rather, the Lord called Moses while he was doing his everyday task. God finds us and calls us to use the gifts we have.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that although all the Israelites who left Egypt with Moses "ate the same spiritual food" (v 3), many displeased the Lord and "were struck down in the desert" (v 5). He sees this as a lesson for us, "so that we might not desire evil things, as they did" (v 6). Paul knows that despite our experience of God's steadfast love, we too are in danger of straying. We are to learn from the example of the Israelites so that we do not fall out of favour with God.

In the Gospel today Jesus calls us to repentance. Using the parable of the fig tree, he admonishes us to produce a good harvest. In the parable we learn that while God is patient with us, his patience is not endless. There will come a time when that which refuses to "bear fruit" (v 9) will be cut down. Now is the time for repentance, for we do not know when the time of judgment will be. We must cultivate the seed of faith that was planted in our hearts.

For Reflection: What are some of the gifts in my life that I can use in service of the people of God? What do I need to do so that my life bears good fruit?

4th Sunday of Lent, March 6

Jos 5:9, 10-12
Ps 33:2-7
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

While the Torah narrates the liberation of the people from Egypt, the Book of Joshua tells of their entry into the promised land. After Moses dies just outside the promised land, Joshua succeeds him as leader of the people. Under his leadership the Lord guides them across the Jordan River into Canaan. At Gilgal they celebrate the Passover, eating "of the produce of the land" (v 11). This new land is the land of promise, the land flowing with milk and honey that they are to possess. Because they have now come into this land, "the manna ceased" (v 12). God no longer needs to provide them with bread from heaven, for they will now enjoy the fruits of the land he is giving them.

Paul writes to the Corinthians that those who are in Christ are "a new creation" (v 17). Through the ministry of Christ we were reconciled to God. Our salvation depends not on acts of our own but on the gracious gift of God, "who has reconciled us to himself through Christ" (v 18). Our lives must be lived according to God's will.

In the parable of the lost son (one of three "lost" parables in Luke chapter 15), Jesus gives us an example of the infinite love God has for each of us. He addresses these parables to "the Pharisees and scribes" (v 2) who were complaining because Jesus was associating with sinners. Though he is not obliged to, the father gives the younger son his "share of [the] estate that should come to me" (v 12). Leaving his home and going to "a distant country" (v 13), he is as good as dead in the eyes of his family. This explains why the older brother will refer to him as "your son" (v 30) rather than "my brother"; as far as he is concerned, he has no brother. But the father calls him to welcome the lost brother back because he "was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found" (v 32).

For Reflection: Do I appreciate the gifts God gives me in my everyday life? What is my attitude toward the lost sheep that has returned? Am I like the older brother or like the father?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian's Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, 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 and Phegan's Bay.

St John the Baptist Church, corner of Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office
P.O. Box 264
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish
Centre
Walter Baker Hall

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Fr. Jack Robson. *Parish Priest.*

Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S. Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priests.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill,
Margaret Cooper.

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice: 3.30 p.m. Wednesday



Saturday 26th March

(Easter long weekend)

6 tickets costs \$48 for 50 games

(all 100 games = \$96)

2.30pm to 10.20pm (selling from 1.30pm)

**Free sausage sizzle and
catering during half time break**

Free tea and coffee all day.

**100 Games with \$100 and \$150 prizes
and a chance of winning the \$2000 Jackpots**

(game 50 reverts to \$1000 if not won within calls, game 100 is \$2000 in unlimited calls)

Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy

Enquiries 0427 990 818

Proceeds to Woy Woy Catholic Parish

Is Gambling a problem for you? Call G-Line (NSW) counselling service 1800 633 635. Prizes subject to ticket sales

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, 3.30 p.m.; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15 a.m. 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 9.30 a.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

HOLY HOUR, EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

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

PARISH CHOIR—Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7 p.m.

Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 f 0243 445049.

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. and McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

