



# The Voice

4th March 2018

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

Psalter Week 2

## LENT

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Fr. Tony Smith, S.J. Dolores Fawkner,
- **Anniversaries:**  
Liz Goetz, Edna Follett,  
Audrey Fisher, Fr. Peter Shiel,  
Fr. Hugh Law, Heather Badgery.
- **Remembrances:**  
Linda Evans, Joan Fitzgerald,  
Mary, Katerina & Frank Justic.
- **And the sick:**  
Val Simpson, Janet Dean,  
Helen Tilkins, Laura Krauss,  
Patricia Dwyer, Nellie Brown,  
Donna Vella, Oscar James Morreti,  
Donna Briemer, Joy Ball,  
Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido,  
Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga,  
Beryl Reynolds, Rene Glase,  
Pamela Power, Mary Scarf,  
Teresita and Jorge Villansati,  
Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff,  
Kevin Houghton, Fr Jack Robson,  
Darcy Green, Frank McLenaghan,  
Leon de Pradines, Margaret Davin,  
Helen Taylor.

In recent years the Ten Commandments have become an unusual staging ground for various groups within the Church. Some people complain that young Catholics don't know them off by heart. This position is countered by those who say that rather than being able to recite them we should live them, though it's hard to see how we can do one without the other. Still, others rightly claim that Jesus summarised them in his new commandments, 'To love God with all our heart, mind and soul and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.'

The problem with teaching the Ten Commandments is not what they say, but how they say it. The idea of 'coveting' anything, but especially 'wives, slaves, ox and ass' are all a bit dated these days. In an article entitled 'Preaching to the Modern Pagans' journalist Bryan Appleyard tells how he interviewed a person who kept quoting them at length. Later he decided to read them for the first time since childhood and he was struck by their insightfulness into the human character. Appleyard thought all the Ten Commandments needed was a makeover so that we can reclaim the power of them.

'You shall have no other gods beside me.' Be serious!  
'You shall not carve idols for yourselves, nor bow down before them.' Get real!  
'You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.' Be humble!  
'Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day ...' Be quiet!  
'Honour your father and your mother ...' Respect age!  
'You shall not kill.' Do not kill, for all murder is suicide!  
'You shall not commit adultery.' Mean what you say!  
'You shall not steal.' Do not steal, or

all the world will die!  
'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.' Honour others, their frailties are usually your own!  
'You shall not covet your neighbour's house or wife ... Be kind, be generous and don't play around!  
So by putting some ancient words into the modern vernacular we are exhorted this Sunday to seriousness, facing reality, humility, creating space, respecting age, honesty, and fidelity, and we are bluntly told to stop killing and stealing. There is nothing old fashioned about these challenges. As in other instances, we can see that it's not what our tradition has to say but the way we say it that can be the problem.

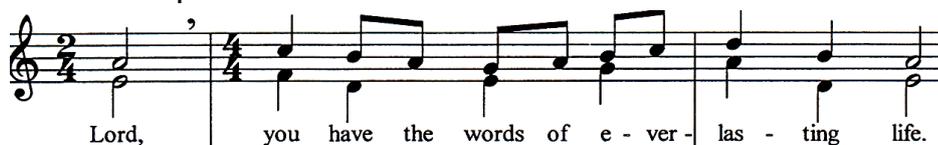
And today's Gospel tells us of the consequences of moving away from these guiding principles. I think we need to take Jesus' anger very seriously. Rightly we have emphasised the love and compassion of Jesus over recent decades because for far too long the steadfast love of Christ was under-emphasised. We should never think, however, that it cancels out the anger God feels when he sees an unjust world filled with people who know better and do nothing.

God has given us the Ten Commandments, the Law, the Prophets and Jesus his Son, so that we might know the Way, the Truth and the Life. When we are called to account for how we spent our lives, whom we loved and how we made the world a better place for all, most of us will not be able to plead ignorance. May our Eucharist this Sunday enable us to be mindful of what the Ten Commandments say, but even more may it give us the courage and strength to live them out in a world that needs witnesses to them more than ever.

Richard Leonard SJ

### Psalm Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. 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. March 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 during Lent.

**Chrism Mass:** will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The parish bus will be available. Please call the parish office on 4341 1073 to book a seat.

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation:** to be held on Monday, 19 March at 7pm.

### **Live, Pray, Love Project:**

"Healing in the Family" by Sr Margaret Scully RSC. Leo Mahon Room, Sunday 18th March 10.30 - 12.30pm. Call Gladys Leger 0421 312 362 if you have any questions.

### **Senior Servers and Junior Servers Needed!!!**

If you would like to assist at our Sunday Masses, we would like you to join our team of Junior and Senior Servers. Please leave your name and details with our Parish office. TRAINING will be provided.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 9/3/18:** Judith Easterbrook, Anisha Burns, Michael French, Elena Egan.

**Morning Tea Roster 11/3/18** will be the PPC group.

**Lectio Divina & Bible Study Group:** Monday 5 March, 2.30pm-4pm, Leo Mahon Room.

**Paschal Lambs;** available in the Piety Stall for \$8, supporting the Michaelite Mission.

**Our Parish Courtesy Bus** is not equipped to carry walkers safely. We regret that patrons are not permitted to carry walkers onto our bus. Walkers are retained by the Church for use by patrons of the Courtesy Bus who would need them when they arrive at the Church. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## The Just Word

### **1 March: Nuclear Free Independent Pacific Day:**

The Pacific has a unique voice to add to the calls for the ban on nuclear weapons, as we have a unique toxic history with these weapons.

From 1946-1996, some 300 nuclear test explosions were conducted in the Pacific.

Their impact on the fragile ecology of the region and the health and mental well-being of its

peoples has been profound and long-lasting. Pacific islanders continue to experience epidemics of cancers, chronic diseases and congenital abnormalities as a result of the radioactive fallout that blanketed their homes and the vast Pacific Ocean, upon which they depend for their livelihoods.

Pacific nations have also consistently voiced strong support for the adoption of a treaty that

places nuclear weapons on the same legal footing as other weapons of mass destruction, which have long been banned. For more information:

[www.icanw.org/au/pacific](http://www.icanw.org/au/pacific)

## From the Diocese and beyond

### **World Youth Day 2019 Panama Promo & Info Night**

Have you heard about World Youth Day 2019 Panama? To learn more and see what opportunities lie ahead, don't miss the Promo & Info Sessions!

Presenting the finer details of the WYD pilgrimages to Panama to potential pilgrims, their parents and carers, as well as community leaders. 7 March - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal. **Time:** 6:30pm - 8:30pm **RSVP:** [youth@dbb.org.au](mailto:youth@dbb.org.au)

### **World Youth Day 2018 on Palm Sunday:**

Every year since 1983, the Pope has called the local Bishops to gather with their own young people on Palm Sunday to celebrate World Youth Day and 2018 is no exception. Bishop Peter invites the young and wise of the Diocese

to join him to celebrate World Youth Day 2018 at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Avenue, Waitara. Mass 6pm. Sunday 25th March. Young people are encouraged to join for some food and fun from 4.30pm. **RSVP:** [youth@dbb.org.au](mailto:youth@dbb.org.au)

**Vatican Astronomer:** The Diocese of Broken Bay welcomes Br Guy Consolmagno SJ, the Director of the Vatican Observatory, for a series of presentations in April. Br Guy holds a PhD in Planetary Science, and will explore the fascinating topic of how faith and science co-exist. Be enriched by this stimulating conversation about the connectedness of life, science and faith. Br Guy has published a number of books, the latest titled "Would

*You Baptise an Extraterrestrial?"*

### **Monday 30 April:**

"Looking Up at the Stars: We're all Connected"

7.00pm - 9.30pm, St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah. Includes a viewing of the night sky with telescopes (weather permitting)

**RSVP:** [www.trybooking.com/UCJL](http://www.trybooking.com/UCJL)

### **Mary MacKillop Associates**

meet Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30 pm at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, 8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South. Come along for a cuppa and scones, bring a friend and share in the discussion on everyday life and following the footsteps of Mary MacKillop.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 4

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17  
Ps 18:8-11  
1 Cor 1:22-25  
Jn 2:13-25

Most people don't realize that the Ten Commandments are written in the second person singular. That means that God is addressing us individually, not as a group. Each of us is called to follow God's commands. In giving these words to Moses and the Israelites, God is inviting them into a covenant relationship, one that will be ratified later with a sacrificial meal. God's desire is for an exclusive relationship with the people: "You shall not have other gods besides me" (v 3). The people have just left Egypt, a nation where hundreds of gods were worshiped. This relationship is based on the fact that it is the Lord "who brought you out of the land of Egypt"; therefore he says, "I, the Lord, am *your* God" (v 2, emphasis added). The Egyptians may worship other gods, but Israel is called to be loyal to only the Lord.

Paul tells the Corinthians that the core of the gospel message — "Christ crucified" (v 23) — may seem foolish to others, but to those who are called, it expresses "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (v 24). What seems foolish and weak to the world is actually the means by which God brings about our salvation.

Jesus's cleansing of the Jerusalem temple, found earlier in John's text than in the Synoptics, casts the shadow of the cross over his entire ministry. The other evangelists place this event during the last week of Jesus's life. John tells us that Jesus "went up to Jerusalem" (v 13) for the feast of Passover. Though not the highest mountain in Israel, the mountain of Jerusalem is viewed as the high point of the Jewish theological world, and so in the biblical text one "goes up" to Jerusalem. Encountering the merchants selling animals for sacrifice and the money-changers, Jesus drives them out, commanding, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace" (v 16). This action against the temple will be a key charge against Jesus at his trial, for in challenging the temple and its institutions, he is challenging the leadership of Judaism as well.

*For Reflection:* Are there times when I think that God's commandments don't apply to me? Do I consider my local place of worship (parish church, chapel, cathedral) a spiritual high place in my worldview?

## 4th Sunday of Lent, March 11

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23  
Ps 136  
Eph 2:4-10  
Jn 3:14-21

The books of Chronicles provide us with a second look at many of the key events in Israel's history. Written at the end of the fifth century BC, it covers the same era as the books of Samuel and Kings, but from a different perspective and with an emphasis on God's involvement in human history. The Greek name of the text, *Paralipomenon* (meaning "things omitted or passed over"), gives us some idea of the intention of the author. Today's text is concerned with the conquest of the nation of Judah at the hands of the Babylonians and the people's eventual release and return from exile as brought about by "Cyrus, king of Persia" (v 22). Cyrus, conqueror of Babylon, declares that "the Lord ... has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem" (v 23), and he orders the exiles to return home and carry out this command. For the chronicler, both the exile and the return are divine actions within human history.

John's Gospel is filled with contrasting images: death and life, light and darkness, spirit and flesh, truth and lies. In today's text Jesus says, "the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness" (v 19). In Jesus God acts definitively in human history, sending "his only Son" in order that we might share in "eternal life" (v 16). Like biblical Israel we are given a choice; whether we choose to believe or not, there are consequences.

In Ephesians we hear again about "the great love [God] had for us" (v 4). This love is manifest in the fact that God "brought us to life with Christ" (v 5) despite our sins. Our salvation is not a result of our own good works but is grace: "the gift of God" (v 8) made manifest in Jesus. God acted in history in Jesus Christ to free us from the power of sin and death and to offer us salvation. Our task, as children of the light, is to embrace that light and receive God's gift.

*For Reflection:* Do I strive to walk in the light of Christ, or do I sometimes prefer the shadows? Have I ever failed to sense God's presence in my life? How does taking a second look sometimes help to clarify things?



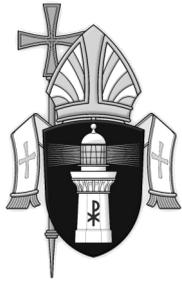
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"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that all is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

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# 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.

## Diocesan Pastoral Care Course

Volunteer Catholic Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit hospitals throughout the Diocese of Broken Bay providing comfort and care to Catholic patients. **NSW Health** requires that 40 hours of training is completed to perform this important role. The *Diocesan Pastoral Care Course* is open to those who already volunteer in a hospital context, or in local health and aged care facilities, and also to those who might be deciding if they are suited to this ministry.

**Please note that this course is a requirement for Public hospitals.**

This **FREE** course, created particularly for a Catholic pastoral community and endorsed by the Civil Chaplaincies Advisory Committee NSW, will provide you with the minimum training required by NSW Health.

The course will be offered on the five consecutive Wednesdays in March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. It will be held at St. John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy (54 Victoria Road, Woy Woy).

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Please speak to your Parish Priest for more information about the course and how to apply, or contact Peter Brown, Coordinator Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care, CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay on 0418 616 602.