



Lent

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• Recently deceased:

Derry Tait, Geraldine Mayne,
Ken Steinman.

• Anniversaries:

Denis Mulligan, Enrico Servi.
Sr. Teresa Mary Corcoran. o.c.d.
Lucy Laura De Souza.

• Remembrances:

Venerando Guarde, Aviano Guarde,
Eutiquia Guarde, All Souls in
Purgatory, especially forgotten ones.
Joan Fitzgerald, Alan French.

• And the Sick:

Loretta Holt, Frances Sara,
Bill Hunt, Neil Cameron, Kate Tinson,
Beryl Allen, Rene Glase, 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 Moroney,
Dawn Torrens, Mary Anne Gormly.

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Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

6th March 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

Psalter Week 4

Bright and early on a Monday morning, in times that were much less ecumenical, Mick and Paddy, a pair of Irish ditch diggers, were repairing a Dublin road directly across the street from a house of ill repute.

Soon, they saw the Protestant Minister lurking about the place and then ducking into the house.

'Would ya look at that Mick!' said Paddy.

'What a shameful disgrace. That Protestant Minister sinning in the likes of that place!'

'Well', said Mick, 'he's got a ticket to hell anyway Paddy, so that's only getting' him an upgrade on the seat.'

A short time later they watched as a Jewish Rabbi looked around cautiously and, when he was satisfied no one had spied him, darted into the house.

'Did ya see that Paddy?', Mick asked in shock and disbelief. 'Is nothing holy to those Jewish people?'

'God in heaven above', Mick replied, 'Do they have "half price Monday" for the clergy at that sinful place?'

'Well, all I know Paddy is that a man of the cloth indulging himself in sins of the flesh is a terrible shame, I tell ya!'

Not long had passed when they saw a third man, Fr O'Donovan, their parish priest, lurking about the house looking around to see if anyone was watching and then quietly sneaking in the door.

'Mick, look it's Father O'Donovan', said Pat removing his cap.

'Ah Mick', said Paddy, taking off his own cap, 'one of the poor girls musta died ...'

Often our history colours everything about us, even those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt, be compassionate and forgive.

What is so shocking about Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is, that as the story goes, everything about the Jewish culture of first century Palestine set the boy up for a fall: he was greedy for his father's inheritance; we can assume he left the chosen land for the far country where he squandered his inheritance recklessly; he ended up eating

with the unclean pigs; and then he had the temerity to return and ask for forgiveness.

This was the least likeable kid in town. He did not deserve to be treated better than a slave. That's what makes the boy's father so magnificent in love. He was derided by his faithful older son for this folly of the heart and he would have been considered a fool by his neighbours. And this is the model of compassion Jesus gives us to emulate.

The context for this story, however, matters. The author of Luke 15 has Jesus responding to charges about the company he was keeping and especially those with whom he dined. In Jesus' day, one only ate with intimates and Jesus shared his table with losers. Three parables are given as an explanation for this practice: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. In each case the shepherd, the woman and the father go to ridiculous lengths to save that which is lost.

Who was admitted to the table of Luke's community was a huge issue. It seems some things never change. The action and words of Jesus, however, lead us to conclude the table is here for those of us who know the frailty of our lives enough to recognise our hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. Today's Gospel is not just about each of us being welcomed into the arms of our compassionate God, it is also a challenge for us to defend the right of the outcasts, the public sinners and the losers who seek to turn their life around to be welcomed here as well.

This is not just about the table of the Eucharist, either. To the degree that we help our country be more hospitable to the most defenceless, the poor and the displaced then we live out the power of this parable.

May this Eucharist then, help us live beyond our history, which so often colours those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt and show compassion and may it give us the courage and faith to be ridiculously generous, and magnificently loving.

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Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 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, Kincumber. Mondays in Lent, leaving our car park 9.30am, Fr. Philip will lead us in the Way of the Cross.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated here at SJB on Wednesday, 23rd March at 7.30pm.

Alternatively, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church, 55 Kincumber St. Kincumber at midday Wednesday 23rd March. Parking is under the church, in front of the church and on the street.

Chrism Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, 22nd March at 7.30pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The Parish bus will leave 5.30pm from the parish grounds. Those wishing to travel by bus, please phone the Parish office 4341 1073 and leave your name.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 10 March, Leo Mahon room and all Thursdays in Lent. Lectio Divina for the first 30 minutes followed by a portion of Scott Hahn's online Bible Study called 'The Lamb's Supper: The Bible and the Mass'. You need to bring your Bible.

The Just Word

Refugees: Are we part of the problem or part of the Solution:

As a nation, we harm innocent people by detaining them, pushing back their boats and transferring

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Society on the Peninsula assist and give 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.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 11/3/16:

Christine French, Linda Potestas, Maria Wickens, Michael French.

Bus Trip — Sightseeing and then lunch at Penrith Leagues Club. Leaving Wednesday, 9th March at 9am. Cost: \$15.

Bus Trip — to Coogee Convent Chapel where Eileen O'Connor (Sydney's Saint in waiting) is buried. Eileen is a 20th Century Australian nun who founded the Society of Our Lady's Nurses for the poor. Leaving at 8am on Thursday 31 March for a healing Mass & lunch afterwards around the Coogee area. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey on 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639. for all bookings, enquiries and payments.

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. Some of the items will be J.S. Bach's famous Toccata and Fugue in D-Minor, the March from Handel's Water Music and Three Traditional Irish Melodies plus many goodies besides!" Both artists are renowned musicians and a memorable concert is assured. Admission is free with a leaving collection to cover costs.

Chocolate Paschal Lambs now on sale in the Piety Stall. \$8 each.

Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm, 24 March. Interested parishioners wishing to participate in the Washing Of The Feet are asked to phone the Parish Office.

them to impoverished nations. We pretend that the pain and diminishment of one group of people, including children, is a justifiable price to pay for sending a message to others. This policy dishonours

the human dignity of people who seek protection and denies the truth of their humanity.

Social Justice Statement 2015-16.

From the Diocese and beyond

Wyong Catholic Parish—Position Vacant (8 hours per week during school term)

The Parish is looking to employ a person to assist in the running of our Sacramental Program and overseeing our Catechists (Special Religious Educators SRE).

The ideal candidate must have a good communication skills; the ability to coordinate and motivate assisting volunteers; a professional manner and presentation; proficient in Microsoft Office; an ability to operate with discretion and to maintain complete confidentiality; a demonstrated commitment to the values of the Catholic Church. If this sounds like a position you are interested in, please contact the Parish Office for more details, or by email to:

office@wyongcatholicparish.com
Enquiries: Jo Helm 4352 1011 or 0424 763 734. Applications close 11th March, 2016.

"Sara's Place" a non-denominational foundation providing free, confidential non-judgemental and personalized care for teens, women and couples who discover 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 during your pregnancy and beyond.

At Sarah's Place they value life from conception. They do not recommend abortion as the answer. However, support for women after an abortion is a vital

part of their service. Contact 1300 851 592 for Central Coast appointment or www.sarasplace.org.au

Reflection Mornings at Grail Centre: Two mornings of quiet reflection and conversation at the Grail Centre, 22 McHatton St. Nth. Sydney.

Saturday 19 March, 10am-12 noon on Etty Hillesum, Jewish/Christian Dutch woman mystic.

Tuesday 22nd March, 10am-12 noon, on nature as the first revelation of God, in response to Pope Francis' 'Laudato Si'.

Contact Tricia Gemmell pgemmell@tpg.com.au or ruthcrowe@ozemail.com.au or the Grail Centre 9955 3053. For information about the Grail, visit www.grailaustralia.org.au

The Responsorial Psalm

David E. Fedor

6th March 2016

The singing of a psalm or biblical canticle after a reading of Scripture predates Christianity. We know from the Old Testament that it was part of the Jewish worship experience; we also know from the New Testament that the early church followed this pattern of readings and sung responses. In those early years, we find that the liturgical life of the church contained many examples of using the psalms. The Liturgy of the Hours is crafted around psalms and biblical canticles, and all of the sacraments use these ancient sung prayers. The celebration of each Eucharist contains an entrance psalm (introit), a psalm following the reading of the first Scripture passage during the Liturgy of the Word (responsorial psalm), and a psalm for the communion procession.

Each responsorial psalm that we find in the lectionary has been carefully chosen to provide a meditation or elaboration on the reading that preceded it. The importance of this psalm is made clear in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*:

After the First Reading follows the Responsorial Psalm, which is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word and which has great liturgical and pastoral importance, since it fosters meditation on the Word of God.

The Responsorial Psalm should correspond to each reading and should usually be taken from the Lectionary.

It is preferable for the Responsorial Psalm to be sung. (61)

Unlike the entrance and communion psalms, which can be replaced with a variety of options, “songs or hymns may not be used in place of the Responsorial Psalm.”

As an important part of the Liturgy of the Word, the responsorial psalm should be approached with great care so that it achieves its intended purpose. Too often it can come across as an intermission (song) between the readings, or something tagged onto the first reading. For this reason, it is appropriate that there be a period of silence after the first reading. If the first reading is done well, silence will allow the assembly time to digest its contents. This also gives them the opportunity to be ready for the sung response to the reading. When lectors and cantors are aware of this connection, each can perform his or her respective ministry in a way that enables those gathered to be drawn in to the Word of God. Because psalms are Scripture, the responsorial psalm is most appropriately chanted from the ambo rather than from the cantor’s stand.

As for singing the psalm, “the whole congregation sits and listens, normally taking part by means of the response, except when the Psalm

is sung straight through, that is, without a response.” The responsibility of the cantor (psalmist) during the singing of this psalm is one of proclaiming the word of God and inviting a response from the assembly. Just as we expect lectors to be prepared to proclaim the word of God with a clarity and conviction that draws those gathered in to the meaning of the text, the psalmist’s preparation must aim to achieve the same goals. In proclaiming the word of God in song, care must be taken that the singing draws attention to the text and not to the vocal accomplishments of the psalmist. This is not an opportunity for the singer to become the centre of attention. Attitude is a key factor in accomplishing this. After the psalm is finished, the psalmist should wait a bit before leaving the ambo so that there is another brief silence before the lector goes to the ambo for the second reading.

Although the GIRM states that the psalm appointed in the lectionary is always preferred, other choices can be made. If other than the appointed psalm is used, it must be chosen with great care. The alternate psalm should convey the same sentiment as the appointed psalm. Approximately 20 options for the appointed psalm can be found in the set of seasonal psalms located in the back of the lectionary (173–174). They appeared in the earliest lectionary, when the Catholic population was just beginning to sing the liturgy. The collection provides one or two psalms appropriate to specific seasons or feasts. For example, the common psalm for Advent can be used for any or all of the four Sundays of Advent; thus a congregation could have the same text and music for the season rather than have to learn four new psalms, one for each Sunday. The lectionary also provides an index of all the psalms used throughout the three-year cycle. GIRM 61 also lists other options for psalm texts and ways of singing the psalms, but the options are restricted to psalms and biblical canticles.

To avoid allowing the responsorial psalm to fall short of its intended purpose and become just another sung part of the liturgy, let us re-examine our understanding of this psalm and recall its unique and noble purpose, so that our assemblies might better be drawn in to the mystery of God speaking to us. **ML**

David Fedor holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for St. Casian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.



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
100 Blackwall Road

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).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 HOUSE every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & 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.



We're on the Web!

www.woywoycatholic.org.au

Are you interested in becoming a priest or deacon?

How about attending a weekend for men interested in this vocation? A time for prayer, reflection, talks and sharing.

A Weekend Retreat for men who are discerning a vocation to priesthood and diaconate. Friday evening 11 - Sunday afternoon 13 March.

Where? Good Shepherd Seminary, 50-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush.

Any inquiries about this or vocations:

Fr Paul 0425 746 749; Sr Margaret 0418 522 449;
Vocations Office 9484 1427