

The Voice

13th March 2016

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

Psalter Week I



Lent

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

• **Recently deceased:**

Stella Thompson,
Tony King, Hugh Parker.

• **Anniversaries:**

Bishop Patrick Murphy,
Archbishop James Gleeson,
Carlo Bevilacqua,
Marie Liz Goetz, Mark Church.

• **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,
May Leger, Fr. Bill Meacham,
Bruce Spence, Pat Fitzgerald,
Natalie Rankin, Dawn Torrens,
Dian Balce, Vince Zappavigna,
Audrey Barsenbach, Pat Quinn,
Keith Maiden, Brian Moroney,
Mary Anne Gormly, Frank Schmidt.

There is a tough phrase at the end of the Gospel we have just heard; 'Go and sin no more.' It's like a sting in the tail, standing in contrast to the compassion of Jesus in his encounter with the woman. Yet, on closer inspection, it is the most important phrase in the story. And that's saying something because this dramatic event is the only one in the Gospel where Jesus confronts sexual sin, where only the woman is dragged from the scene of the crime to answer the charge of adultery. Is it any wonder that in some early manuscripts of John's Gospel this story was left out, its authorship questioned? The dangerous memory of Jesus' compassion toward the woman was too strong in the minds of John's community for it to be excluded, however, and so it remains as an inspired text for us to make our own. It is sometimes very important to hear Jesus say to us, especially in the area of our sexuality, 'I do not condemn you.'

So often, however, we want Jesus to leave it at that. But Jesus goes further. He tells it as it is. If any of us want life and want it to the full, we have to stop doing the destructive things that get us into trouble in the first place. It does not matter if it is drinking, gambling, eating, working, stealing, sexual dysfunction, being into pornography, being violent at home or any other type of obsessive compulsive behaviour, there is little point in being sorry for the consequences of our weaknesses and not changing the pattern of behaviour that leads us to ruin each time.

Twelve step programs enshrine the wisdom of today's Gospel in how they help us to own up to the destructive behaviour of our lives and yet give us hope to live beyond our worst moments.

Steps four to ten say:

Step 4. I have made a searching and fearless

moral inventory of myself.

Step 5. I have admitted to God and to another the exact nature of my wrongs.

Step 6. I am entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Step 7. Humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings.

Step 8. Made a list of all persons I had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

Step 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except where to do so would injure them or others.

Step 10. Continued to take personal inventory and when I was wrong promptly admitted it.

The thing I like best about these is that they are pro-active. They alert us to the fact that the best pathway to know healing and forgiveness is not to be passive, but to be active and admit our own faults and work to heal them. Some of us may have been given a tough hand from life's deck of cards, but we do not have to be passive victims, never able to change the cycles of destructive behaviour. If the steps work and we trust today's Gospel then we can be happy, healed and forgiven because we heal and forgive others.

Jesus bestows great dignity on the woman by saving her from being condemned to death, but even more so he knows that it does not have to be like this and so challenges her to turn her life around.

May we hear the same challenge in this final week of Lent. No matter what we have ever done, sexually or otherwise, we are greater than our worst moments. Jesus loves us enough not to condemn us, but to give us this Eucharist so that we might find the strength and hope to stop doing the things that destroy us and to live a life that leads to peace and joy.

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Holy Week Mass Times

Holy Thursday (24 March) 7:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (25 March) 10:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross (at SJB Primary School, 21a Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy)

3:00 p.m. The Lord's Passion

Easter Vigil (26 March) 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday (27 March) 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Easter Monday (28 March) 9:00 a.m.

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Around the Parish

Passion or Palm Sunday next Sunday, 20th March is the solemn beginning of Holy Week. Instead of the normal Gospel, the Passion of Christ is read.

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

Alternatively, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated at Holy Spirit Church, 55 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.

Stations of the Cross Wednesday 4pm and Friday 7.30pm and the

Pilgrimage to the Door of Mercy, Holy Cross Church, Kincumber leaving our car park 9.30am Monday led by Fr. Philip.

Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament regularly held Thursday Nights 7.30pm now suspended and will resume in May.

Live, Pray, Love Project will be hosting a sausage sizzle after the 9.15 mass on Sunday 20th March 2016.

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.

Readers and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Rosters for Holy Week and Easter: Please put your name if and when available on the list in the Servers Sacristy.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Bryce Austin, James Austin and Ethan Taylor baptised last Sunday.

Volunteers required to cut palm fronds for Palm Sunday *this coming Friday* after morning Mass. Please notify Parish office if you can help, and bring your gloves and secateurs.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 17th 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.

Second Bus Trip sightseeing then lunch at Penrith Leagues Club Wednesday 16th March. Leaving 8.45am. Cost: \$15.

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

Chocolate Easter Lambs \$8 each available at the Piety Stall.

The Just Word

World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15 March—the anniversary of the historic speech by US President John F Kennedy setting out a vision for consumer rights. This was the first time a politician had acknowledged such principles. Kennedy said.

Consumers by definition, include us all. They are the largest economic group, affecting and affected by almost every public and private economic decision. Yet they are the only important group...whose views are often not heard.

A society that lacks a strong focus on the rights of consumers runs the risk of endangering the safety

and health of its members and exposing them to economic injustice and exploitation. In his speech Kennedy recognised that growth in technology offered both great opportunities and great challenges to ordinary consumers.

President Kennedy proposed

- *The right to safety—to be protected against the marketing of goods which are hazardous to health and life.*

- *The right to be informed—to be protected against fraudulent, deceitful or grossly misleading information, advertising, labelling or other practices...*

- *The right to choose—to be assured, wherever possible, access to a vari-*

ety of products and services at competitive prices.

- *The right to be heard—to be assured that consumer interests will receive full and sympathetic consideration in the formulation of Government policy, and fair and expeditious treatment in its administrative tribunals.*

For more information about

Consumers International:

www.consumersinternational.org

In Australia consumer rights are protected by both state and federal laws.

For information on federal consumer rights:

www.accc.gov.au/consumers/consumer-rights-guarantees

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant: Holy Cross Parish Kincumber is seeking to employ an appropriate person 12 hours per week for 8 weeks to undertake a review of the parish and its ministries and to advise on possible directions for the future. Experience in parish ministry or

other non profit groups, research and analytic skills and strong communications skills are necessary. Contact Kincumber Parish on 4369 1211 or kinpar@hotmail.net.au for a full position description.

2016 Seniors Week Concert

will be held at Ettalong Diggers, 51 -52 The Esplanade, Ettalong Beach. Wednesday, 30th March 2pm-3.30pm. Bookings essential. To reserve seats, phone 4342 4122. RSVP 24/3/16 or email to gosford@parliament.nsw.gov.au See notice board for more detail.



Readings Today & Next Sunday

13th March 2016

Bruce Janiga

5th Sunday of Lent, March 13

Is 43:16-21
Ps 125:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6
Phil 3:8-14
Jn 8:1-11

The exodus was a favourite theme during the exile, as Israel remembered how God rescued them from Egypt. They were hoping that God would now lead them out of Babylon. Today's reading from Isaiah remembers when God opened "a way in the sea" (v 16) to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Now, the prophet says, God is "doing something new!" (v 19). He is making a way for them in the wilderness to lead them back to Jerusalem. As they remembered his works of old, they will now "announce [God's] praise" (v 21) after he has led them back to their home.

Writing to the Philippians Paul says everything else pales in comparison to knowing Christ. It is all rubbish when contrasted to life in Christ. For to know Christ is to attain righteousness, not through our own actions but "through faith in Christ" (v 9), which is given as a gift from God. But though we have been given the gift, we do not yet possess it fully; we have not "attained perfect maturity, but ... continue ... in hope" (v 12). As we continue our Lenten journey, let us "continue [our] pursuit toward the goal" (v 14).

The story of the woman caught in adultery is not found in some of the earliest copies of John's Gospel, but the church wisely included it in the canonical text. The anonymous woman stands under judgment according to the Law. Her crime/sin calls for the punishment of death. She is not merely accused of the crime; she "was caught in the very act of committing adultery" (v 4). The Law of Moses is specific: such a person deserves death. But Jesus comes not to condemn but to give life, so he challenges her accusers to look within their own hearts and judge whether they too stand under judgment. When they leave, aware of their own failings, Jesus offers the woman mercy. "Neither do I condemn you," he says. Then he tells her, as he tells us, "Go, and ... do not sin any more" (v 11). Touched by God's love, we too can continue our journey of faith.

For Reflection: From what do I need to be rescued today in my own life? Am I quick to judge others, or do I try to be a minister of God's healing love? How has my experience of God's forgiveness changed my life?

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, March 20

The Simple Entrance

Is 50:4-7
Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11
Lk 22:14-23:56 or 23:1-49

In Isaiah, the servant acknowledges that he has been called by God, given "a well-trained tongue ... to speak to the weary" (v 4). "Morning after morning" he hears God's word and acts on it. But his ministry is greeted with "buffets and spitting" (v 6) because the people will not accept his message. But he perseveres because "the Lord God is my help" (v 7). For the early church, Jesus was the realization of this suffering servant, so this text is one of our Mass readings for Palm Sunday.

In today's reading from Philippians Paul quotes a hymn about Christ who, "though he was in the form of God, ... emptied himself" for our sakes, taking on our human nature. Through Christ's *kenosis* (self-emptying) we come to have a share in the divine life. Because Christ died for us, let us honour him by revering his name and confessing "that Jesus Christ is Lord" by our words and deeds.

Luke's version of the Passion has been examined in detail in commentaries, and whole books have even been dedicated to it. Let us focus today on an emphasis particular to Luke: Jesus, the suffering one, continues his ministry of compassion until the end. At the Last Supper, knowing his own suffering and death is near, he is concerned for his disciples, telling Peter and the others, "I have prayed that your own faith may not fail" (22:32). During his arrest he heals the ear of the high priest's servant that had been cut off by one of his disciples (v 51). On the way to Golgotha, he offers words of comfort to the "Daughters of Jerusalem" (23:28). Even while dying on the cross, he promises one of the criminals, "today you will be with me in Paradise" (v 43). As we remember Christ's saving act of love for us, let us rededicate ourselves to living the gospel more fully.

For Reflection: What meaning do the events of Holy Week have for me in my life today? Do I identify with any of the people in the Passion story? Why or why not?

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In today's second reading, St. Paul says, "For His sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

See Philippians 3:8



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. S.M.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

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 other goodies besides!" Both artists are renowned musicians and a memorable concert is assured. Admission is free with a leaving collection to cover costs.

We're on the Web!
www.woywoycatholic.org.au



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.

CATHOLIC CARE 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.

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.

100 GAME BINGO MARATHON

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

Call us if you have a problem for you? Call Gamble (NSW) counselling service 1800 633 635. Prizes subject to ticket sales