



The Voice

20th March 2016 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year C Psalter Week 2

Lent

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Fr. Xavier Barry, c.m.
Fr. Francis Martin, Ken Steinman,
Rufino Sta Monica,
Antonio Sta Monica,
Kenneth Tobin.
- **Anniversaries:**
Keith Booth, Angelita Carpio,
Renato Carpio, Tirso Carpio,
Matilde Carpio, Eli Houghton,
Mark Church, Marceleen Cole
Michael Wheeler, Francisco Costales,
John Wahlin, John Anthony Snell,
Emmie Matilda Carkeek,
John Charles Carkeek,
Fr Patrick Ryan.
- **Remembrances:**
Nora and Paul Houghton, All Souls
in Purgatory.
- **Sick**
Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt,
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham,
Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin,
Audrey Barsenbach, Kate Tinson,
Beryl Allen, Vince Zappavigna,
Arnold Diorio, Maryanne Diorio,
Rene Glase, Pat Fitzgerald,
June Ferry, Irene Beck, May Leger,
Alan Harland, Lola Proctor,
Jack Moulds, Carol Cross,
Bruce Spence, Dawn Torrens,
Dian Balce, Keith Maiden,
Brian Moroney, Pat Quinn,
Mary Ann Gormly, Frank Schmidt,
Carren Quinn.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Directory	4

The crowd who cheered on Palm Sunday proved to be a fickle lot. It took them no time at all to move from the cries of adulation of Palm Sunday to the derision of Good Friday, and back again, with frightening speed. What is most worrying, however, is that we can do the same just as easily. Take, for example, in our own country, where on the one hand we tell the original inhabitants of this great land that they have some claim on it and then change the rules when they begin to make such a claim. You don't have to look far for Calvary. Try being black in a white world.

We bask in the myth that this is the land of the fair go, but seem to think that this fair go is primarily for white people born of an Anglo Celtic, Christian background. You don't have to search too far for Calvary. Try being Asian in a Eurocentric world.

As Christians we affirm that women and men are made in the image and likeness of God, but in the Church and society we find new arguments to keep men in power and women only fractionally developing their God-given talents. You don't have to seek out Calvary. Try being a woman in a man's world.

Our society tells the gay community they may have been born with a desire for a same sex partner and that no one should discriminate against them, yet we deny them basic rights for legal security and dignity. You don't have to hunt for Calvary. Try being gay in a straight world.

Our society sings the praises of IVF and its associated technologies and proclaim how hundreds more couples are now 'complete' as a result of having a baby and yet each year we abort tens of thousands of unborn ba-

bies. You don't have to explore far to find Calvary. Try being a pregnant mother in an unsympathetic and death-dealing world. The reality is that Palm Sunday is not a yearly historical pageant. It is the day when we hear proclaimed that:

- our God knows what it's like to be heralded on Sunday and condemned on Friday;
- our God loved us so much that he laid down his own life so that we might live;
- our God showed us that the price of walking on palm branches is in the taking up of the cross.

And how do we do that? How do we face all the Calvarys of our world and be Christ-like? In the Passion we are told that Jesus did five things:

- He healed the ear of the High Priest's servant;
- He spoke the truth to Pilate;
- He empathised with the women of Jerusalem;
- He forgave those who condemned him;
- He had compassion toward the other criminal being crucified.

And here's the rub: in facing our personal passion and being with those who face their Calvary we are called to do likewise.

If Holy Week means anything it means we end this week as we began it – processing. Walking away from inflicting pain to being a healer, desisting with lies and speaking the truth, resisting the temptation to judge and embracing empathy as our first response and, always and everywhere, being generous with forgiveness and compassion. No more and no less is asked of us if we are to follow 'the King of Love on Calvary'.

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Psalms Response

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My God, my God, why have you a-ban-doned me?

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high, and gave him a name above all other names. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Around the Parish

Good Friday Collection 2016:

The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing, Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last Year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.4 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and increasing cost of living which put a strain on family budgets and financial resources. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'. Good Friday envelopes available in the church for your convenience.

Chrism Mass celebrated on Tuesday, 22nd March. 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Parish bus leaves 5.30pm. Those wishing to travel by bus, Ph: Parish office 4341 1073 and leave your name.

Altar Servers: Rosters for Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies available in the Servers Sacristy.

Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers: Please fill in rosters available in the Servers Sacristy at what service you wish to serve over Holy Week.

Holy Thursday 7pm Mass is the best day to bring in your Project Compassion box or envelopes to the church. There will be baskets in the church for you to put them. Alternatively, bring your contribution to one of the Easter Masses. It is a long standing Catholic custom to watch before the Blessed Sacrament for a few hours after the Mass. The period of adoration will end at 10pm with Night Prayer (Compline). There are no Masses Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

Bus Transport to Easter Services :

7pm Holy Thursday Mass,
3pm Friday, The Lord's Passion
7pm Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass & 7.30am and 9.15am Easter Sunday. Bookings essential to Parish office 4341 1073.

Easter Chocolate Lambs on sale in Piety Stall. \$8 each.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster (Wed before Easter):

Pam Hickey, Warren Sparrow, Kathleen Cullen, Bill Cantley.

St John the Baptist Kindergarten Enrolment Information evening: Tuesday, 5th April at 7pm in school hall.

St John the Baptist School Under 6 morning and tour of the school: Wednesday, 6th April 9.30am.

Home Blessings during Easter: Fr. Timothy has made himself available for those who wish to have their homes blessed during the season of Easter. Please phone Parish office 4341 1073 with your name and address.

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 8am, 31st March for a Healing Mass and lunch in the Coogee area. Cost \$15. Contact Susie on 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639 for all bookings, enquiries and payments.

Morning Tea—Easter Sunday 27/3/16 Roster: 'El Shaddai' Prayer Group.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Prayers. Sunday, 3rd April, 2.30pm-3.30pm . St. John the Baptist Church.

Catechists Meeting: 24th March 9am in Leo Mahon Room

The Just Word

St. Joseph Feast Day 19 March.

St. Joseph has tended to be presented as a passive presence at the birth of Jesus. Perhaps it is time for Joseph—step-father of the Son of God—to step forward. His silent but strong presence reminds us all that God sent us His Son—born of Mary, but just as loved by Joseph—so that all of our human experiences can be touched by the tenderness of God.

Much in our world remains enveloped in deeds of darkness. There is the obvious darkness of ideology and terror in parts of the world unfolding like a nightmare. There are also the shadows of moral indifference and cultural weakness that infuse our own communities, undermining the dignity of human life, re-engineering our God-given purposes, and neglecting the care of the most vulnerable.

For these reasons, the sleeping Joseph might well be an image for our day. It is not without reason that the guardian of Jesus, Mary and the Church is known as a man of justice.

To be a guardian calls for acting justly in all situations. This was certainly the case with St. Joseph, the great man of justice, St. Joseph also knew how to be a man of mercy. In justice he looked to the truth of the matter, but in mercy he looked to the truth of the person. Mercy would always find a way through justice in the heart of Joseph. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we would not do better than to follow in the example of St. Joseph.

The comfort of an enlightening dawn only makes sense because it dispels the shadows and fear of the night. Our world is in need of Christ's saving light, still in need of

a watchful Joseph, still waiting in places of rest and hope of God's dawn. His peaceful rest at the nativity is a sign of hope that the light of Christ will be ours as well ; God will not leave us alone to struggle in the dark.

We need the light of Christ all the more today, so accept it, trust in it, be guided by it, that you may come upon the sleeping Joseph, assured that all will be well in the presence of Jesus. Be assured that an infant boy, born of a loving mother and protected by a faithful step-father, is indeed the true light for our world to see by, and the steady light for us to shine on our paths through life.

*Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli
Bishop of Broken Bay.*

From the Diocese and beyond

'Sara's Place' Gosford: A much needed pregnancy crisis centre has opened in Gosford for women with unplanned pregnancies to receive counselling, support and practical assistance to continue with their pregnancies. The centre will also be a place of understand-

ing and counseling for those women suffering as a result of pregnancy loss including abortion and miscarriage.

We are calling for volunteers to be trained and to devote some of their time to share in this great work on behalf of pregnant

women in need. Some experience and/or qualification in counselling and social work would be an advantage. Nevertheless, full training will be provided. Your help is urgently needed. Can you help? Please call Linda 1300 851 592.



Lowly Prince of Peace

Today is the only Sunday we hear two Gospels proclaimed.

One is of the *entry* of Jesus into Jerusalem. The other is of the *expulsion* of Jesus from Jerusalem.

The *entry* is accompanied by shouts of praise: 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

The *expulsion* is accompanied by the baying for blood: 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

We are all familiar with the story. Many in Jerusalem had been hoping for a Messianic Liberator in the great warrior tradition of King David. Surely he would enter Jerusalem on a magnificent warhorse, signalling the start of the overthrow of Roman rule? But, what did they get? A lowly figure riding on a donkey.

Nevertheless, the disciples and the crowd applauded him, laying palms on the road before him, singing out 'Hosanna in the highest'.

'Hosanna' means 'Save us'. Our Lord wanted to save them, of course: to save them from their impulse to destroy others which would eventually end up destroying themselves.

However, this Jesus on a donkey wanted to bring peace on earth, as the angels had sung at his birth. For him, this had to be achieved by non-violent means.

But the supporters and opponents of Roman rule preferred that a convicted terrorist – Barabbas – be set free. They knew *his modus operandi*. They knew what box to put him in. They had plenty of experience of his type.

But they could not deal with the practitioner of active, revolutionary non-violence. So the inevitable unfolded.

As we know, the disciples harboured an informer – Judas. The disciples themselves found that their courage and bravado crumbled in the face of the temple guards and Roman soldiers.

Jesus was arrested and subjected to various show trials. The crowd proved fickle. Jesus was left exposed to Pontius Pilate who had Jesus *expelled* from the city and apparently from life.

The charismatic Jesus could have organised armed resistance but he demanded that Peter put his sword back in its scabbard. Why?

I think largely because he knew how the

innocent suffer terribly in these conflicts, particularly women. What does he say to the women of Jerusalem as he laboured up the hill of Calvary? Jesus says:

'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and for your children ...

Jesus saw that it is women who suffer grievously in warfare:

the loss of fathers, husbands, sons and lovers killed on the battlefield;

the sexual abuse of women as an instrument to terrorise the civilian population, or enforced prostitution, sexual slavery.

Jesus knew all this and his heart broke: 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep rather for yourselves and for your children ...

As they certainly did forty years later when the Romans ruthlessly put down armed rebellion. Jerusalem was laid waste and the Temple destroyed.

No doubt we can admire Jesus for going to martyrdom in this way. But deep in our hearts do we not fear following him in his non-violent resistance to evil. We could be killed, or those we love or should protect could be killed.

This creates a humanly impossible tension for us – the tension between imitating Christ in this regard and following our natural human instinct to deal with an aggressor threatening lethal violence.

A good starting point for reflection is that the Church was profoundly pacifist for its first three hundred years.

Perhaps it is for the Church of the 21st century to rise to the challenge.

Perhaps it is for a Pope who has chosen the name of Francis (of Assisi) to rise to the challenge issued by

the One who *entered* Jerusalem borne on a donkey

the One *expelled* from Jerusalem bearing a cross,

Jesus of Nazareth
revolutionary non-violent activist
Divine Prince of Peace.



"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them," says Isaiah in today's first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

See Isaiah 50:4



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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

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

Game a problem for you? Call Online (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 Dulcara 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 & 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



Diocese of Broken
Bay

No Parking

in the laneway beside the church

There have been complaints from local residents that some of our parishioners continue to park in the laneway even though there are "No Parking" signs.

Number plates have been noted by residents & they will be contacting council if cars continue to park illegally.