



The Voice

22nd May 2016

Trinity Sunday, Year C

Psalter Week I



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Barry Gleeson, Betty Cusack, Helen Purcell.
- **Anniversaries:**
Erno Honyi, Kevin Bemrose, Shirley Murray, Trevor Spear, Peter Field, Max Field.
- **And the sick:**
Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham, Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin, Rene Glase, Peter John Grima, June Ferry, Maryanne Diorio, Jack Moulds, Tracey Passlow, Bruce Spence, Dian Balce, Frank Schmidt, Keith Maiden, Brian Moroney, Kate Tinson, Mary Ann Gormly, Beryl Allen, Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn, Mabel Torres, Coral Williams, Irene Beck, Jonell Georges, Clara Rodigus, Ralph Weate, Keith Oakes, Anne Singleton, Don Boland, Celeste Boonaerts, Garda & Ibi Selim, John Wilkinson.

Painting the Picture of God

A teacher asked the Grade Threes to paint something of their own choosing. All the children got busy about their task. As the teacher walked around she noticed Johnnie was particularly focused. 'What are you painting?' 'I'm painting God, Miss.' 'Well, that must be difficult because no-one knows what God looks like.' To which Johnnie confidently replied, 'But they will when I'm finished!!'

The Feast of the Trinity of God comes about because we human beings had the most sublime, most eminent person painting a picture of God for us.

It is as though 2,000 years ago, the world was saying 'It is too difficult to describe God because no-one knows what God looks like.'

And then, like Johnnie in the Grade Three classroom, Jesus of Nazareth says:

'But they will when I'm finished!'

Just before he was crucified, (and said 'I am finished') Jesus painted a picture of the most intimate communion of Divine Life between Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. This is a relationship and yet the most perfect unity. This is difficult for us to grasp. Therefore we try to paint pictures.

How do we 'see' God? Of course, we don't take seriously the old man with a beard or the little white bird.

The other monotheistic religions conceive of God as a single unflickering white light, like a fluorescent tube shining brightly through the mist.

No, God is Divine pulsating shimmering light dancing in threefold exchange of love. In fact, the best name for God is 'Being-in-Love'.

What does this mean for us?

We are baptised into this Triune Divine Life in the name (not names) of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Each time we bless ourselves, a bit of a Catholic routine, we are invoking the threefold exchange of love and calling its power into our life. Be careful, there will be consequences! You could become more God-like!

How often have you heard: 'You are made in the image and likeness of God.' Jews and Muslims believe that too. But only because of the revelation through Jesus Christ do we know what that really means.

If God is threefold Being-in-Love, and each one of us is to be an image and

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Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

The Voice



Sacrament of Confirmation:

Bishop Peter Comensoli will be confirming our candidates during the 9.15am Mass and at an extra 11.30 am Mass on Sunday 5th June. Please keep our children in your prayers.

Prayers for the Sick: As a parish we offer prayers of support for those on this list during times of illness. If you happen to recognise a name, please respect the privacy of the person by not asking for particulars, especially in the presence of children. *Your understanding at a time of difficulty for others is greatly appreciated.*

Monthly Workshop — Live, Pray, Love Project: Meeting in Walter Baker Hall, 2pm-5pm, Sunday 5th June. Topic: Saints and Sacraments (Baptism). Enquiries: Gladys 0421 312 362 or Michelle 0403 927 505 or the Parish office.

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart Mass: Ivan has kindly offered to drive our parish bus for those who are interested in attending the Mass at 8pm, 3 June 2016, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Please call the Parish Office to book a seat.

The Just Word

6-22 May Fair Trade Fortnight
Fair Trade Fortnight is an annual, nationwide celebration of all things fair trade and the difference that choosing fair makes for millions of farmers and workers in developing countries.

What is Fairtrade? Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices, Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against

World Youth Day 2016: A Big Thank You to the Woy Woy Parish for your very generous support of our pilgrims BBQ's. They are well on the way to Poland! The next fundraiser is a cake, cookie and chocolate stall at various Masses the weekend of 28th and 29th May, Thank you Matthew, Marcus, Grace and Dennis.

Children's Liturgy Roster 29/5/16: Anne Marie Tonkin, Brenda Sweet, Marina Mondal,

St. Vincent de Paul Cash Appeal will be held the weekend of 4/5 June. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes available in the church for your convenience.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 27/5/16: Lisa Ann Rae, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Warren Sparrow.

Bus Trip: Northern Beaches to Palm Beach. Wednesday, 15th June, leaving 9am. Contact: Susie Casey 0403 417 639 for all bookings, enquiries and payments.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Isla Feeney, Evie Lamond, Angus McLeod

and Ella O'Keefe who were baptised last Sunday.

Ecumenical Service of Worship to celebrate and re-affirm the covenant between our Broken Bay Diocese, Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and Catholic Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle will be held 25th May, 7.45pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley St. Waitara.

Mary Macs would like to thank the community for their support for their Mother Day Morning Tea and Gift Sale. The wonderful small team of volunteers raised \$1800.00 dollars. They were given some wonderful donations of gifts and cakes and also flowers. This enabled every mum to receive a flower and they went away chatting about the wonderful presentation of the morning tea. All were served on fine china by volunteers who dressed up in their black and whites to make it a special event. Mary Macs needs on going fundraising to remain financially viable and the small group of volunteers would welcome any one who would like to get involved for better outcomes in our community. Please call Christine on 0417 671 973.

successfully in the global economy Fairtrade and the Edmund Rice Centre:

The Edmund Rice Centre (ERC) promotes international economic justice through their 'Fairtrade Project', which applies the principles of fair trade.

ERC has actively been involved in buying and selling Fairtrade products and has been supplying staff rooms of the larger Sydney schools with Fairtrade tea and coffee for some time.

For more information visit www.erc.org.au and click on 'Fair Trade'.

From the Diocese and beyond

Vigil for the Feast of the Sacred Heart:

On the night of Friday/Saturday 3 & 4 June The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church Sth. Kincumber by an all night vigil. This vigil will commence 6pm on Friday night and end at 6am on Saturday morning. This devotion now a tradition at Holy Cross (Holy Door), takes place in the historic 1842 church in which St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop slept during her visits to the adjoining orphanage during that building's construction. There will be both communal prayer and periods of silent prayerful meditation in front of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament. The theme of the night is for world peace especially in the Middle East, Asia and Africa where

the poorest, weakest producers. It

enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives. Fairtrade delivers a better deal for farmers and producers in the developing world through:

- A fair and stable price for their produce
- Security of long-term contracts
- Investment in local community development
- Improved working conditions
- Environmentally sustainable farming methods
- Support in gaining knowledge and skills needed to operate

significant persecution of Christians and other religious groups is taking place. There will be tea/coffee and light refreshments outside the church and toilet facilities are available. The Church is heated but visitors are advised to bring a cushion or pillow if staying for any length of time. There is no time limit to one's attendance at the vigil and visitors from all parishes are encouraged to come and stay for as long or as little as suits them and at any time during the night. For further enquiries ring Paul Salmon 0407 100 640. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our Lady Star of the Sea Terrigal: A group of parishioners are forming a Social Justice Ministry. They invite any like minded parishioners to come and join them and perhaps form a Central Coast

Social Justice Ministry. It could be very valuable to share our Faith as we discuss and try to alleviate some of the injustices in our country and in the world. Enquiries: bernadetteinrona@hotmail.com

The God of Mercy in Judaism, Christianity and Islam:

Judaism, Christianity and Islam share an intimate understanding of the merciful nature of God. Please join us for a rich dialogue in this Jubilee Year of Mercy as we explore this common theme. Speakers include Rabbi Gary Robuck, Sheikh Wesam Charkawi and Dr. Michele Connolly rsj, facilitated by Rev Patrick McInerney. Sunday, 5th June 2pm-4pm. The Light of Christ Centre, End of Yardley Avenue, Waitara. www.trybooking.com/kmfb R.S.V.P. by Thursday 2nd June.

Clergy and Laity: Summoned by God

22nd May 2016

Mary Amore

Then God said,
"Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of
the sea,
the birds of the air, and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the
ground."
God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
God blessed them, saying:
"Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on
the earth."
God also said:
"See I give you every seed-bearing
plant all over the earth
and every tree that has seed-bearing
fruit on it to be your food;
and to all the animals of the land, all the
birds of the air,
and all the living creatures that crawl
on the ground,
I give all the green plants for food."
And so it happened.
God looked at everything he had made,
and he found it very good.
Evening came, and morning followed —
the sixth day. (Gn 1:26-31)

The creation story proclaimed at the Easter Vigil reminds each of us of our true identity. In the beginning, God created male and female in his image and gave them dominion over every living creature on earth; God looked at everything he had made and found it very good (see Gn 1:1, 31). From the moment of creation, the divine partnership between male and female revealed a relationship built on equality, respect, and mutual admiration. While this Scripture passage affirms the dignity of both male and female as part of God's plan of creation, it also recalls that God saw all of this to be very good. Through the sin of our biblical parents, however, the divine blueprint for equality between genders went askew, and dominion over all living things deteriorated into power and authority over one another. Surely, this was not God's original plan for humanity.

In response to this reading, the faithful cry out, "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth" (Ps 104:30). From the dawn of humanity to the present, the Lord has sent out his Spirit to lead, guide, and renew the church. One of the single most visible outpourings of the Spirit in modern times was the Second Vatican Council, for it reawakened within us our baptismal identity as "a chosen race, a

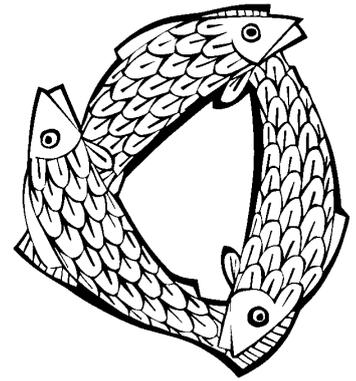
royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 14). Now, not only do we know ourselves to be made in the image and likeness of our Creator God, but we are also a royal priesthood of believers, called and gifted to do the work of God. This gathering of church leaders 50 years ago not only recovered our spiritual identity but also summoned the laity into active participation in the life of the church. Many of the hearts of Christendom, both male and female, were stirred by the Holy Spirit unleashed at the Council, and for the past five decades, laymen and laywomen have been responding in countless ways.

The Spirit of the risen Christ has sent the laity into the world to work for peace and justice, to feed and care for the poor and homeless, to proclaim the good news to friends, family, and co-workers. The laity has responded to the call of the Spirit to serve in liturgical ministry roles such as lectors, servers, cantors, ministers of hospitality, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, and ministers of care. The laity has willingly responded to the call of the Spirit to work collaboratively for the good of faith communities through parish councils and commissions. None of these ministerial roles would have been possible for laypeople before the Second Vatican Council.

Clearly, the Holy Spirit continues to call forth women and men to boldly teach and preach the gospel message both near and far. But these are turbulent times, and the task is daunting. We, who know ourselves to be made in the image and likeness of God, must also be willing to accept the hardships that come with ministry. We must forge ahead to do our part to continue to evangelize the faith, for the vision of Vatican II is the laity and clergy working together. "Summoned by the God who made us / Rich in our diversity*," the people of God are called to bring the message of the Council to this generation and generations to come. How willing are we to undertake this most important spiritual mission on behalf of our faith?

*Lines from "Sing a New Church," Delores Dufner, OSB (OCP). ML

Mary Amore is the executive director of Mayslake Ministries in Lombard, Ill. She holds a doctorate degree in liturgy and a master of arts degree in pastoral studies from Catholic Theological Union. She is the author of *Primary Symbols of Worship and the Call to Participation* as well as numerous articles. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



Today's psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of
Broken Bay

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, Blackwall,
Booker Bay, Pearl Beach,
St Hubert's Island,
Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay,
Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point,
Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,

(Corner) Blackwall & Victoria Rds, Woy Woy

Parish Office *Ethel Cox Parish Centre*
PO Box 264 *Walter Baker Hall*
54 Victoria Road *100 Blackwall Rd*
WOY WOY NSW 2256 *Woy Woy*

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 **Fax:** (02) 4341 0214

Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

“He must increase, I must decrease”

Parish Priest: Fr. Jack Robson.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.
Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.

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

Office Hours:

9.30am—4pm, Monday to Friday.

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 7am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

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 AND BENEDICTION

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

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. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

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 7.30pm and finish approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Painting the Picture of God ~(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

likeness of God, then you and I are made to live in relationship – not in solitary.

We are totally on the wrong track if we think that the ultimate good is to be self-sufficient, autonomous. It will turn out to be a Hellish choice.

If anyone is in Hell, he/she is there because he/she wants to be totally self-sufficient, autonomous.

No, if you and I are baptised into the life of God, you and I are to live as the image and likeness of God.

When we live wholeheartedly in relationships of love, of as much self-giving as is possible, of as much un-self-ishness as is possible, we are closest to Divine Life. In fact, we are Divine Life pulsating into a particular time and place through us.

My dear friends, that is why the feast of the Trinity is such a great Feast.

Other religions have great prophets and gurus – Moses, Mohammed – to varying degrees trying to respond to glimpses of the Divine. They, like Johnnie, have tried to paint a picture of the Divine, and of our relationship to Divine Being.

It was only Jesus of Nazareth who revealed perfectly the threefold dynamism of Divinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and who invites us to share in that imaging of the Divine Dynamism.

What an invitation! Let us now prayerfully celebrate that invitation every time we sign ourselves:

‘In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.’

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