



The Voice

5th April 2015

Sunday of the Resurrection

Psalter Octave

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Marion Weston, Clare Richens.
- **Anniversaries:**
Catherine Kennedy,
Wyn Regan, May Bourke,
Geertruida Voormeulen,
Sr. Maureen Sykes, r.s.m.
- **Remembrances:**
Sergei de Souza.
- **And for the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lila Emery,
Phillip O'Neill, Renie Hunt,
Grace Williams, Mary Dwyer,
Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh,
Alan Harland, Peter Crookes,
Terry Curtis, Charles Knowles,
Irene Beck, John Mortimore,
Beryl Allen, Grace McNeaney,
Madge Wood, Steve Paino,
Lola Proctor, Peter Kenneth
Thorson, Meli Ladd,
Tui Tuilekutu.

My Last Easter Here

Today is the last Sunday at Woy Woy for Fr Stephen and me. We shall, of course, be looking after the place until the new team arrives. Fr Stephen will say his last Mass here on Friday morning, and I, on Saturday morning. As I informed you earlier, he will then become Administrator at Toukley and I shall retire.

Fr Stephen had a little note for everyone in last Sunday's *The Voice*, so let me here speak for myself.

These thirteen years have been interesting, to put it mildly. There have been ups and downs, highs and lows, but overall the highs have outnumbered the lows.

As I said when I first came here, I knew that I had been sent to build a church (and the eventual project had to encompass a lot more than that), but I saw as my main job something a lot more important than that—and that was to do my best to build up the Church here.

That meant, as far as I was concerned, that my first duty was to preach the gospel. My principal means of doing that were Sunday and weekday homilies, columns in *The Voice*, and catechising the children in St John the Baptist School at whole school Masses, class Masses and at weekly Second Rite celebrations of the Sacrament

of Penance. Next in importance was good liturgy—not entertainment but participation, singing wherever appropriate, joyful and committed.

And yet building the church, presbytery and parish centre (the Ethel Cox Centre) and adapting the old church for use as a parish hall (the Walter Baker Hall) were also important, since, each in its own way, these buildings can be used, now and in the future, for building up the Body of Christ in this place.

The wonderful spin-off for me has been the number of friends that I have made over the thirteen years. The typical Woy Woy parishioner is a very generous person—generous with time, talent and treasure. It is one of the privileges of the diocesan priesthood that the priest who stays long enough not only can be knocked about but also (and more importantly) is edified and strengthened by the commitment and faith of the parishioners. That has been my experience here.

And so, good bye. We'll probably run into each other from time to time. I wish my successor and his assistants well, and I wish you all the best for the future.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;
let us feast with joy in the Lord. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

A very happy Easter to all and a warm welcome to our visitors. May our Risen Lord bless you during this holy season of Eastertide.

Farewell Morning Tea for both Fathers is being held *this* Sunday after 9.15am Mass in the Leo Mahon room.

At the Fathers request a more official event will be held in May...details to follow.

Easter Monday Public Holiday: Morning Mass will be 9.00am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction to follow.

Parish Office closed on Monday. Re open 9.30am Tuesday.

Receiving Holy Communion in our Parish: We welcome our visitors and ask all to respect the local practice of receiving the Lord's Body and Blood: the Body of Christ is received on the hand or the tongue and the Blood of Christ is received by drinking from the cup. We kindly ask you to refrain from dipping the host if this is your parish's custom.

Easter Offering Envelopes available in the church for your convenience for those who do not have planned giving envelopes.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 10/4/15: Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Christina Thorsen, Michael French.

Children's Liturgy Roster 12/4/15: Marianne Bowyer, Mary Wood, Mimi Lambert.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday, 9th April, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

Faith Based conversations: Getting good at talking about your faith to family and friends takes practice (and grace). Make a new friend you can talk with about your faith. Leo Mahon room, Saturday 11th April, 10.30am-11.30am. Morning tea included.

Divine Mercy Sunday 12th April. Prayers in the Sacred Heart Chapel, 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Your 'used postage stamps' help the Sisters of St. Joseph:

Mary MacKillop International incorporates the mission work of the Sisters in East Timor and Peru. The sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Peru more than 30 years ago, focusing on empowering local women to develop skills and earn income to support their families. Projects there include health education, community mental health, community aged care, support for people with a disability and their carers, support of children through play and learning centres, dental hygiene and care for children.

Used postage stamps are sold to provide much-needed funds for the Sisters in their work so please continue your past support by dropping off your used stamps to the parish office for forwarding.

Morning Tea Roster 12/4/15: After 9.15am Mass will be our Craft Group.

The Just Word

Time for a change on

Refugees:

A disturbing Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) report into children in detention has prompted Catholic advocacy groups to again call for the Government to change its approach to asylum

seekers.

The report reveals 34 per cent of children detained in Australian centres displayed signs of serious mental illness requiring referral to a mental health professional.

The findings of this report document the harm caused to

children who have come to this country seeking safety. 'This is an opportunity for the government to take stock, reflect on the effects of current policy and make a positive change', said Oliver White, from Jesuit Refugee Service Australia.

From the Diocese and beyond

April School Holiday Program (13-17 April): Come and discover the story of Mary MacKillop – Australia's first Saint! Follow the Kids' Trail with Mary's pet dog 'Bobs'. Listen to stories, enjoy art and craft activities, explore Mary's home and the School House. Session runs from 10.30-12.30. \$8 per primary school aged child at Mary MacKillop's Place Museum, 7 Mount St. North Sydney. Enquiries and bookings: 02 8912 4883 or mackillop@soj.org.au

Australian Catholic University students present – 'Mary MacKillop and Fr. Julian Tenison Woods in the 1800's: Wednesdays live at the Mu-

seum! 22 & 29 April, 6, 13 & 20 May. Join us in the Museum for an exciting series of drama performances. Students will unearth hidden stories behind artefacts in the Museum collection. Performances will run from 10am-2pm.

Understanding the Old Testament: A 12 week Programme: How much do you know of the Old Testament, an integral part of our Christian Scriptures? Have you ever been intrigued by Old Testament stories, or wanted to know more of the background and meaning of the Texts? This non-accredited, non-award, semi-formal study combines video lectures from Yale

University (Open Yale Courses), and insightful readings from Fr. Lawrence Boadt's book, "Reading the Old Testament: An Introduction." Sessions are facilitated by David Patterson, Pin Bernard and Joan Pavitt of the Biblical Apostolate, Diocese of Broken Bay. There are no tests or assignments – just good conversation amongst friends. All materials supplied. Commencing Tuesday 14 April, concluding Tuesday 30 June. 10.30 am – 12.30pm. Lecture room. Our Lady of the Rosary, 239 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. RSVP by Friday 10 April to 4332 9825

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Mass During the Day, Sunday, April 5 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 12

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8

Sequence, "Victimae paschali laudes"

Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or (at an afternoon or evening

Mass) Lk 24:13-35

Peter's words to the pilgrims in Jerusalem on Pentecost summarize the core message of the gospel: "God shows no partiality" (see v 34b). Jesus was anointed "with the Holy Spirit and power" and "God was with him" (v 38). For the early church, Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise spoken by "all the prophets" (v 43). As a disciple, Peter is aware of his own responsibility "to preach to the people and testify" (v 42). As spiritual descendants of the apostles, we share in that responsibility to bring the gospel to the world.

In Colossians we are reminded that we "were raised with Christ"; because we are united with Christ in his resurrection, we should "think of what is above, not of what is on earth" (v 2). In light of our heavenly citizenship, Paul encourages us to "put to death" those things "that are earthly" (see v 5).

After discovering Jesus's tomb empty, Mary Magdalene runs to tell Simon Peter and "the other disciple whom Jesus loved" that "they have taken the Lord from the tomb" (v 2). She suspects grave robbers. For our evangelist, she is still in the "dark" (v 1) both literally and metaphorically; she does not yet understand the meaning of the empty tomb. There are no angels here (as in the other Gospel accounts) to announce the good news of the resurrection. Belief in the resurrection is something that comes with faith for some (the beloved disciple) and with an encounter with the risen one for others (Mary and Peter). But no matter how faith is acquired, it changes our life. As we celebrate the resurrection today, may we share in the blessings of the risen Christ.

For Reflection: How can I more fully embrace the risen Christ in my life? How does my experience of the death of loved ones contribute to my understanding of, and hope in, the resurrection?

Acts 4:32-35

Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 Jn 5:1-6

Jn 20:19-31

Our first reading today paints an idealized picture of life in the early Jerusalem church. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke shows us what life can be like among a community of believers open to the Holy Spirit. The example of the early church serves as a lesson for us. Luke stresses two things in his description of the community: they "bore witness to the resurrection" (v 33), and they looked out for each other – "there was no needy person among them" (v 34). Our text calls us to be "of one heart and mind" (v 32) as we strive to live out our faith.

The reading from First John reinforces this message as it calls us to live our love for God by keeping "his commandments," which "are not burdensome" (v 3). Our author reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ is evidence that we are "begotten by God" (v 1). And with God's help we are able to conquer the world (v 4) and live as light in the midst of darkness. The battle between good and evil is not finished, but the outcome has been guaranteed.

John's Gospel is originally thought to have ended with chapter 20. Its last two verses read like a conclusion. Our author tells us that "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book" (v 30). Looking at the other canonical Gospels, we find many other signs or miracles. In fact, in John 21 we have another collection of stories about Jesus, probably added to the text by a later editor. Our original evangelist tells us that the purpose of his text is to provide material to either inspire or reinforce faith so "that through this belief you may have life in his name" (v 31). This dynamic of revelation leading to faith leading to salvation is found throughout John's text.

For Reflection: How do I bear witness to the resurrection? What gospel stories in particular inspire my faith?



Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death!
We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.



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, corner of
Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

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WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Dr John Hill, *Parish Priest*

Fr Stephen Wayoyi, A.J. *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene McLenaghan & Margaret Cooper

Parish Nurse: Ellen Bevan

Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice: 3.30 p.m. 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, 3.30 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).

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 Sam French 042 244 9539.

CATHOLICCARE 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.

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 10.20 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990818.

Miraculous Medal

Paul Turner

The miraculous medal is a devotional article adopted by many Catholics around the world. The medal is worn on a ribbon around the neck to assist in the practice of prayer.

Saint Catherine Labouré had just begun her life in the Parisian religious community of the Daughters of Charity in 1830 when she saw a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaiming her care for the world and her desire to help those in need.

The design of the medal comes directly from Catherine's vision. On the front is an image of Mary, standing atop a partially visible globe and crushing the head of a serpent. (Genesis 3:15 says that a woman – or her offspring – would crush the head of the tempter.) Rays of light stream from Mary's fingers, symbols of the grace she channels for believers. Along the oval border stand the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." Thus the image affirms the belief that Mary was preserved from sin throughout her entire life, from the moment she was conceived in her

mother's womb. The church celebrates the Immaculate Conception each December 8.

On the reverse is the letter M, over which stands a cross resting on a bar that weaves through the letter. Twelve stars surround this image, recalling the prophetic vision of Revelation 12:1. Near the bottom are two suffering hearts, one wrapped with thorns, signifying the heart of Christ, and the other penetrated by a sword, recalling a prophecy from Luke 2:35, representing Mary.

Many people testify that some who put on the medal experience miraculous cures. Anyone who wears it may become more attentive to the favours God grants at the intercession of the Blessed Mother.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy*, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2015, Resource Publications, Inc. 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. This article may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher. For permission e-mail info@rpinet.com. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay