



EASTERTIME

The Ascension of the Lord

*Year A - 28th May 2017
Psalter Week 3*

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Judy Goodacre, Aileen Lethe,
Robert Lawrence, Thomas Tregent.
- **Anniversaries:**
Natalia Soler, Ted Ellison,
Oliver Jordan, Muriel Jordan,
Vincent Jordan, Iris Quanchie,
Joan Fitzgerald.
- **Remembrances:**
Eileen Sheehan, Edna Follett,
Mollie Quinn, Aileen McIntyre,
Gene Ozment.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsendich,
Kath Hardy, Pat Burgmann,
Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Judy Neal,
June Towson, Therese Corner,
Peter Wellins, Diane Gillett,
Lorraine Von Nida, Rene Glaze,
Patricia Dwyer.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula THE VOICE

The Ascension and Us

When I was a boy, Sir Edmund Hillary came to speak at my school. I can remember the fuss surrounding the visit of the first person to scale Mt Everest. And though there is now a school of thought that holds that he was beaten to the summit by Tenzing Norgay, his Tibetan colleague, there was an aura around this New Zealander who had been to the top of the world.

Some of my usually dour teachers were in awe of Sir Edmund. There was more than a little hero worship going on that day. Rather surprisingly in his address Sir Edmund did not say very much about his adventure to the peak. He was much more interested in what we do to each other on the plains than what he did on the mountain top. He spoke about justice, peace and the dignity of humanity. I can vividly remember him sending us out at the end of his speech to create a better world for all people everywhere. When questions came, there were several about whether he felt closer to God at the top of Mt Everest, and although he said he did, he mentioned there were life and death moments on the way up and down, where God's presence and companionship were much more real to him.

Hillary's visit to my school is not far from what happened to the disciples in today's Gospel. Matthew tells us that the eleven men who worshipped Jesus were commissioned by him to go out to the world and they were promised that he would stay with them until the end of time.

Worship is a word Catholics don't use all that often. While other denominations

describe their liturgy as 'worship', we tend to use it only in a more secular way like in 'hero worship' or 'not an altar at which I worship'. The concept behind this word, however, is an important one. To worship God is to admit that we are not God. We are creatures and our worship is directed toward our Creator, Saviour and Sustainer.

Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

Finally, we continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

In this Mass, then, let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

God mounts his throne to | shouts of joy; a | blare of trum- pets for the | Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. *Alleluia!*

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

Around the Parish

Thank You for your support of the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal! Your generous donations support our Parish in meeting the CWF target as well as all those who directly benefit from the good works provided by CatholicCare, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), St. Edmund's and St. Lucy's schools and the Ephpheta Centre. If you haven't already made a donation and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office. Last week's appeal raised \$10,372.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal will be held the week-end of 17th & 18th June. Envelopes on seats in preparation.

Donations of household Items or Clothing for St. Vincent de Paul to be taken to Vinnies and not left in church gathering area. Thank you for your co-operation.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Leroy Gillard and Lola Harris, baptised last Sunday.

Social Justice

Mabo Day: This year marks 25 years since the High Court of Australia's judgement in 1992 in the Mabo case. This is a day of particular significance for Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Edward Koiki Mabo, a Meriam man from the island of Mer (Murray Island) in the Torres Straits, was a key plaintiff in a land rights case in the High Court of Australia, today referred to as the 'Mabo Case'... The issue of land rights became a focus for his energy in 1974, while working on the campus as a gardener at James Cook University...

On 20th May 1982, Koiki and fellow Mer Islanders Reverend David Passi, Celuia Mapoo Salee, Sam Passi and James Rice—began their legal claim for ownership of their lands on the island of Mer with the High Court of Australia.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 2/6/17: Pam Hickey, Christine French, Tom French, Pamela Burton.

Sacrament of Confirmation: We pray for our children preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday, 9th June. Bishop Peter confirming the children at two Services 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Out of Hours Medical Emergency phone number There is now a direct mobile number that can be used to contact our priests out of hours where there is a medical emergency – 0438 631 327. The number will be included on the last page of the bulletin. The 1300PRIEST facility has been disconnected.

Readers and Special Ministers of Holy Communion Rosters available for collection in the Servers sacristy.

Bus Trip to Richmond via Wiseman's Ferry. June 14th, leaving 9am. Enquiries: Susie 0403 417 639/4344 1742.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group June meetings are 10th and 17th.

Ten years later, on 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia decided in favour of Eddie Koiki Mabo and his fellow plaintiffs.

The judgements of the High Court inserted the legal doctrine of native title into Australian law. In recognising the traditional rights of the Meriam people to their islands in the eastern Torres Strait, the court also held that native title existed for all indigenous peoples in Australia who held rights in their lands under their own laws and customs prior to the assertion of British sovereignty and establishment of Colonies across the continent from 1788.

The new doctrine of native title replaced a 17th-century doctrine of terra nullius on which British claims to possession of Australia were justified...In recognising that

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday, 2nd June.

Let us Pray: Ecumenical event for Pentecost Sunday, imploring the Holy Spirit to bestow fresh charisms of preaching on all priests, deacons and pastors, and fresh charisms of teaching on catechists and anyone teaching Christian faith to children, young people and adults. Sunday 4 June. Formal prayers Woy Woy Church 1pm-2pm. Informal Prayers 2pm onwards. #LetUsPray2017

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm, Thursday 1st June. Leo Mahon room. Studying the Acts of the Apostles during Eastertide. Bring your bible.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): is seeking expressions of interest for new members wishing to join the committee. Fr Tim will be organising a formation session for new members towards the end of June, with the first meeting of the newly formed PPC being 17 July 2017. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested.

Indigenous people in Australia had prior rights to land, the Court held that these rights...will have the protection of the Australian law until those rights are legally extinguished. Unfortunately, Eddie Koiki Mabo did not live to see the fruits of his life-time commitment and passion. He passed away from cancer aged 56 on 21 January 1992.

The High Court decision in the 'Mabo case' altered the foundation of land law in Australia. In the following year, the Native Title Act 1993 was passed through the Australian Parliament and opened the way for further claims of traditional rights to land and compensation.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 'Eddie Koiki Mabo'.
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/articles/eddie-koiki-mabo>

From the Diocese and beyond

Spirituality in the Pub -"My Spirituality: Influence on the Way". Tuesday, 6th June. 7.30pm-9pm. SIP Central Coast is an Ecumenical & Interfaith Speakers Forum with Q's & A's.

The focus is on developing understanding and encouraging dialogue about Spirituality through sharing one's life journey, We meet 1st Tuesday in the month from March to

October and 2nd Tuesday in November. The Grange Hotel, Renwick St. Wyoming. Enquiries: Maryke 4328 2596 or 0498 588 261.

Mass Intentions

David E. Fedor



It was about 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoon when the doorbell rang at the parish office. The receptionist responded, and a woman entered. Her uncle had passed away, and she was designated to take care of the funeral arrangements. While waiting for the priest to finish another appointment, she said to the receptionist: "While I'm here, I would like to buy a Mass for my uncle."

This scene is very familiar. It is a long-standing Catholic custom to request that a Mass be celebrated for a specific intention: for a deceased person, in thanksgiving for a favor received, for the health of a sick person, for missionaries, and so on. The request is made, a time and location of the Mass is scheduled, and the person donates a sum of money. This offering is called a stipend.

However, the scene above reveals a widespread misunderstanding about having a Mass said for a specific intention: that payment is required. Many people think that their offering "buys" the Mass. This is not true. The money given is a free-will donation, not a required fee. This distinction is very important.

From the beginnings of our Christian tradition, the faithful have supported the work of the church and its leadership (presbyters and their helpers in ministry) with donations, generally made when the community gathered for the Lord's Supper. Gifts of material goods (for example, food) and/or money were brought to the presider along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist. The priest and his helpers were expected to distribute the offerings to those in need, and some would be used by the priest for his own needs.

As the church in the first three centuries became more established, people began to give an offering of money to the priest with a request that he celebrate a Mass for the donor's intention. These stipends were intended to support the priest as he carried out his duties. The donations were always voluntary, with no conditions attached.

By the fourth century, the church had become an institution and had a position of wealth and influence. Some unsavory persons sought to purchase promotions to the episcopate, priesthood, and diaconate: positions of power and prestige. It did not take long for some corrupt clergy to start

attaching "fees" for all sorts of spiritual things, such as indulgences, Masses, blessed objects, relics, and oils. This buying and selling of spiritual favors or paying for clerical power and advancement is called simony. The first recorded example of this can be found in the Acts of the Apostles (8:9–24), in which a magician tried to buy spiritual powers from the apostles. His name was Simon Magnus; the word "simony" is derived from his name. The crime of simony became so widespread that the Council of Chalcedon (451) condemned it and imposed severe penalties on anyone involved. Simony again became a problem in the 10th century and was addressed by Pope Gregory VII (1073–1085). The Council of Trent (1545–1563), in responding to the Protestant Reformation, provided strict directives to eliminate abuses and prevent the trafficking of things spiritual that had become rampant in the church (see *Decree on Indulgences*, Sess. 25).

Today, we do not hear of people buying indulgences or other spiritual favors or positions of power in the church. However, people are expected to present a sum of money when they request that a Mass be celebrated. How can this be?

First of all, it must be made clear that the church has always taught that we cannot buy the salvation given to us by God through Jesus Christ. The price has been paid, once and for all, by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord.

Furthermore, any offering made for a Mass is just that: an offering. The reason dioceses may establish a suggested stipend amount is a matter of discipline: it ensures that a person requesting a Mass intention is aware that all members of the church are expected to contribute to the work of the church and support its ministers. A uniform stipend also ensures that a particular priest cannot set a higher amount for his own financial gain.

Church law is very clear that the stipend is never to be misunderstood to be a payment for a priest to celebrate a Mass. It is considered immoral to demand payment for a sacrament. (For more information on stipends, see the 1983 *Code of Canon Law*, 945–958).

Jesus ascended into heaven, blessing His disciples and promising that they would soon receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We who have received that promised gift of the Spirit are now empowered to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth — to use our time and talents to spread the good news of salvation.



(Continued on page 4)

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,

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au
Out of hours **medical emergency**
0438 631 327.

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.
Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.
Office Hours:
9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday
Deadline for The Voice:
3.30 p.m. Wednesday

Mass Intentions

(Continued from page 3)

The suggested donation amount for a Mass intention is not a hardship for most people. However, even if someone does not have or cannot spare the funds, the request for the Mass intention should be honored. To demand the donation as a condition for celebrating a Mass is simony. Given today's widespread misunderstanding about this, some catechesis might be done to make sure that everyone — the faithful and the parish receptionists who routinely arrange for Mass intentions — understands that the donation is voluntary and not the "price" of a Eucharistic celebration.

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 has been the parish musician for St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).
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). 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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP Held once a fortnight in the Leo Mahon Room. Term 2 dates: 21st May, 4th June and 18th June. High school (Years 7-12). For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

CATECHISTS Teach approved curriculum in 4 Primary State Schools on the Peninsula. Volunteers always needed—to teach and help. Training provided at no cost. Details: Susie 0411 566 622. "Bring the little children unto me."

CATHOLIC CARE 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.

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 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

The Live, Pray, Love Project of

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Woy Woy

Invite you to their Cultural Day Event

Sunday 4th June 2017, 12 noon -4pm

At Walter Baker Hall (Church Hall)

cnr of Victoria and Blackwall Roads Woy Woy

Here at Saint John the Baptist our community is so blessed by the richness of its cultural diversity; Aboriginal, Australian and it's many ethnic cultures, Chilean, Colombian, Dutch, Egyptian, Fijian, Indian, Italian, Kiwi, Maori, Maltese, Philippine, Spanish, Samoan, Tongan to name a few.

Because of this, we feel that there is a great potential for us, as a parish community to come together to celebrate this diversity.... something that we don't often get the chance to do. At the cultural day there will be music, singing, food, dance and storytelling.

EVERYONE is invited to come along, and what we are asking is that, if there is something about your culture that you would like to share with the rest of the parish community, please be encouraged to come along and share it.

This could be something like a song, story or dance, or even something as simple as a food dish unique to your culture.

The most important thing is that EVERYONE is welcome.

If you have any questions please phone Gladys Leger 0421 312 362