



# The Voice

29th May 2016

The Body and Blood of Christ, Year C

Psalter Week 2



## OF YOUR CHARITY

### PRAY FOR

### THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Claude Ambronline,  
Patricia Edwards  
Margaret (Pearl) Warren.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Rebecca Gauci, Mary Ann Gauci,  
Fr. E.A. (Ted) Shepherd,  
Fr. Cyril Hatton,  
Dioguinho De Souza.
- **Remembrances:**  
Patrick William Byrne,  
Audrey Barsenbach,  
Jack and Molly Dunne.
- **And the sick:**  
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,  
Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham,  
Lindsay Hardy, Rene Glase,  
Peter John Grima, Jack Moulds,  
Maryanne Diorio, Tracey Passlow,  
Bruce Spence, Frank Schmidt,  
Keith Maiden, Kate Tinson,  
Mary Ann Gormley,  
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,  
Cheryl Douglas, John Allen,  
Rosemary Anderson,  
Vince Zappavigna.

In the mid 1980s in churches in Paris I saw for the first time reconciliation rooms that had ceiling to floor glass. The priest sat at a candle-lit table and the penitent knelt behind the priest or sat with him at the table. Restoring the public dimension to the Sacrament increased its power and witness.

Last year in our community we renovated our chapel. One of several things we did was put glass doors on the tabernacle, install a diffused light inside and reserve the chalice.

The overall effect was startling. For the first time in my life I could see at all times the elements toward which I direct my devotion.

The reaction of others was interesting too. One person protested that 'you can see the Blessed Sacrament and the chalice looks ready to drink', another felt that 'the wafers we reserved should not be broken, but be one complete host' and still a third objected that it 'looks like real food'.

These were curious reactions given what we celebrate today, the feast of Corpus Christi. The devotion we as Catholics have to Christ's presence in the Eucharist is precisely caught up in the meal he left us. Therefore it is right that the food we share and venerate should be on display, should look inviting and be broken, for this is what Jesus did at his final supper and what he offers us as gifts – himself, broken and poured out in love.

Each time I pray in front of our new tabernacle I have been struck by the power of these elements as the definitive symbol of Jesus' presence in our world. Not only in grand cathedrals or libraries of words does God visit us. Not only in prophets' speeches or laws set in stone. But in simple gifts of broken bread and poured wine. And at these times I recall that the action of being broken and poured out is the core of what we believe: our God poured himself out in love for us in Christ; Jesus was broken unto death for us so that we might be made whole; the Spirit gives us strength and courage to face the daily breakings and pourings that make up our lives and every time anyone, anywhere shares bread or passes a cup with those in need, our God is really present.

Praying there also reminds me that following the Trinity's example, this pattern is repeated in all faithful Christian lives too. The martyrs, the saints and all of those we know who have gone before us, having led lives of selfless devotion, continue to embody the Body and Blood of Christ we venerate.

And so to us. When we come forward, when we say 'Amen' and receive into our hands the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation we too take on to ourselves the invitation to become what we receive: a body broken in love, blood poured out in hope that the world may be saved from itself and find life to the full in Christ.

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### Psalms Response

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### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



### **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

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

**World Youth Day 2016:** Cake, cookie and chocolate stall, Raffle tickets and guessing jar at all Masses this weekend raising funds to send our youth to Poland for World Youth Day.

**Special Healing Mass—Feast of the Sacred Heart:** June 3, 7.30 p.m. here at our church. (Please note the regular Mass with anointing at 4pm will be cancelled for this month).

**St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** will be held at all Masses next weekend 4th and 5th June. Envelopes in the church for your convenience.

**The Live Pray Love Project** will provide a talk on Saint John the Baptist and Baptism. Guest Speaker: Fr. Timothy. 2-5pm next Sunday, 5th June, 2-5pm. Walter Baker Hall. discussion, Q&A, afternoon tea. There will be a separate children's ministry so bring the children too. Call Gladys 0421 312 362 if you have any questions.

### **Charitable Works Fund**

**Appeal** will be held the weekend 11th-12th June. Our quota this year, over 3 appeals is \$35 498, The previous 2 appeals have raised \$13 679, leaving a balance for this final appeal of \$21 819. The Fund supports five agencies to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Envelopes are available in the church.

**Bus Driver urgently needed:** Vince will be having foot surgery in the middle of June & will be out of action for a while after. If you are able to drive (MR license), Vince will be on board to show you the route & assist with locating our parishioners for Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you can help.

**Sympathy:** St. John the Baptist Parish extends its sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Betty Cusack who was buried from our church last week.

**'El Shaddai' Prayer Group** meetings for the month of June are 4th, 11th and 18th. Meetings held in the Walter Baker Hall.

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

**Help Wanted!!!** Sadly, our Catechist Recruitment Drive was not the success for which we had so fervently prayed. We are still truly in genuine need of volunteers, so have you considered "job sharing" the role? Or Uni students—we are happy to fit in with your timetable. All we ask is that you think about this rewarding role you can play in your church community. Contact Susie on 0411 566 622. We go to Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong and Woy Woy South Primary Schools on Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday mornings. Please find it in your heart for the sake of the children.

**The Chorus:** We're putting together our next edition, due at the end of June. If you have a story to tell, a picture to share (sorry, no children please) or an idea you would like us to follow up, send any of your material to parish@woywoycatholic.org.au or drop them in to the Parish office by Tuesday, 7th June. (Emailed material in Word document format; photos as jpeg.)

**Baptism:** We pray for and welcome into our Faith community Evelyn McPhee who was baptised last Sunday.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 3/6/16:** Kevin Glacken, Jo Salter, Mary McCumstie, Rano Spiteri.

## The Just Word

**A Jubilee Year of Mercy:** Let us be renewed by God's mercy, Let us be loved by Jesus, Let us enable the power of his

love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy; channels through which God can water the earth, protect

all creation, and make justice and peace flourish.

Pope Francis, Urbi et Orbi.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay is Celebrating 30 years:** Most Rev. Peter Comensoli warmly invites the Diocesan family to join him in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay this Tuesday, 31st May. (Feast of Mary Star of the Sea and Diocesan Patronal Saint). Mass 7.30pm, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Avenue, Waitara.

**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 Xharkawi 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. R.S.V.P. Thursday, 2nd June. [www.trybooking.com/kmfb](http://www.trybooking.com/kmfb)

### **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 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!

# Readings Today and next Sunday

29th May 2016

Bruce Janiga

## Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, (Corpus Christi) May 29

Gen 14:18–20  
Ps 109:1–4 R. v.4  
1 Cor 11:23–26  
Sequence: Lauda Sion  
Lk 9:11–17

“Melchizedek, king of Salem” (Jerusalem), blesses Abram in today’s first reading (v 18). As a “priest of God Most High” (*El Elyon* in Hebrew), who is the primary god among the Canaanite people, he prepares a feast of “bread and wine” (v 18) in his honour. He blesses both Abram and “God Most High, / who delivered your foes into your hand” (v 20). In today’s psalm, the psalmist views the priesthood of Melchizedek as a perpetual priesthood (v 4). In Hebrews 7, Melchizedek is viewed as a prefigurement of Christ.

Paul’s narration of the institution of the Eucharist is the oldest surviving text concerning the Last Supper. He narrates Jesus’ words and actions at the supper and then reminds the Corinthians that “as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, / you proclaim the death of the Lord” (v 26). By sharing in the Lord’s Supper, we share in the life and death of Christ. These words of Paul, written in the 50s, were already a traditional formula by the time he wrote them, giving us some insight into the life and spirituality of the earliest believers concerning their understanding of the Eucharist.

Jesus’ miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish anticipates the gift of the Eucharist. In both scenes, Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives. Although the initiative comes from Jesus, the disciples play a key role in that he “gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd” (v 16). God sometimes uses our hands and feet to do the work of the gospel.

**For Reflection:** Is my sharing in the Eucharist an important part of my spiritual life? How can my hands and feet be used to do God’s work more fruitfully?

## 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 5

1 Kgs 17:17–24  
Ps 29:2, 4–6, 11–13 R. v.2  
Gal 1:11–19  
Lk 7:11–17

In the first reading today, Elijah, a great prophet of ancient Israel, restores life to the son of a widow from Zarephath. In creating our lectionary, the bishops paired this first reading with the Gospel reading of the Widow of Nain. In the text leading up to today’s reading, the widow of Zarephath had shown kindness to the prophet during a drought and received a jar of flour that did not go empty and a jug of oil that would not run dry. Now her son has died, and she mistakenly blames the prophet for his death. Elijah prays to God, and the boy’s life is restored. The miracle story legitimizes the prophet as a “man of God” (v 18).

Writing to the Galatians, Paul reminds them and us that the call to serve the gospel is of divine origin. His radical change from one who “persecuted the church” and “tried to destroy it” (v 13) to one who proclaims Jesus “to the Gentiles” (v 16) is rooted in God’s call. Therefore Paul exhorts them to hold to the faith he preached to them. His concern is that they may stray to follow another version of the gospel, negating the good work begun in them.

The story of Jesus raising the widow’s son in today’s Gospel is unique to Luke. He pairs it with the healing of the centurion’s slave to provide what is called a “gender pair”; Jesus’ outreach is to both males and females, just as he preaches about both men and women (for example, the shepherd with the lost sheep and the woman with the lost coin in chapter 15). Today’s widow is burying her “only son” (v 12), her sole means of support as a widow. Jesus approaches her “with pity” and brings her son back from the dead, giving “him to his mother” (v 15) — that is, restoring their relationship.

**For Reflection:** Like the widow of Zarephath, am I quick to blame God for the bad things in my life? Are there people in my life whom I consider beyond the reach of God’s grace? If so, why?



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In today’s Gospel, the disciples suggest that Jesus disperse the crowd so that they might individually seek food and lodging. The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is Jesus’ powerful reminder that when we share our gifts in His name there is always more than enough!

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Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian’s Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216

# 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.

**Deadline for The Voice:**  
3.30pm Wednesday.

## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ celebrates the central celebration of Christianity – the Eucharist. All three readings relate to this Eucharistic theme. In the second reading, we have the first written account of the Last Supper and what came to be seen as Jesus instigating the Eucharist. Paul's account, written well before the gospels, was entrenched in the tradition by the time the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke echoed these words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Of course, it is these same words that are spoken by the priest at the consecration in the Eucharistic Prayer each Mass. The words used today are the very same words that have been used in the Church for two millennia.

Rather than a gospel account of the Last Supper to celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are presented with what is widely regarded as another 'eucharistic' story from the gospel of Luke. The feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish is regarded as a eucharistic story because it was a clear example of God's presence in a miraculous meal. All of the meal stories in the gospel of Luke

## 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.

are instructive for the audience. Whenever the gospel writer refers to a meal, the meal is used to teach about the reign of God. The gospel writer uses meals to demonstrate who is welcome in the reign of God. Like in today's gospel, the author of Luke's gospel was keen to show that the reign of God is available to anyone who wishes to be a part of it. The reign of God is inclusive and welcoming; no one will be turned away.

## Have you thought – Twelve baskets?

The gospel passage tells us that after the five thousand people had eaten as much as they wanted, the remaining scraps filled twelve baskets. What is significant about twelve baskets of left-overs? Twelve was an important number – it represented the twelve tribes of Israel. Whenever the gospels mention twelve things they are symbolically talking about the nation of Israel. In this case, the message is that no matter how many people feast on the message of Jesus and accept the reign of God, there will still be enough to 'feed' the twelve tribes of Israel. No one need be left out!