



ORDINARY TIME

*The Most Holy Body &
Blood of Christ
(Corpus Christi) - Year A
18th June 2017
Psalter Week 3*

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Judy Goodacre, Tom Tregent,
Beryl Allen, Josefina Moran,
Fr. Bernard Kenny, Hazel Alexander.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. Paul Fitzgerald,
Gerry Villaroman, Silvina Balce,
Joan Fitzgerald, Kath Leonard,
Wafaa El-Khatib, Patrick Simmons.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen,
Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsendich,
Kath Hardy, Kath Burgmann,
Mary Scarfe, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez,
Anne Singleton, Judy Neal,
June Towson, Therese Corner,
Peter Wellins, Diane Gillett,
Lorraine Von Nida, Rene Glase,
Patricia Dwyer, Marea Watkins,
Barbara Carson, Leonard Fidler,
Edie Trovato, Roy Beverage.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

The Maternal Jesus

I don't know whether you recall some controversy a little while ago about mothers breastfeeding in public. I once saw a young mother discreetly breastfeeding her baby during Mass, and thought ...

'What a wonderful thing!' There could not be a better illustration, a better acting out of what Jesus says in today's Gospel: 'The one who eats me will live.'

For that is what the mother is offering as a gift to her infant: 'Come, I offer my body to nourish you to give you life. Eat of me.' Of course, even mothers who find they cannot breastfeed offer the same gift for nine months as the baby draws its life from the mother's body in the womb.

This is a good analogy for what Our Lord was teaching in today's Gospel.

Jesus offers his body to nourish us in a way which shares his life with us: he gives us His Body to eat.

I also thought of an article written by a young mother.

'The whole messy anarchy of newborns is inextricably linked to their miraculousness. These tiny missives from eternity come swaddled in equal parts love and grace and sick. Caring for a newborn I am astonished we ever let ourselves be tricked into a false reverence for transcendence: here at the foundation of all our lives is a deeply immanent experience of the sacred. Where then is the boundary between the holy and profane?'

The boundary between the holy and the profane. This is also a question with Holy Communion: bread and wine, body and blood of Christ.

Not a molecule of the bread or wine changes. The 'bread of life' remains bread in appearance, the 'spiritual drink' remains wine in appearance.

But the underlying reality changes. What is really present is the risen Lord Jesus Christ whose glorified body is able to be present wherever the sacrament is celebrated. As St Pope John Paul II so wonderfully said: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

And so the promise of today's Gospel can be fulfilled: 'Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them.' Notice once again the very maternal language. The risen Lord truly abides in us, we truly abide in the risen Lord. This is as intimate as the baby dwelling in the womb of its mother.

Perhaps mothers are best placed to understand this.

The Saviour of the World, the Lord of the Universe, dwells in my body and I dwell in His glorified body. What a union. What a communion. What a Holy communion!

And moreover, it is a Holy communion which is both a present reality and a foretaste and promise about our place in God's future: 'The one who eats this bread will live forever.'

So, after Holy Communion, we can say and pray with St Thomas Aquinas a true Eucharistic prayer of thanksgiving:

'Oh Sacred Banquet
in which Christ is received
and a pledge of future glory
is given to us.'
(Repeat)

© Fr Michael Tate

Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc



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

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking expressions of interest for new members wishing to join the committee. Fr. Timothy will be organizing a formation session for new members towards the end of July. Please call the Parish office if you are interested.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due this Monday, 19th June, 11.30am-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Children's Liturgy Roster 25/6/17: Marian Bowyer, Hannah El Khatib, Michael Dixon.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 23/6/17: Kevin Glacken, Lisa Ann Rae, Emma Baker, Bev Whackett.

Morning Tea Roster 25/6/17: Youth Group.

Catechists: There will be NO catechists meeting this month.

St. Vincent de Paul Cash Appeal at all Masses this weekend. The need is great. Your generosity will be appreciated.

Bus Trip to Newcastle foreshore via Morisset June 28th. Leaving 9am. Cost \$20. Contact Susie 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.

Reception of Holy Communion in Hospital: Anyone admitted to Woy Woy Rehabilitation Transitional Care and General Hospital, who wish to receive Holy Communion, need to contact the Parish Office as these facilities are unable to give out a Church list of their patients.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference members/volunteers monthly Mass, 4th Saturday of the month due next Saturday, 24th June 9am.

Come along, try your luck and enjoy the friendly atmosphere at our own Cash Housie/Cash Bingo night: Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Every Saturday night. Games 7.30pm-

10.20pm. Selling commences 6.30pm/ Hall opens 5.30pm.

Prizes: \$100, \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 Jackpot* Reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within the specified number of calls. Prizes subject to sales.

Games: 50 games, 3 books of tickets; Book 1-20 games, Bk 2-20 games. Jackpot Bk 10 games.

Cost: 1 all night—\$8, 3 all night—\$24, 4 all night—\$32, 6 all night—\$48. (all combinations of books available).

Charity: This is the original fundraiser since 1960's in Ettalong and continues to raise essential funds for the Parish,

Transport: Busways bus stop right outside the door.

Extras: Kiosk and bingo pen & dabber shop available. Tea and coffee is free, help yourself in the kitchen. Dinner (Chinese takeaway) can be ordered at the venue.

Email: wwcphousie@hotmail.com for further details or enquiries or phone Rob on 0427 990 818.

Social Justice

20 June: World Refugee Day: The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2015-2016 for *Those Who've come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers* challenges us to face the reality of the terror and danger that people face around the world and to work

to change Australia's response to people seeking asylum.

When we Australians support policies of cruelty and rejection, we close our ears to Christ's call and turn him away from our doors.

We know that we are better than this. As Christians, we know

that it is within us to hear the call of Jesus. As Australians we have shown ourselves willing to take the path of generosity and leadership. We can do so again.

Social Justice Statement 2015-16.

From the Diocese and beyond

SmartLoving Marriage is a seminar to enrich and empower married couples. It is an engaging program for married couples that really works! The seminar teaches couples how to approach their marriage in radical love with profound results. Drawing on the wisdom of the authentic Catholic teachings on Theology of the Body, you will learn refreshing insights and powerful strategies to re-energize your marriage. Run over two days. Sat. July 1st and Sun. 2nd July includes Mass. Saturday: 9am-9pm (includes dinner, BYO beer/wine) Sunday: 9am-4pm.

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, 91 Sparks Rd. Warnervale. Cost: \$250. Full details see notice board.

Group Visits to Museum and Education Centre, Kincumber South: Would you like to visit our museum and walk the grounds? The following options are available for Groups (min. 10-15). Morning Tea and Museum/Walk \$20 or Lunch with tea and coffee and Museum/walk \$35. Please contact the Centre for prices and details. Our museum is supported by voluntary staff and group bookings by appointment only. 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber

Sth. Phone: 4368 2805. Email: bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au or <http://www.e>

Scholarships available to support the formation of young musicians

The *Australian Pastoral Musicians Network* is offering scholarships for young musicians involved in music ministry. The scholarships can be used to fund a variety of formation such as music lessons, a course on conducting or liturgical study such as is offered by ACU. Applications close on 30 June 2017. Further information can be found on the apmn website: <http://www.apmn.org.au/scholarships-2017.html>

Homily

Richard Leonard SJ



Some years ago, Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru. There he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped forward to the microphone. Their names were Irene and Viktor Charo. As the huge crowd went quiet, they began to speak to the Pope.

'Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet we believe, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life. And we hunger for bread.' Before a hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish. 'You tell me you hunger for bread.' 'Yes, yes', the millions yelled in reply. 'You tell me you hunger for God', said the Pope and again the crowd swelled with an emphatic 'Yes! Yes!' 'I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied.'

The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there – many of them devout Catholics – and said very starkly, 'I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back. Give it back – it belongs to the poor.'

As extraordinary as the Pope's words were that day, Jesus' words about the Eucharist in today's Gospel are even more so. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel many people were so horrified by the claims Jesus makes for the reality of his presence in the Eucharist, they stopped following him. John clearly links Jesus giving himself for the sake of God's kingdom and our redemption, with the communion we share with Him in every Mass.

When we receive the Risen Christ in communion it's not a symbol of his presence or a sign of his life to which we say 'Amen'. It is Christ who hosts us, who gives us himself so that we might be transformed into His image and likeness. In modern language Christ says to us at every Mass, 'Here I am, broken and poured out in love for you. Take me. I'm here for you.'

The danger with all gifts, and most especially with this gift, is that we can think it's just for us, an intimate

moment between each of us and Christ. It is that, but it's also much more. St Augustine in a sermon on the Eucharist on 9th August 413 wrote that the Mass was about three things: goodness, unity and charity. Augustine taught that if we were not better people, working for unity and loving each other away from the Eucharist, it fails to achieve its purpose.

Hence, like the Pope in Peru, many people have linked the reception of the Bread of Life here with the giving of bread which sustains life away from here. On average in our world 26,000 die every day of starvation. John F Kennedy observed in 1961, 'The only thing standing between us and the elimination of hunger is our desire to see it.' We could feed all the world's poor. We choose not to.

In a talk on the Eucharist, the then Jesuit General, Fr Pedro Arrupe said, 'while there is hunger in the world then our Eucharists are incomplete'. By this he didn't mean that when we gather for Mass anything is wrong. Rather he meant that when we gather around this holy table for this sacred meal while people still starve in the world, then something vital is lacking. There's an emptiness.

Yet it's an emptiness that invites us in. The God who comes to us at every Eucharist as real food is the same God that asks, 'When I was hungry, did you feed me?' This question says that just as God feeds us, so we too should and can feed each other.

May this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ give us the strength of our convictions. May the real food and drink we provide away from this sacred table prove to the world the power of the Eucharist to change us into a people that are good, unifying and loving. And may we not just share with the poor from our excesses, but give them back the food that is rightly theirs.

The Scriptures today remind us that "we, many though we are, are one body for we all partake of the one loaf." How are we using our gifts of time and talent to build up the Body of Christ?

See 1 Corinthians 10:16-17



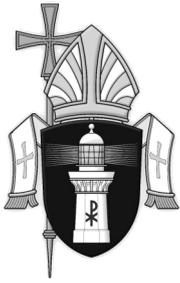
Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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

Gospel Reflection

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as *Corpus Christi*, celebrates and commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Although the liturgy on Holy Thursday remembers the celebration of the Last Supper, its focus tends to be more aligned with the events of the Passion rather than on the institution of the Eucharist. In the 13th Century, Pope Urban IV established the feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) and it was St Thomas Aquinas who composed the official prayers of the Church for the feast day. In 1970 the feast was changed to the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. In some countries it is celebrated on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday and in others on the following Sunday.

The gospel passage comes from the 6th chapter of the gospel of John in which the gospel writer has Jesus deliver an extended discourse on the image of himself as the Bread of Life. This passage comes from the end of that discourse and, in this relatively short passage, Jesus repeatedly demands that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. It is through these actions that his followers will share in eternal life. Jesus says that whoever does this will live in him and he will live in them. That is one of the fundamental beliefs about the Eucharist. When we receive the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist we become what we receive – we become Christ's body in the world. When Jesus called his disciples, he called them to be like himself. He reissues that call to be like him every time we receive his body and blood in Eucharist.

© Greg Sunter

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 Peter 0425 358 376 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.

CWF Update

Our quota for this financial year is **\$37 008**. The first two appeals in August & November 2016 raised a total of \$13 511.60.

Through your generosity over 3 recent weekends we received \$15 646.45 for the May 2017 appeal.

The amount outstanding for this financial year now stands at **\$7 849.95**.

This financial year soon draws to an end 30 June 2017. You still have time to receive 100% tax deductibility on donations received before that date.