



ORDINARY TIME

Trinity Sunday

Year A

11th June 2017

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Fr. Alfred Cacchia, Helen O'Connor.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. Carol Grew, Fr. Eris Tierney, Margaret Juratowitch, Fr. Bill Meacham.
- **Remembrances:**
David & Ellen O'Regan, Olive Beach, Barbara Cooper.
- **And the sick:**
Kevin Houghton, John Allen, Maryanne Diorio, Audrey Barsenbach, Kath Hardy, Pat Burgmann, Mary Scarf, Jorge Villasanti, Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez, Anne Singleton, Judy Neal, June Towson, Therese Corner, Peter Wellis, Diane Gillett, Lorraine Vin Nida, Rene Glaze, Margaret Davin, Patricia Dwyer.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

'God loved the world so much he gave his only Son.'

As a child I learnt about the Trinity in terms of three persons in one God – a short summary of a very complex history of debate about God, Jesus and Spirit. John's Gospel says this with much greater simplicity in the one word 'love'. Too often the language of 'trinity' begins to sound mathematical: three in one, one in three. Trinity is a way of trying to put words on an unfathomable mystery of the inner life of God. A life we could never have imagined, except it was first experienced. Within Judaism, there were a number of ways of naming the Holy One – Elohim, the generic term for God; YHWH the personal name and experience of God in Israel. The ancient writers of Israel constantly struggled to name the paradox of a God who was utterly transcendent, and yet a God who was present to them. To maintain the sense of God's transcendence, when they spoke of the immanent experience of God various groups used different words. The Prophets said, 'The Word of the Lord came to me,' and 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me'. The wisdom teachers spoke of Holy Wisdom being present in the order and elegance of the natural world as well as in human history. Later the rabbis used an Aramaic word 'Shekinah' as a way of speaking of the presence of God within the cosmos. The life of Jesus of Nazareth and his ongoing risen life within the Christian community stretched the theological concepts and language of Israel to find a new way of naming God. Trinity is the distinctively Christian way of naming our experience of God as a communion of life and love.

The very nature of God is to love – to reach out to another in relationship. In

this conversation with Nicodemus Jesus describes why he has come into the world (Greek: *kosmos*); for love of this extraordinary cosmos God gave us a most precious gift in Jesus. John's Gospel makes the promise that those who receive this gift in faith will become children of God (John 1:12) which is this Gospel's way of describing salvation. This means of course that you and I are invited to be drawn into the very heart of God, to be drawn into the Trinity as part of God's own household.

Earlier in the conversation Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again in water and Spirit – a phrase Nicodemus could not understand. The Johannine community understood that with the gift of the Spirit they were in a sense reborn into a new quality of life. John calls this eternity life, which is a way of naming the life God lives in eternity. I use the translation 'eternity' life, rather than 'eternal' life to convey the concept that we are reborn not into ordinary human life that goes on forever, but into a new way of existence. We are born into the family of God, able to call God 'Father' and each other sisters and brothers. In the first reading, this is what Moses begs for when he asks, 'adopt us as your heritage'. If you want a living example of the Trinity look at a family where children participate in the life and love of their parents.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of the Trinity, we are not celebrating an esoteric doctrine from the past; we are celebrating One who is a dynamic relationship inviting us to be participants in this dynamism.

© Mary Coloe PBVM

Psalm 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

A Huge thank you from Fr Tim to all those leading, organizing & helping in recent events in the Parish, including, Dorothy & the sacramental leaders for preparing candidates for Holy Communion & Confirmation: Gladys, Matthew & Rosie for the cultural day & Cathy for the Let Us Pray event.

Queen's Birthday Monday 12th June: Public Holiday. Morning Mass will be at 9am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Indra Camp who was baptized last Sunday.

St. Vincent de Paul Cash Appeal will be 17/18 June. Envelopes available in the gathering area. The need is great. Your generosity will be appreciated.

Social Justice

Sport: Sport has a vital role to play in our physical and mental health—but it can also have important benefits for the health of our society. It can open the door for many who are shut out from the society around them. There are many examples where the provision of sporting facilities or programs has been linked to a fall in crime rates. As well as building up society, sport provides a bridge, reaching out to those who are most vulnerable, providing an avenue into the life of the community around them. Participation in sports can be a means for those at the margins

Sacrament of Confirmation: We pray for our children who received this Sacrament last Friday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 16/6/17: Cate O'Connor, Maria Wickens, Reg Harrington Kathleen Cullen.

Children's Liturgy Roster 18/6/17: Christine French, Rebecca Beisler.

Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Extra copies of new rosters now available in the Servers Sacristy.

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

Bus Trip to Richmond via Wisemans Ferry June 14th. Leaving 9am. Cost \$20. Enquiries: Susie 0403 417 639.

Bus trip to Newcastle foreshore via Morisset June 28th. Leaving 9am cost \$20 contact Susie 0403 417 639/4344 1742

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 June, with the first meeting of the newly formed PPC being 17 July. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested.

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.

of society to move from the edges to the centre. Many individual sports men and women have become trail-blazers during and after their sporting careers.

The Tigers Eleven: "I think of the Tigers Eleven Soccer Club, formed in Brisbane in the early 2000s as a social outlet for unaccompanied minors who came as refugees from Afghanistan and other parts of Western Asia. The players are mainly Muslim; the team plays in a Christian church soccer competition and is managed and supported by locals from Christian churches

in Brisbane. It has helped to break down many barriers between Christians and Muslims, and between Australians and asylum seekers and refugees. Some years ago, the team toured to regional areas and played against local teams, helping to change local attitudes towards asylum seekers from suspicion and fear to wholehearted support.'

(Peter Arndt, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Brisbane)

A Crown for Australia. Social Justice Statement 2014-15.

From the Diocese and beyond

Corpus Christi Procession from St. Patrick's Church, East Gosford. Sunday, 18th June following 9am Mass. Please feel free to make the journey to East Gosford for the Mass of Corpus Christi, to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Comensoli and/or to join in the procession from Althorpe Street exit after Communion at approximately 9.45am around the local streets of the area.

To conclude the day Bishop Peter will bless the people with the Blessed Sacrament. Enquiries: Ph: 4325 1042.

St. Patrick's Institute of Education Information Session: Enrolments are now open for 2018 Diplomas in Leadership, Marketing, Communication and

Business Administration. New for 2018 is the Certificate III in Events followed by Diploma of Business majoring in Event Management. These 40-week courses are ideal for Year 10, 11 or 12 school leavers and provide a real pathway to a career and university. They also assist well over 90% of graduates to find well paid and enjoyable jobs.

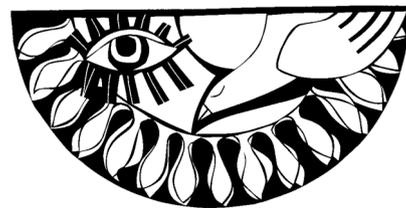
The next Information Session focusing on giving students and their parents an insight into the 'St. Patrick's Pathway to Success' will be held Sunday, 18th June, 11am at Level 1, 65 York Street, Sydney.

Weekend Retreat – Introduction to Praying with Icons: Spend the weekend

learning about the rich and symbolic language of icons. Benedictine Abbey, 695 Jamberoo Mountain Rd. Jamberoo. Cost: \$60. Bookings: Phone 02 4236 0533. Email: cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au Full details see notice board.

St. Joseph's Catholic College, East Gosford celebrating 50 years of educating girls in the Catholic tradition. Celebrations are planned for June 22nd. Bishop Peter Comensoli celebrates 9.30am Mass followed by other activities. They would love any ex Joey's Girls to know about the Jubilee and know they are welcome to a part of the celebrations. Phone 4324 4022. Fax: 4323 3512.

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 Jewish people were saying 'We have had glimpses of God revealed to us but we still don't have the big picture.'

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

'But they will when I'm finished!'

In fact it was when he was crucified that Jesus uttered the words: 'It is finished.' What had finished? His earthly ministry during which he painted a picture of the most intimate communion between Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.

Recall these enigmatic statements:

'The Father and I are one' (John 10:30)

'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. ...I am in the Father and the Father is in me.' (John 14:9,10)

And then, after his resurrection, Jesus breathed on his disciples, saying 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' (John 20:22) His breath is the very Breath of God, the Holy Gust, the Holy Spirit.

These word-pictures paint a relationship so close, so intimate, that the Church needed a new word: 'Tri-Unity' or 'Trinity' for short.

We need to get rid of the effect of bad Renaissance paintings of the old man with a beard or the little white bird. These have bedevilled our imagination. But it is inevitable that we will form some picture in our mind, perhaps to do with light.

Certainly God is not a single unflickering white light.

No, God is pulsating, shimmering light, dancing in threefold exchange of love, each being simultaneously poured into

the other: the dynamism of love.

We were baptised into that dynamism of love in the Name, not names, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

'Name' is in the singular, and it is used not in the sense of a label like 'Michael', but 'name' in the sense of 'He has a good name around town.' It refers to the real identity of somebody.

So, we have revealed to us the identikit of God! This also has implications for understanding who we are.

How often have you heard 'You are made in the image and likeness of God'? Because of the picture painted by Jesus Christ, we know what that really means: God is 'Being-In-Love' and love is always relational.

So, if you and I are images of God, we 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. That leads to a hellish existence.

When we live wholeheartedly with as much self-giving as is possible, with as much un-self-ish-ness as is possible, we are on the way to a heavenly existence.

My dear friends, that is why the feast of the Trinity is such a great Feast. We have revealed to us the nature of God, and consequently the nature of human beings.

Other religions have great prophets and gurus, to varying degrees trying to respond to glimpses of the Divine. They, like Johnnie, have tried to paint a picture of 'The Divine', or 'The Absolute', or 'The great Ocean of Being'.

But it was The Divine Artist, Jesus of Nazareth, who unveiled the perfect picture of the threefold dynamism of the Divine – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, relating to each other as Being-In-Love.

Our Lord invites us to share in that imaging of the Divine Dynamism. Let us now prayerfully celebrate that invitation as we sign ourselves:

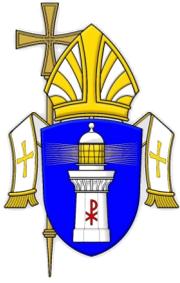
'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

© Fr Michael Tate

The Gospel today is sometimes called "the Gospel in miniature" because it so concisely sums up the Gospel message. In even more condensed form, "God loved. . . God gave. . ." is the paradigm for stewardship — we give because we love.



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

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.



St Vincent de Paul Society
Woy Woy - Ettalong

WINTER CASH APPEAL Sunday 17 - 18 June

Thanks to your help from February to March of this year, our volunteers have
been able to assist 347 people / families with
Electricity - \$16,050 Food vouchers - \$16,330 Prescriptions \$1,137
Telephone / Travel = \$60

Envelopes are available in the church

Help us to continue