

The Voice

25th January 2015

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 3



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Audrey Wilton, John Boyd,
John Crookes, John Gallagher,
Barbara Cooper, Helen Wilson.
- **Anniversaries:**
Bill Wise, Richard Culmer,
Alan French.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And for the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,
Evangeline Cusay, Ruth Fuller,
Gada Selim, Betty Foster,
Peter Crookes, Terry Curtis,
Maureen O'Brien,
Bruce Spence, Irene Beck,
Sr. Margaret Wall, R.S.J.
Mary Dwyer, Jean Mierendorf,
Wendy Taylor, Jack Gudgeon,
Victor and Wanda Grima.

“We have found the Christ”

We often think of religion as the human search for God. That makes a lot of sense, and goes some distance towards explaining why there are so many different answers.

Christianity (and Judaism as well) is an exception to that. The Judaeo-Christian story is about, not the human search for God, but God’s search for us.

And so we find at the core of the relationship between the divine and the human, a pattern of call and response.

The story in the first reading last Sunday was about a child who has been left in the sanctuary at Shilo by his mother; in a sense this might be interpreted as Samuel’s (or at least his mother’s) search for God. That is not the way it works out. God comes in search of him: in the middle of the night, the call comes: “Samuel! Samuel!”

Of course, Samuel naturally thinks that Eli, the priest of the sanctuary, is calling him. It takes some time for Eli and Samuel to work out what is going on, but Eli comes up with the right answer for Samuel: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening” - not, you’ll notice, “Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking.”

Pascal was right: *we would not be searching for Him, if He had not already found us.* So, in the gospel reading last Sunday, when An-

drew says to Peter, “We have found the Christ,” they have indeed found him for whom they were looking, but only because he has been looking for them and found them first. In today’s gospel, Jesus is able to make the peremptory invitation: ‘Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.’ Their response is immediate and total: ‘And at once they left their nets and followed him.’

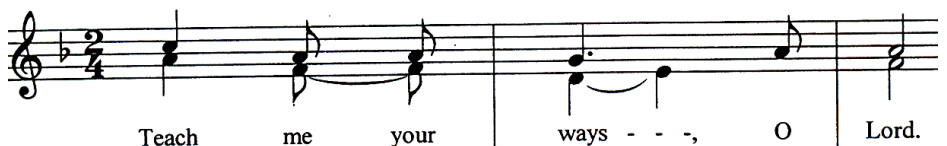
Just as we find Jonah preaching today (in the first reading), the response to God’s call is “conversion” or “repentance.” What God wants is *discipleship*. We are called to follow him, to live with him and to be taught by him. That is the way, not only Andrew and Peter, but also James and John, respond: they “followed” him; they “went after” him.

Last Sunday, our response to the responsorial psalm was, *Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.* Today we sing, *Teach me your ways, O Lord.* Neither prayer is said in a relaxed way; as St Paul says today, ‘our time is growing short.’ Conversion is an urgent business; we cannot afford to delude ourselves with the notion that we have plenty of time. We don’t: *the world as we know it is passing away.* As Jesus puts it today: *The time has come, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Details make the liturgy	3
Directory	4

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near:
Believe the Good News! *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Australia Day Public Holiday this Monday. Morning Mass will be at 9.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Parish Office will be closed this Monday and re-open Tuesday 9.30am.

Attention All Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Please advise Dorothy Fulton 4341 7610 or the Parish office 4341 1073 if you no longer wish to be rostered on for these two Ministries. Likewise, anyone wishing to join either of these Ministries, please contact one of the above numbers.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Liam Ayres, Sophie Ayres, Ella Francis and Jensen Gardner, baptized last Sunday.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to the family, relatives and friends of John Crookes and John Gallagher who were buried from our Church last week.

From the Parish Nurse: We are all pilgrims on the journey and so we need to be both physically and spiritually healthy. So why not start the year looking at your heart health. February is Heart Research Month, a month where everyone is encouraged to make his or her heart health a priority. One of the activities planned is to lap Australia. Go to <http://redfeb.com.au> for details.

Bus Trip – Pokolbin Hunter Valley Sausage Sizzle. Leaving 8.30am, Wednesday, 4th February. \$25. Morning tea and lunch provided. Due to the popularity of this trip a **second trip – same destination has been organized**, morning tea and lunch etc. provided, Wednesday, 25th February leaving 8.30am. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: The Society assists many people on the Peninsula. If you would like to learn more about this work or to join as a volunteer, please contact Ken Hall on 4341 2769 or Joan Murphy on 4341 0248.

First Catechists Meeting of 2015 is on *this* Thursday, 29 January, starting at 9am in the Leo Mahon room. Class re-assignments, Assemblies and School Masses are the topics. Your input is vital. See you then. Susie.

A delightful small group of Year 5 students at Umina Primary School *urgently* need a Catechist. Friday mornings 9.20 – 9.50 in supervised classroom. All materials provided, loads of support and help from fellow scripture teachers. Please consider this wonderfully rewarding opportunity. Enquiries: Susie 4369 6235.

Cash Housie: Every Saturday night 7.30pm, Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd., Woy Woy. Come along and enjoy the fun and friendly atmosphere at our own parish operated bingo night. 50 games from 7.30pm-10.30pm. Prizes are all \$100, some \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 jackpot. Celebrating 60 years continuous service. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

The Just Word

Human Trafficking:

Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past, but it is all too real in today's world in the form of human trafficking, trade in migrants and sex workers, exploitation, slave labour, and the enslavement of women and children. The United Nations estimates

22.4 million people are trafficked at any given time and their exploitation generates \$32 billion in annual profits for criminals. The Global Slavery Index estimates nearly 30 million people worldwide are living in slave-like conditions.

Our purpose is to build a civilisation based on the equal dignity of

every person without discrimination. To achieve this will also require the commitment of the media, of education and of culture to a renewed society pledged to freedom, justice and therefore peace.

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

From the Diocese and beyond

Small Group Facilitator Training: Many small groups come together in Lent to read and reflect on the Scriptures. All facilitators are invited to a training workshop to build on existing skills in facilitating a group, and to become more confident and effective in this role. Presented by Pina Bernard and David Patterson. Thursday, 5th February. 7pm-9pm Lecture Room. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. 239-243 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. R.S.V.P. Monday 2nd February. To register call Colleen/Leanne 9847 0448 or 4332 9825.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend: Need a great Valentine's present? Surprise your spouse with a weekend away from the hustle of life by attending this weekend. You will rejuvenate your relationship to be better than ever. Give the gift of your time. 6th-8th March. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. To apply contact 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au www.wvome.org.au

Walk the Camino! 21 Pilgrimage Leon to Santiago de Compostela. 31 May-19 June. Catholic Mission's Pilgrimage balances walking and simple hospitality with silence, personal

reflection-prayer. Small group led by Sr. Veronica Rosier, O.P. For details catholicmission.org.au Full details on notice board.

Journey into Truth series will run at Our Lady of Good Counsel. An information night with Fr. John Flader is on Tuesday 3rd February, 7.30pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish Centre, 9 Currie Rd. Forestville. More information contact French Forest Catholic Parish 8451 5097. The introduction video can be viewed at <https://www.mustardseed.org.au/catalog/journey-into-truth-john-flader-p-3917.html>



Details make the liturgy

David E. Fedor

A few weeks ago I travelled to the Finger Lakes region of central New York. The trip was both business and pleasure: I went to my hometown to visit relatives the weekend before a conference I was attending. On Sunday morning, I went to Mass at a church that I have known since my childhood. The celebration of the liturgy in this parish is consistently good. It was a Sunday in Ordinary Time, not a special occasion. I entered the building and immediately felt that all were there for prayer. I was easily drawn in to this corporate act of worship without distraction. The liturgy simply flowed forward with everyone doing their part. At the conclusion, the assembly of about 700 persons milled around and greeted one another as they left the building to get about their day. I went back into the church and started to think: What is it about this place that fosters active participation? Why do so many people want to be here? Why is it so easy for people to engage in this liturgy?

The first thing that came to mind is that all of the components of the liturgy appear to be working together with a single purpose: to enable those assembled to participate in our eucharistic liturgy. The second thing is the attention to detail. The pastor sets the tone for this. Being a musician as well as a priest, he knows that there is a rhythm to the liturgy with high points and low points. Consequently, with this attention to detail and sense of rhythm, the liturgy comes across as a single action with several parts rather than a series of disconnected sections.

This style of liturgy did not happen overnight, nor does its success rest solely on the priest's shoulders. All those who have a liturgical role to play have been well instructed, not only in how to carry out their specific roles but how they fit as part of the entire act of worship. For example:

- Acolytes have been trained to carry out their responsibilities. There is never a hint of sloppiness or rushing around to get from one place to another. Their appearance is neat, and they clearly know what they are called to do.

- Lectors proclaim the Scriptures in a way that is neither bland nor overly dramatic. The Liturgy of the Word does not come across as readings interrupted by a sung response, because both lector and cantor are aware of each other's role. This sensitivity causes the silence between the readings and psalm to be effective, never rushed, and never unduly extended.

- Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist carry out their duties with reverence.

- Ushers are truly ministers of hospitality, easily identified by a name tag.

These ministers have been called to pay attention to detail so that as they perform their liturgical duties they do not become a distraction. Those who do not wear liturgical vesture come dressed neatly and in a way that indicates they are part of an important event.

The priest celebrant is also aware that he is part of the liturgical action, not the star of the show. He participates in the parts of the liturgy that are led by others; as the lectors, musicians, and cantors do their part, the presider becomes part of the assembly and listens to the Scriptures, sings with the assembly, and sits in silent reflection. (How often do we witness a priest fidgeting during the readings or keeping silent during the psalm response?)

The singers and musicians at this parish clearly see themselves as ministers to the assembly, not a musical sideshow. Whether leading the assembly's song or singing a motet or anthem, proclaiming the text is at the centre of their ministry. The assembly and the celebrant sing the dialogues and acclamations of the liturgy as well as psalms and other hymns.

First among the nonliturgical things that contribute to the success of the celebrations in this church are a good, well-balanced, and well-designed sound system. Both speaking and singing voices are clearly amplified and sound natural. The system is

(Continued on page 4)



There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples — Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus immediately, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me — at this moment, in these circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?



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

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 Walter Baker Hall
54 Victoria Road 100 Blackwall Road
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.

Details make the liturgy

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(Continued from page 3)

tuned to this very reverberant building, as opposed to those systems installed by persons who do not understand how the spoken and sung parts interact with each other or the acoustic characteristics of a given worship space. Sound systems that are loud, booming, tinny, or distorted are often the most significant obstacle to participation in the liturgy. In addition, the church of this parish is a well-lighted worship space. It is clean, uncluttered, and well maintained, all saying that what we do here is important.

I offer these reflections as a reminder that good liturgy is not accomplished by simply following the rubrics. Celebrations that assemblies can fully and actively participate in are accomplished by understanding the liturgy, sensing its rhythm, and attending to details. The liturgy I ex-

perienced at this parish is not stodgy, dragged out, contrived, or rushed. In a sense, it does not even draw attention to itself but rather moves the heart and mind beyond this life, deepening our faith in the love of God in Christ. **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 since 1998 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



Diocese of
Broken Bay