



The Voice

11th December 2016

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Psalter Week 2

ADVENT

OF YOUR CHARITY

PRAY FOR

THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Fr. Peter Quinn, S.J. Frank Savage, Margaret Wahlin, Brian O'Grady, Elizabeth Partridge, Ken Seaton, Peter John Grima.
- **Anniversaries:**
Kathleen Kay, Kathleen Field, Deacon David Huntley.
- **Remembrances:**
John "Paddy" Green, Frank McLenaghan, David Kay.
- **And the Sick;**
Maryanne Diorio, Alan Harland, John Allen, Audrey Barsendich, Keith Oakes, Margaret Thoms, Margaret Jackson, Lorna Russom, Nicola (Nick) Bubicic, Jason Wellin, Maureen Cows, Beryl Allen, Sr. Margaret Wall, R. S.J. Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon, Maureen Carlon, Irudaya Mary, Kevin and Sheila Houghton, Elizabeth Anne Kenney, Les Spiteri, Ian Wilks, Steve Paino, Ralph Weate, Celeste Boonaerts, Kath Hardy, Helen McKeon, Chev, Fr. Jack Robson, Carren Quinn.

Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.

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Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
The Liturgy committee: the early years	3
Directory	4
The Liturgy committee: the early years (continues)	4

Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Welcome! A very warm welcome to anyone visiting our Parish this Christmas. We wish you a happy and holy holiday. Please visit us again.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be administered this Thursday, 15th December, 7.30pm.

SJB Primary School news: The Yr 6 Graduation Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, 13 December at 6pm in our church. The final whole school Mass will be celebrated on Friday, 16th at 12 noon at the school, 21A Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy. All welcome.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve: 5pm, 7.30pm, 10pm (with carols before 2 Masses 7.00pm and 9.30pm. (No midnight Mass).

Christmas Day 7.30am, 9.15am. (No 6pm Mass).

Parish Transport Service: The Drivers' Co-operative wish to advise that the only parish bus services for Christmas Masses will be 7.30 am and 9.15 am on Christmas Day. There will NOT be a bus service for any of the Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Congratulations to Fr Brian Rowland as he celebrates his 50th anniversary of ordination on Friday, 16th December. He will celebrate morning Mass on the 16th with a morning tea to follow in the Leo Mahon room. Please bring a plate to share.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Delilah Ingold and Oliver Lendrum who were baptised last Sunday.

Wardens, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Please indicate on rosters available in the Servers Sacristy if you wish to serve at any of the Christmas Masses.

Children's Liturgy Roster 18/12/16: Geraldine Baxter, Christine French, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 16/12/16: Christine French, Mary McCumstie, Maria Wickens, Warren Sparrow.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the church for those who do not have weekly envelopes.

Christmas cards and 2017 Calendars available in Piety Stall.

Bus Fund Annual Christmas Raffle: Tickets on sale at all Sunday Masses this weekend and 17th/18th December.

1st Prize: Giant Christmas Hamper, plus other prizes which are on show.

St Vincent de Paul are very grateful for your generosity, raising \$5,200 in the recent cash appeal.

"Faith, Hope, Love and Mercy" Prayer Cards are attractive prayer cards covering the themes of Faith, Hope, Love and Mercy to use this Advent and Christmas with quotes from Scripture and Pope Francis.

These free cards are now available in the gathering area. They provide a simple, practical means to reach out to others in the spirit of the Gospel, to the 'churched' and 'un-churched' alike, by way of a simple hand-written message. Space is provided on the reverse of the card for these heartfelt expressions. Please consider who might be in need of your prayers leading up to Christmas and pick up your prayer cards today.

Social Justice

Catechists' Beginning of the Year Prayer:

Gracious God, Bless me as I begin a new year as catechist. Even as I wonder if I am up to the task, I am inspired by my ancestors in faith.

Give me the courage of Abraham and Sarah, who did not hesitate when God called them to a new land. Make them my models as I face a new class of energetic learners. Make me a liberator like Moses, setting young people from fear and giving them hope that comes from belief in You.

Give me the wisdom of Samuel to listen more than I speak.

Help me provide moments of silence in my class, so my learners can reflect on the gift of your love.

Give me the patience of Job, so that whenever my best-laid plans fall flat. I'll believe that next week can be better.

Give me the justice of Amos, so that I can challenge my learners to build the Kingdom of Justice and Peace here on earth.

Give me the faith of Joseph so that I can be a model of faith. Help me to remember that the children learn from my

example.

Give me the hospitality of Martha and Mary as I joyfully welcome the children. Make me as practical as Martha in preparing my lessons and as good a listener as Mary.

Give me respect for the dignity of each child entrusted to my care. Let me teach as Jesus taught, listening well and patiently allowing my learners to find their path to you. With your love, the example of your Son and the power of the Holy Spirit, I know I cannot fail. Amen.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Patrick's Business Courses Ltd.: Enrolments are now open for our 2017 Diplomas in Business and Business Administration. These 40-week courses are ideal for Year 10, 11 and 12 school leavers and provide a viable alternative pathway to career or university. We also assist the majority (well over 90%) of our graduates find well-paid and enjoyable roles. Contact our Director of Education, Anne Fairhall, to

arrange a 1:1 interview to discuss your study options on 0407 278 164.

Australian Catholic Radio "The Journey". Rhema CC 94.9 broadcasting weekly Sunday 1pm. Each week the show provides good information (reflections and interviews with some of Australia's best Catholic presenters), family friendly Catholic/Christian music and positive stories

about our church designed to deepen the faith of practicing Catholics as well as reaching out to those who are disconnected from our faith communities.

Any questions or ideas about the content for the Journey, contact Jude Hennessy, Diocesan Director, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine on 02 4222 2407. jude.hennessy@dow.org.au

The liturgy committee: the early years

David E. Fedor

The involvement of laypeople in the life of their parishes since the Second Vatican Council.

The church was now defined as the “people of God” — that is, all of us are responsible for building up the church by living out the gospel. One of the early developments born from this new understanding of church was the liturgy planning committee.

To put this in context, we need to recall that before the Council, the laity had little to do with the liturgy except to make sure they fulfilled their obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days. The action of the liturgy was the clergy’s responsibility, and only a few laypeople were involved as altar servers, singers, or organists. For a number of years before Vatican II, some communities had attempted to involve assemblies in singing and reading the Mass responses in Latin; this was successful in a few places. Now, however, with the Council’s new understanding of church, the liturgy was no longer considered the private domain of the clergy; it was *the people’s* liturgy. The priest was the presider within the assembly that gathered to return thanks to God through the saving action of Jesus Christ.

In the early years of the reformed liturgy, people were invited to be part of the liturgy planning committee. The intent was to pool ideas to come up with ways to make the Sunday Mass more appealing (relevant) to the congregation. The basic idea was good; however, in those early years there were few people (including clergy) who had sufficient understanding of the liturgy to be up to the task. Partially in reaction to a liturgy that had become rigid and inflexible over the centuries, the approach to the post-Vatican II Mass often included the attitude of “out with the old, in with the new.”

As well-intentioned but ill-informed members of the liturgy committee experimented with ideas to replace the “impersonal” rites of the past with rites that would more clearly acknowledge

and build on the presence of God within the people of God who had gathered, the results ranged from good to outrageous. Encouraging such unformed committees to brainstorm ideas about how to make the Mass a joyful, meaningful, upbeat, and relevant celebration was like giving a 14-year-old the keys to the car and telling him or her to have fun: the possibility for disaster was high. Like all reactionary movements, the early days of liturgical reform tended to go to extremes at times.

I am aware that many readers in 2016 may have little or no experience of what was happening at Mass in 1968 and subsequent years, so here are a few examples:

- Some priests became “talk show hosts” and spent the introductory rites warming up the assembly with jokes or remarks about the football game. Unscripted and irrelevant remarks during Mass were not uncommon.
- Planners sought to come up with a “theme” of the day’s liturgy, which often resulted in ignoring the readings of the day or the liturgical season. Sometimes, to make the theme relevant, secular readings replaced one or more of the Scripture passages of the day, or eucharistic prayers were modified or newly composed to fit the theme.
- Those selecting music often chose popular songs of the day that seemed to bridge the gap between the sacred and secular: “Blowin’ in the Wind,” “I Will Follow Him,” “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing,” and “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”
- The children’s Christmas Eve Mass took on a life of its own. Santa Claus might appear, carrying the Christ Child to the manger or handing out gifts at the end of Mass. In some instances, the presiding priest wore the Santa Clause outfit!
- There was a widespread rebellion against traditions (incense, chant,

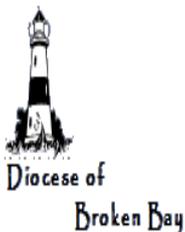
(Continued on page 4)



Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



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”

Administrator: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.

Assistant Priest: 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.

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).

HOLY HOUR—EXPOSITION & 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.

The Liturgy Committee (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

ceremony, the organ, silence). Things that were creative and new outranked things that were part of our heritage.

I could list many other examples of the “anything goes” approach to the liturgy. Some parishes spent a lot of time and money producing what they believed were contemporary and relevant liturgies that would speak to their assemblies. The liturgy committee often had subcommittees to focus on environment, music, and other specific areas. But at times, the “source and

summit” concept was overlooked by these planning groups in their excitement to implement their ideas. To many of those members, a successful liturgy relied on evoking positive reactions from the assembly—whether or not that liturgy had actually nourished their faith or better prepared them to go forth and live the gospel.

The rapid pace of the emerging revised liturgy was partially to blame for the chaos that ensued during those first decades following the Council: new information was coming out so fast that it was difficult to process.

Dioceses formed offices to guide the new liturgy's implementation, but these were sometimes led by persons with interest in liturgy but little depth of knowledge about it. Misunderstandings abounded, and personal preference often held sway. Factions developed, each convinced that theirs was the only way, and the liturgy wars began. It was a messy time, and remains so in many places.

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.