



The Voice

19th April 2015

Third Sunday of Easter, Year B

Psalter Week 3

EASTER

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Anniversaries:**
Dorn Schumacher,
Cresencio Alejaga, Pascuala and
Visitation Alejaga, Leonardo
Daroy, Numeriano Senajon,
Polqueria Bulual, Lilly, Mi-
chael, Philip and Anne Morti-
more, Frank Savage,
- **And the sick:**
Fr. Bill Meacham, Ian Wilks,
Julia Neal, Lila Emery, Philip
O'Neill, Renie Hunt, Grace
Williams, Mary Dwyer,
Evangeline Cusay, Pat Welsh,
Alan Harland, Peter Crookes,
Terry Curtis, Charles Knowles,
Irene Beck, John Mortimore,
Beryl Allen, Madge Wood,
Grace McNeaney, Lola Proc-
tor, Peter Kenneth Thorson,
Meli Ladd, Tui Tuilekutu,
Steve Paino, Mary Leger,
Lorna McGregor, Pauline
White.

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“The Breaking of Bread”

A feature of the Sundays of Easter is First Communion. Our young parishioners complete their Initiation during this season because that is where Initiation belongs. They do so at a normal Sunday Mass because First Communion is a parish (not private) experience.

Christian Initiation consists of three sacraments - Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. When adults (and children over the age of seven) are initiated they usually receive all three sacraments in the same ceremony, especially if this takes place at the Easter Vigil.

For children, however, Initiation is more spaced out. They are baptised as infants, then confirmed by the bishop when they reach the age of reason, and then make their First Communion.

The season for Initiation is Eastertide. That is why it is fitting that children complete their Initiation at this time.

It is our task to teach our first communicants to recognise Jesus, not only at this time when they complete their Initiation, but every Sunday, when they assemble with us for the breaking of the bread. FR JOHN HILL.



Psalm Response



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. *Alleluia!*

50 DAYS FOR OUR DELIGHT: FOR CHRIST IS RISEN AS ALL THINGS
TELL. GOOD CHRISTIAN, SEE YE RISE AS WELL.

Around the Parish

THANK YOU DINNER – Friday May 29: Details are being finalized and we will give you full details as soon as possible—hopefully by next weekend. Watch for notices in The Voice and posters/fliers around the Church. Tables will be for 8 or 10 only. So organize a table—under ONE name—and we will let you know WHO to call when arrangements are finalized. The Parish office is NOT taking the bookings.

Bus Trip Wednesday 29th April to Wollombi and Cessnock. Lunch at the club. Leaving 8.30am. Cost \$15. Enquiries: Susie Casey 4344 1742.

St. John the Baptist Primary School 2016 Enrolment information Evening at the school, Tuesday 28th April, 7.30pm. Enquiries: Contact school 4341 0884 or email sjbww@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Children's Liturgy Roster

26/4/15: Frances Giunta, Leif Spicer, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Volunter Church Cleaning Roster 24/4/15: Warren Sparrow, Jane Rutherford, Paul Rutherford, Pam Hickey.

First Holy Communion: Please pray for our children making their first Holy Communion over the next six weeks.

Jam and Cake Stall will be operating on Sunday, 3rd May at 7.30am and 9.15am Masses.

All proceeds go towards the maintenance of our Parish bus. Enquiries: Mary 4344 2288.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in Leo Mahon room due this Monday, 20th April, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Morning Tea Roster 26/4/15 will be the Pastoral Council.

74th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations are extended to Jack and Mary Moulds who married April 14, 1941. The happy couple (999 and 94 respectively) are long-time parishioners of our parish and still live in their own home! As Mary's health is not the best at the moment you are asked to especially remember her in your prayers.

Liturgy Team Meeting Thursday, 23rd April, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Family Ministry Meeting Thursday, 23rd April, 1pm in the Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

Catechists Meeting Thursday, 23rd April 9am in the Leo Mahon room.

St. Vincent de Paul Members and Volunteers monthly Mass Saturday, 25th April.

Living Faith Booklets now available in Piety Stall. \$2 each

The Just Word

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: This transformative power (of sport) has been recognised at the international level too. At the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, the United Nations launched its International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace. Cooperating with a range of international organisations and seeking progress the Millennium Development Goals

to address global poverty, the Working Group has recognised the role of sport in building relationships, rehumanising opposing groups, reintegrating ex-combatants broadcasting a message of peace and creating a space for dialogue, truth and reconciliation. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Developments and Peace. Assembly President

Vuk Jeremic said:
"Sport can be a powerful handmaiden for peace and reconciliation. It can bring us closer through shared celebration of achievements of universal appeal and attraction ... In effortlessly throwing asunder all human barriers, sport is indeed the world's universal language."
A Crown for Australia. Social Justice Statement 2014-15, p.8.

From the Diocese and beyond

Centenary of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Arrival at Wyong: All invited to a special Mass of Thanksgiving which will be held Wednesday, 6th May, 7pm. St. Cecilia's Church, 23 Byron Street, Wyong. A light supper will follow after Mass. please bring a plate to share.

"Youth of the Vine" Calling all youth and young adults ages 12-40 yrs. Come and join in our celebration evening. An evening of praise and worship providing spiritual enrichment and helping young people in faith formation and development of their relationship with Jesus. Friday, 1st May. 6pm BBQ.

6.30pm. Praise and Worship. 8.30pm Finish. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, Wyoming. 92 Glennie St. Nth. Gosford. Contact: Fr. Andrew/Parish Office 4324 3962 or Glen 0410 753 259. Facebook: www.facebook.com/OLRWyoming Web: www.olrwyoming.org.au/home

Invitation to a Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner/Information evening: Fr. Paul Durkin, Parish priest, St. Agatha's Parish, Penant Hills and Diocesan Vocations Director will be celebrating Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble on Thursday, 23rd April 6.30pm,

followed by a light meal. An information evening will be held after the meal and will cover topics such as our name/our patron/inspiration, our objectives, our achievements and possibilities for the future. The evening will conclude 8.30pm. All Catholic men and women are welcome to attend. Please remember to pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life, for the perseverance of existing vocations and all seminarians. Phone Terry Scanlan on 0438 887 295 if you would like to attend.

Graces and Gifts

Ron Raab

Collect, 2nd Sunday of Easter

God of everlasting mercy,
 who in the very recurrence
 of the paschal feast
 kindle the faith of the people
 you have made your own,
 increase, we pray,
 the grace you have bestowed,
 that all may grasp and rightly understand
 in what font they have been washed,
 by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
 by whose Blood they have been
 redeemed.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

Collect, Pentecost

O God, who by the mystery
 of today's great feast
 sanctify your whole Church
 in every people and nation,
 pour out, we pray,
 the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 across the face of the earth
 and, with the divine grace that was
 at work
 when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
 fill now once more the hearts of believers.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

I long for a glimpse of mercy within our community. I pray the collect on the Second Sunday of Easter expecting miracles. I really do not know where else to turn except to the Eucharist in the midst of the turmoil we face in our neighbourhood. Our parish stretches my understanding of God's love so thin that on many days I cannot find it for myself. From the hookers on the streets donning their springtime duds at our red doors to the runaway teens that yell out across the street, we all ache for a full dose of mercy and a full plate of hope that will sustain us. We all long to grasp and rightly understand the love that God has for us.

I prayed this opening prayer the first time 29 years ago on my first day of priesthood. Even though the translation has changed, the message of the text is the core of our faith. We cannot forget from where we have come. Christ's mercy is present in the baptismal font of forgiveness. The Holy Spirit cleanses our past and gives us second birth. We all await a second chance to understand our lives. The blood of Christ sustains us in our loneliness and unites us in

communion with God and every believer. Mercy is revealed in the dying and rising Christ and in us who ache for healing.

Still, this text seems profoundly different from my first Mass as a priest. The difference is less in the translation than in my perspective through these years of ministry. Years ago, I thought I understood suffering, but that was the naïveté of youth. Suffering of the heart is not an intellectual pursuit. I now realise there is no such thing as understanding the suffering of another person. The only thing I cling to is the faith that God is invested in such anguish. I now ache for the Spirit and an increase of grace. I wait for things to change and for people to discover that God really calls us all his own.

I experience mercy now not as a commodity or something to achieve but as a relationship with God. God's mercy and forgiveness are not a prepackaged reward for being good or for being a perfect priest but a relationship that sustains us all in moments of profound pain and anguish. Mercy is not a pious slogan. Mercy is not a trophy for never having fallen in the race, but it is a relationship of compassionate love, soothing the deep and profound wounds that may never heal on this earth.

I weep now from a deeper place than on the day I was ordained. The helplessness I feel in our community is revealed in the tears that I shed for people who may never experience a second chance in life or may never grasp or understand God or themselves. These tears have become a font of grace welling up in me during my years of ordained ministry. I wait for our unity in the Spirit and for the day that God washes guilt away and brings healing to the wounded and hope for the marginalised.

Every parish community prays the Pentecost collect waiting for divine grace. People of faith pray this prayer across boundaries of nations and institutions, realising only God can mend the divides of racism, hatred, and fear. This Pentecost prayer will be prayed in poor rural parishes as well as in affluent suburban

(Continued on page 4)



The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we, too, will discover Jesus in our midst.



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Koolewong, Tascott, Blackwall, Booker Bay, St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point and Phegan's Bay.

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"

Fr. Jack Robson, *Parish Priest*

Fr Timothy Raj MSFS & Fr. Phillip Thottam MSFS,
Assistant Priests

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Margaret Cooper & Raelene McLenaghan

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 7.45am, 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 7.15 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. Ph: 02 4341 0884 Fax: 0243 445049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

CATHOLICCARE Marriage & Family Counselling, Pregnancy help – 20 Watt St, Gosford. Phone: 4324 6403.

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 St Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd, Ettalong (opposite Palm Beach Ferry Wharf). Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.15 p.m., cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries 43690626.

Graces and Gifts

(continued)

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communities. The grace we all seek is the fresh, vital, and real perspective that God continues in the lives of our people. We will all find ourselves in this prayer longing for every good gift of the Holy Spirit. Everything we all need for the future is within us.

I pray this Pentecost prayer hoping to mend the bridge of the generational gap I now experience among the clergy. I witness fear among the young that my generation has foiled this mission of priesthood. I want to tell them to wait for the tears of powerlessness and compassion, because they will teach you everything. Twenty-nine years of Pentecost have softened my desire for control over and my perspective on many issues within the church. I rely on these sacred gifts to be revealed, because divine grace is still at

work. The divisions among us will only be healed by Pentecost grace among the broken and poor in Spirit.

The holy collects of the Easter season invite us into mercy and love. The feast will one day heal deep wounds and the worries I still carry. The collects will continue to introduce us all to the depths of the Eucharist, which feeds people across divides and divisions. I will capture a glimpse of mercy in places I least expect. On the face of the earth, we shall all know our longing for heaven. **ML**

Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as associate pastor at St. Andre Bessette Church in Old Town, Portland, Ore. He broadcasts *On the Margins*, a weekly Scripture commentary on radio KBVM.fm. Learn more at www.ronaldraab.com. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of
Broken Bay