



LENT

3rd Sunday in Lent

Year A

19th March 2017

Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Stan Riley, June Macquire,
Lucy Sammut, Craig Roberts.
- **Anniversaries:**
Fr. Patrick Ryan, Mark Church,
Bruno de Souza, Marceleen Cole, Baby
Anthony Cole, Carley Carkeek,
Emmie Matilda Carkeek,
John Anthony Snell,
John Charles Carkeek,
Margaret Ann Kelly,
Sr. Patricia Snell, r.s.j.
- **And the sick:**
Alan Ford, Kevin Houghton,
Margaret Davin, Maryanne Diorio,
Alan Harland, Tracie Passlow,
John Allen, Audrey Barsendich,
Maureen Cowls, Kath Hardy,
Chev Shengi, Beryl Allen,
Colleen Giles, John Purser,
Grace Willins, Lola de Souza,
Pat Burgmann, Gwen Strickson,
Mary Scarfe, Jorge Villasanti,
Teresita Villasanti, Margarita Gomez.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

THE VOICE

Father Jim was invited by Caritas, the Catholic Development Agency, to travel to the Philippines and see the excellent work they were doing with the monies collected in their Lenten appeal.

When he arrived in Manila he was asked if he would like to have some exposure to the real lives of the people Caritas was helping. It was decided that for two days he would live with a family on Smoky Mountain. Smoky Mountain no longer exists, but for over thirty years it was home to nearly ten thousand people. Smoky Mountain was the refuse tip for metro-Manila. It got its name from the smouldering pile of rubbish dumped there every day. People lived on three sides of this mountain of waste and made their homes and livelihood from the city's refuse.

Jim had heard of Smoky Mountain, but nothing prepared him for the reality. He smelt it before he saw it and when he saw it he couldn't believe it. The crest of the hill was indeed billowing smoke, and canals of water surrounded it. Running water was only available at public pumps. Over the canals were semi-public cubicles where people showered and went to the open toilets. As the bulldozers shovelled the day's deposit into the mountainside, the residents picked through the collection to see what could be salvaged. Homes were made of every weather-resistant material imaginable.

Jim met the Jesuits who looked after the Smoky Mountain parish. They were campaigning to have it shut down. The parish priest took him to meet the family with whom he would be staying. On a hot, humid afternoon he started the climb to Bing's home. There were children everywhere. Dirty, energetic, scavenging children. His heart was close to breaking, his stomach was dry-retching.

When he arrived at Bing's neatly kept

home he was given a warm welcome. Bing saw that Jim was hot and bothered by his new surrounds and offered him a drink of water. Nothing prepared him for this dilemma: how far was he prepared to share in the life of the poor? All Jim could think of were the diseases he could catch from drinking water from the pump. As thirsty as he was he declined the offer, knowing that later he would privately gulp down one of the bottles of water in his backpack. Jim watched as the glasses of water were served on a tray. As he chatted to the family about Smoky Mountain he felt a fraud. Bing's daughter emerged with a sealed bottle of water and proceeded to fill up all the glasses. On seeing the bottle Jim had a change of mind and accepted the water. Bing then produced a plastic glass in a sealed package for Jim's use. Flushed with embarrassment, all he could think of was Jesus and the Woman at the Well.

At that famous well Jesus enters the world of a poor Samaritan woman who has been dumped five times by the men who married her. By asking for a drink, by engaging her in conversation, by understanding her situation and offering her a way out of the cycle of emotional abuse in which she was caught, Jesus gives her the greatest gift of all: personal dignity. This changes her life and turns her into one of the earliest missionaries in John's Gospel.

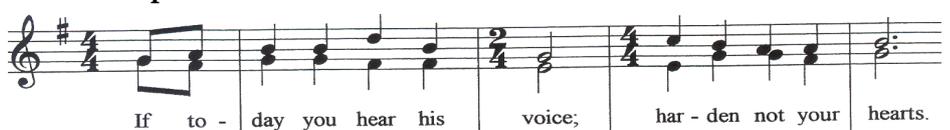
Although separated by time and space, a drink of water helped a Samaritan woman and Fr Jim face up to the embarrassment of their worlds, their quick and inaccurate judgements and reassess the choices that could lead them to life. Both of them recognised that no matter how good the gift of water was that day, the unknown and unexpected Giver of the gift was so much greater.

May this Eucharist help us do the same.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!



Around the Parish

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Craig Roberts buried from our church the past week.

Fr. Jack's Farewell Dinner: CHANGE OF VENUE & TICKET PRICE..

Still Friday March 24 - 6:00pm for 6:30pm, now at Woy Woy Sporties (Bowling Club) in Brickwharf Road. Tickets now \$40 per person (buy your own drinks at the bar). Delicious Chinese Buffet menu, dessert, tea & coffee. Bookings and monies MUST be paid by Tuesday, 21st March. Call Susie on 0411 566 622. List on the gathering area table or phone the Parish Office. NO cancellations or late payments after 3pm Tuesday 21st March.

A leaving collection for Fr Jack's gift will be made *this* weekend 18/19th March. A card is also in the gathering area for those wishing to write a message.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation in our Parish, Tuesday, 28 March at 7.30pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Mass Saturday 25th March, 9am.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday evening 7.30pm-8.30pm during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be followed every Wednesday at 4pm and every Friday at 7.30pm during Lent.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 24/3/17: Kevin Glacken, Laurie Jarvis, Rano Spiteri, Bev Whackett.

Morning Tea Roster 26/3/17 will be Parents and Friends Group.

Liturgy Meeting will be held Thursday, 23rd March, 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

Bus Trip to Morpeth leaving 9am, Thursday, 23rd March. Cost: \$20. Contact Susie on 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742.

Lectio Divina and Bible Study 11am-12.30pm all Thursdays in Lent in the Leo Mahon room. You need to bring your Bible.

Easter Chocolate Paschal Lambs are now available in our Piety Stall. \$8 each.

Catechists Meeting will be held Thursday, 23rd March, 9am in the Leo Mahon room.

St. John the Baptist Catholic School: Enrol now for 2018. Open days: Tuesday, 4th April. Enrolment information night 7pm, Wednesday 5th April. Under 6 Fun Morning, 9.30am-11am.

A place of learning, united in faith, which integrates a community that supports diversity and is accepting of the individual's strengths and differences in our contemporary world.

Come and see what a Catholic education can offer your child. School tours can also be arranged by appointment. Phone 4341 0884. Email: sjb@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Parish School Dance Saturday, 29th April. Tickets \$45. Live band. Roast dinner. Nibbles and champagne on arrival. Tables 8-14. Tickets available at the school or the Parish office.

Social Justice

25 March—International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

Human trafficking—a global problem: It is tempting to think that slavery does not exist in the modern world—that the heroic efforts of people like William Wilberforce, Abraham Lincoln, Sojourner Truth and thousands of others ended slavery in the 19th century. That would be wrong. Slavery continues to evolve in new forms and exists around the world today. Because of its very nature, it is hard to measure the extent of human trafficking or how many people are victims. We might be able to get some idea of the size of the problem worldwide from 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons from the United Nations Office

on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The report says:

The crime of trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in every region of the world. Between 2010 and 2012, victims with 152 different citizenships were identified in 124 countries across the globe. Moreover, trafficking flows...criss-cross the world. UNODC has identified at least 510 flows. These are minimum figures as they are based on official data reported by national authorities. These official figures represent only the visible part of trafficking phenomenon and the actual figures are likely to be much higher.

People can be sexually exploited, or enslaved and exploited as domestic workers. Others are trafficked into

situations of forced labour in industries such as agriculture, hospitality, construction, mining and fishing. In some cases, people are made the victims of illegal organ harvesting. People are especially vulnerable to being trafficked in times of conflict and following natural disasters. In modern-day slavery, people are usually restrained by psychological rather than physical chains. They are often told their families will be harmed if they try to escape. Their passports and visas are sometimes taken from them, restricting their freedom of movement.

From: Christine Carolan and Noelene Simmons. SM. Human Trafficking and Slavery: a response from Australian Catholics. Australian Catholic Social Justice Series No.79.

From the Diocese and beyond

Dr. Pavel Kohout: Parishioners who attended the recital given by renowned Czech organist Dr. Pavel Kohout in our parish church last year will know what a superb artist he is and will be glad to know he is returning on Thursday evening 30th March (this month) to give another recital on the piano and organ from 8pm-9pm. The programme features works by well-known Czech composers as well as by

J.S. Bach and Theodore Dubois. Tickets (at the door) are very reasonably priced for a concert by such a distinguished musician and parishioners are warmly invited to attend. There are details of the concert programme in the gathering area.

Considering becoming a priest? Weekend Discernment Retreat at Seminary: Considering a call to the priesthood? Know

someone who is interested in the priesthood? Men discerning a vocation to the priesthood are welcome to a retreat at Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush beginning Friday evening 24th March to Sunday 26th. More information contact Fr. Paul or Sr. Margaret at the Vocations Office: Phone 9484 1427 or 0418 522 449.

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 19

Ex 17:3-7
Ps 94:1-2, 6-9
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
Jn 4:5-42

A popular theme during Israel's time in the wilderness is the people's grumbling against Moses and God. Today's reading from Exodus tells us they "grumbled against Moses" (v 3) because they had no water to drink. Today's psalm tells how "they tested me though they had seen my works" (95:9). They seem to be a people with short memories. But God is ever faithful and provides them with water from the rock. As a testament to their hard-heartedness, the place is called Massah (the place of testing) and Meribah (the place of quarrelling).

Paul tells the Romans that having "been justified by faith, / we have peace with God" (v 1). This grace is ours through Jesus, who "died at the appointed time for the ungodly" (v 6). One would not expect someone to die for sinners, but "God proves his love for us / in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (v 8). This is the cause of our hope: God loved us first.

Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman extends his ministry beyond Israel. In his day, Samaritans and Jews avoided each other, despite the fact that they had a common ancestry. In our Gospel reading, the woman comes to the well for water at midday, which is unusual because that is when the sun is hottest. Her presence here at this hour may indicate that she wishes to avoid her neighbours, perhaps because of her marital status. This well is associated with "our father Jacob, / who ... drank from it himself" (v 12). In his conversation with this woman, Jesus reveals himself as the source of "living water" (v 10), which leads to "eternal life" (v 14). Among other points of revelation we can find in this passage, John tells us that Jesus is "a prophet" (v 19), "the Messiah" (vv 25-26), and "the saviour of the world" (v 42).

For reflection: Despite God's goodness to me, do I grumble sometimes like the Israelites did? Do I truly thirst for the living water Jesus offers?

4th Sunday of Lent, March 26

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Ps 22
Eph 5:8-14
Jn 9:1-41

The story of David's selection to be Israel's second king shows us that God does not see as mortals see: "the Lord looks into the heart" (v 7). The prophet Samuel is sent to Bethlehem to find a new king for Israel, for God's favour no longer rests on Saul. David is selected only after Samuel has been presented with Jesse's seven other sons. David, the youngest, is "tending the sheep" (v 11). He is the one chosen by the Lord, so Samuel anoints him, and "the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David" (v 13). u

"Live as children of light," Paul encourages the Ephesians (v 8). He is using imagery familiar to the Greek world: the dualism of light and darkness. "You were once darkness," he says, referring to their former lives without Christ, "but now you are light in the Lord." Since we belong to the Lord, we should strive to do "what is pleasing to the Lord" (v 10).

Jesus' encounter with the man born blind employs the dualism of light and darkness we saw in Ephesians. In the Gospel, darkness is associated with blindness and sin, while light is associated with truth and God. In the previous chapter, Jesus declared, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life" (8:12). The man born blind has his eyes opened by Jesus and comes to believe in him, expressed by his act of worship (9:38). But the Pharisees, who can physically see, refuse to believe in Jesus and so stand in judgment. They condemn Jesus for violating the Sabbath by making clay and healing, actions forbidden by their interpretation of the Law. They have become blind, but this blindness is spiritual and perhaps harder to cure.

For reflection: Am I satisfied to see with my eyes, or do I try to see with my heart? Do I keep the light of Christ, given to me at baptism, burning brightly?

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J., N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!



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

"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).

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 For information and events contact the parish office 4341 1073.

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 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 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

All people thirst for meaning, but of what does that meaning consist? The people in the desert thirsted for water, but they misunderstood their thirst. The woman of Samaria thirsted. Her conversation with Jesus showed that she thirsted for understanding and insight as well as water. For what do we thirst in this world of such great excess and unmeasured need? Life has not become simpler with all of our advances. We still thirst for more – for the newest, the fastest and the best. How much is enough, and when do we cross the line into 'too much'?

The gospel readings for the scrutiny Sundays very clearly lay out the choices that are placed before the catechumens and the rest of the believing

community as well. This Sunday it is between water that quenches thirst and water that does not. Jesus identifies himself as the source of water that guarantees eternal life. He places before the Samaritan woman a choice that requires a step of profound faith. She knows the thirst-quenching quality of the water from Jacob's well, but she is not acquainted with the water promised by this stranger who is also an enemy of her people. The choice is not an obvious one. A similar choice is placed before us. We know the demands of our culture and the circumstances of our lives. Are we able to acknowledge the sins of which we are guilty, recognise the grace that is being offered to us, and make the right choice?