



# The Voice

8th March 2015

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

Psalter Week 3

## LENT

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Jim Docherty,  
Sr. M. Stephanie, o.c.d.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Kenneth McDonnell.  
Alan French.
- **Remembrances:**  
Francis McLenaghan,  
All Souls in Purgatory.
- **And the sick:**  
Fr. Bill Meacham, Lola Proctor,  
Grace Williams, Alan Harland,  
Ruth Fuller, Evangeline Cusay,  
Peter Crookes, Mark Church,  
Mary Dwyer, John Mortimore,  
Charles Knowles, Lila Emery,  
Irene Beck, Pat Welch,  
Terry Curtis, Beryl Allen,  
Ralph Weate, Madge Wood,  
Grace McNeaney,

After the first two Sundays of Lent, which deal every year with the Temptation of Christ and his Transfiguration, each year of the three-year cycle has its own way, over the following three Sundays, of dealing with the great themes of Christian Initiation and the renewal of baptismal commitment. Year A uses stories from John's gospel in a very direct and powerful to catechise us about baptism - the woman at the well, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Years B and C have a more thematic approach.

If one concentrates on the first readings, there is really a theme for each of the Sundays in all three cycles: First Sunday, the original covenants (this year, that with Noah); Second, Abraham (this year, the sacrifice of Isaac); Third, Moses (the Law); Fourth, the people of God in the promised land (return from exile); Fifth, the prophets (Jeremiah). The Sixth Sunday, of course, is Palm or Passion Sunday.

So today we begin by thinking about the Law given through Moses - where "Law" or *Torah*, we remember, is not to be understood in terms of the human laws to which we are all subject, but rather as the recipe for living well, in accordance with the will of God, so as to reach human fulfilment in this life and the next.

In other words, the Law is about wisdom. It is a common theme of intertestamental

writings that God gave us the law in order to share his wisdom with us. In today's second reading, Paul shows us how God took this further, surprising us, as it were, with the way in which his plan unfolded: the Law has taken human form in Jesus Christ: *a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God*. Jesus is the New Law; that is why his deeds as well as his words are normative for us; that is why we listen to the gospel.

It is only someone conscious that he is the New Law who could act as he does in today's gospel. The cleansing of the Temple is much more than some sort of purification; the sellers of cattle, pigeons and sheep and the money changers were, after all, allowed to be there and indeed had to be there; what he is doing is challenging the Temple itself - a symbolic destruction. *The Temple localises the Law*; he declares himself to be the real Temple, the new Law: when they destroy him through crucifixion he will rise again in three days.

So the candidates for initiation learn today the source of the wisdom they will need to live the Christian life - and we who are already baptised are reminded of it. The Sundays to come will make it even clearer how Jesus, in being "lifted up", has become for us *the power and wisdom of God*.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

### Psalm Response

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### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Scripture Readings	3
Your Lenten Pledge Card	
Directory	4

### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## Around the Parish



**Stations of the Cross** are followed Wednesdays at 4pm and Fridays at 7.30pm during Lent.

**Lectio Divina** 10.30am every Thursday during Lent in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

**Resources for Family Celebration of Lent and Holy Week and Easter Schedule pamphlets** available in the gathering area.

**Bus Trip to Healing Mass at Mary McKillop**, North Sydney. Tuesday, 10th March, leaving at 8.30am. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

**The Peninsula Multicultural Choir** sing at the 5.00pm Mass once a month, i.e. Saturday before 3rd Sunday. Practice is in the Church from 3.00pm, staying on to sing at 5.00pm Mass. New members are invited to attend practice and will be most welcome. Next practice 3.00pm Saturday, 14th March. Enquiries: Phone 4341 4160.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 15/3/15:** Kylie Spicer, Frances Giunta, Gerri O'Keefe.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 13/3/15:** Christine French, Linda Potestas, Julie Vanderputt, Michael French.

**Parish Transport Service:** Saved! A crisis for the Parish Transport Service was averted last weekend when no regular drivers were available to pro-

vide bus service. Two of our parishioners rose to the occasion and provided the services admirably and we thank Greg Lalor and Ian Wilks for their generous service. The Parish Transport Service will be looking carefully for ways in which we can more efficiently address emergencies with drivers should they arise in the future.

**Commissioning of Catechists:** At 9.15am Mass this Sunday, the Parish will witness the ceremony for commissioning of Catechists. We ask you to pray for them as they share the teachings of Jesus in our State schools. Please join them for morning tea in the Leo Mahon room after Mass.

**Mary Mac's Place:** Many thanks to parishioners for their continued generosity to Mary Mac's Place, which allows us to continue the great service we provide to the local Community experiencing hardship in these tough economic times.

Since Christmas Mary Mac's has experienced an increase in the number of companions accessing our service for lunch, showering and clothes washing on a daily basis. We look forward to continued local community.

**Parish Nurse:** Melanoma is a familiar word to most Australians, but it is only when melanoma directly impacts our lives

that we begin to understand the seriousness of this type of skin cancer.

Unfortunately, Australia has the highest incidence of melanoma in the world. On average, 30 Australians will be diagnosed with melanoma every day and more than 1,200 will die from the disease each year.

For more information go to Melanoma Institute Australia <http://www.melanoma.org.au> See brochures at the table in the gathering area.

**Paschal Lambs**—Milk and white chocolate \$8 ea. For sale from this weekend in our Piety Stall.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** meeting Thursday, 12th March, 11am in the Leo Mahon room.

**Faith Based Conversations:** Getting good at talking about your faith to family and friends takes practice and grace. Make a new friend you can talk with about your faith. Saturday, 14th March, 10.30am-11.30am. In the Leo Mahon room. Morning tea included.

**Ministry of the Sick:** Please ring Parish office if you know a member of your family, a friend or member of the parish who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

## The Just Word

**The Gift of Diversity:** Culture, Language, religion and nationality are important to us because they are the building blocks of our identity and self confidence. They shape our relationships to one another and our world. Our culture, language and religion gives us eyes to see our world, words and silences with which to celebrate it with other people, and the words and rituals that open a path to God. Our culture, language and religion are not like clothes that we

can change when we travel. They are like the skin that enables us to go confidently into our own world; they are not possessions, but part of our self. To expect people to give up their own culture when they enter ours is like asking them to amputate a limb.

Respect for persons demands respect for their cultures. What makes us different from one another is what enriches us as human beings and makes possible deep relationships between

us. Our differences reflect the variety and inexhaustible beauty of God. If multiculturalism implies that we should not only support immigrants as individuals but should also regard their culture as an enrichment, it simply states what ought to be obvious.

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*A Generous Heart in the Love of Christ, Social Justice Sunday Statement, 2003.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**"Coming Home for What Matters":** St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre, 8 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber Sth. Is holding a series of faith enrichment days throughout the year. Sr. Virginia Burke, r.s.j. will be

the presenter. First session 11th March, "Lent's lavish larder" - Uncovering treasures in Lent's prayers and readings. Session begins 10am concludes 2.30pm with breaks for morning tea and a sandwich lunch. Cost \$25 or

donation. Bookings: Phone 4368 2805 or [bookings@stjosephretreat.org.au](mailto:bookings@stjosephretreat.org.au) See notice board for details of other topics of the series throughout the year at 2 monthly intervals.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 8

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17  
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
1 Cor 1:22-25  
Jn 2:13-25

Most people don't realise that the Ten Commandments are written in the second person singular. That means that God is addressing us individually, not as a group. Each of us is called to follow God's commands. In giving these words to Moses and the Israelites, God is inviting them into a covenant relationship, one that will be ratified later with a sacrificial meal. God's desire is for an exclusive relationship with the people: "You shall not have other gods besides me" (v 3). The people have just left Egypt, a nation where hundreds of gods were worshiped. This relationship is based on the fact that it is the Lord "who brought you out of the land of Egypt"; therefore he says, "I, the Lord, am *your* God" (v 2, emphasis added). The Egyptians may worship other gods, but Israel is called to be loyal to only the Lord.

Paul tells the Corinthians that the core of the gospel message — "Christ crucified" (v 23) — may seem foolish to others, but to those who are called, it expresses "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (v 24). What seems foolish and weak to the world is actually the means by which God brings about our salvation.

Jesus's cleansing of the Jerusalem temple, found earlier in John's text than in the Synoptics, casts the shadow of the cross over his entire ministry. The other evangelists place this event during the last week of Jesus's life. John tells us that Jesus "went up to Jerusalem" (v 13) for the feast of Passover. Though not the highest mountain in Israel, the mountain of Jerusalem is viewed as the high point of the Jewish theological world, and so in the biblical text one "goes up" to Jerusalem. Encountering the merchants selling animals for sacrifice and the money-changers, Jesus drives them out, commanding, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace" (v 16). This action against the temple will be a key charge against Jesus at his trial, for in challenging the temple and its institutions, he is challenging the leadership of Judaism as well.

*For Reflection:* Are there times when I think that God's commandments don't apply to me? Do I consider my local place of worship (parish church, chapel, cathedral) a spiritual high place in my worldview?

## 4th Sunday of Lent, March 15

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23  
Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6  
Eph 2:4-10  
Jn 3:14-21

The books of Chronicles provide us with a second look at many of the key events in Israel's history. Written at the end of the fifth century BC, it covers the same era as the books of Samuel and Kings, but from a different perspective and with an emphasis on God's involvement in human history. The Greek name of the text, *Paralipomenon* (meaning "things omitted or passed over"), gives us some idea of the intention of the author. Today's text is concerned with the conquest of the nation of Judah at the hands of the Babylonians and the people's eventual release and return from exile as brought about by "Cyrus, king of Persia" (v 22). Cyrus, conqueror of Babylon, declares that "the Lord ... has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem" (v 23), and he orders the exiles to return home and carry out this command. For the chronicler, both the exile and the return are divine actions within human history.

John's Gospel is filled with contrasting images: death and life, light and darkness, spirit and flesh, truth and lies. In today's text Jesus says, "the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness" (v 19). In Jesus God acts definitively in human history, sending "his only Son" in order that we might share in "eternal life" (v 16). Like biblical Israel we are given a choice; whether we choose to believe or not, there are consequences.

In Ephesians we hear again about "the great love [God] had for us" (v 4). This love is manifest in the fact that God "brought us to life with Christ" (v 5) despite our sins. Our salvation is not a result of our own good works but is grace: "the gift of God" (v 8) made manifest in Jesus. God acted in history in Jesus Christ to free us from the power of sin and death and to offer us salvation. Our task, as children of the light, is to embrace that light and receive God's gift.

*For Reflection:* Do I strive to walk in the light of Christ, or do I sometimes prefer the shadows? Have I ever failed to sense God's presence in my life? How does taking a second look sometimes help to clarify things?




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"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that all is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

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## 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](mailto: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.

# Your Lenten Pledge Card

## Third Week of Lent Year B

### Anger

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19:8-11

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

John 2:13-25

This reading from John is frequently used to show that Jesus had human emotions and could get angry. That tells us that anger in itself is not a bad thing. There is righteous anger such as an anger over injustice. That causes us to act against the injustice much as Jesus acted against the money changers. Anger itself can even be holy. The question is, how do we act on it?

This week I will examine my feelings of anger. Are they justified? How do I act in response to these feelings?

I will practice responding calmly but decisively to injustice. I will continue to treat people with respect even when I feel angry.



We're on the Web!  
[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of  
Broken Bay