

# The Voice

28th June 2015

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 1



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR  
THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**  
 Mary Ruth Borthwick,  
 Dominic Briscoe, Bob Scholte,  
 Fr. Paul Fitzgerald.  
 Fr. Paul Campbell, O.F.M.  
 Elizabeth Third.
- Anniversaries:**  
 Juanar de Altez,  
 Hilda Andrews,  
 Albert Moroney.
- Remembrances:**  
 Mary and George Hilliard,  
 Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,  
 Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,  
 Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- And the sick:**  
 June Ferry, Kate Stinson,  
 Janelle Darson, Pauline White,  
 Pat Bombell, Patricia Welsh,  
 Kevin Houghton,  
 Lola Proctor, Beryl Allen,  
 Terry Curtis, Rene Glaze,  
 Fr. Brian Rowland,  
 Fr. Bill Meacham,  
 Jack Moulds, Alan Harland,  
 Grace Williams, Irene Beck,  
 Arnold Diorio, Bruce Spence,  
 Peter Crookes, Joy Coleman,  
 Peter Kenneth Thorson.  
 Roy Beveridge,  
 Audrey Winsbury,

This is a story of subversion, subversion of the social order turned upside down by the healing presence of Jesus.

Jesus is approached by one of the local elite: a male, with a name [Jairus], prestige, an advocate for his twelve year old daughter, and he knows the correct procedure, adopting a deferential posture.

Jesus hears his request to heal his daughter and sets off.

Jesus' progress is stopped in its tracks by a contrary figure: a woman, with no name, voiceless, because of her haemorrhaging blood ostracised from social and religious contacts, and she adopted the utterly wrong approach. She touched Jesus, or at least his clothing, which risked contaminating him with her 'uncleaness'.

But she was immediately healed. This voiceless, marginalised woman was healed at every level of her person: physical, social and religious. She could now mix with people and attend the synagogue.

All the woman needed to do was get close and have faith that Jesus would restore her to a life worthy of a human being.

By the way, that is the best way to approach confession.

You or I should come into the confessional conscious of whatever is making one ill-at-ease with God because of something one has done or failed to do. Bring that disease into close proximity to Jesus as the Divine Physician. The confessional is 'the hem of his cloak'.

But to return to the Gospel. Jesus stops and looks around: 'Who touched me?' The disciples are unreconstructed supporters of the social status quo. They regard stopping to find out who touched Jesus as an unfortunate and rather misguided interruption to the important task of continuing on to the house of the local leader, the male at the top of the social scale who had so properly pleaded on behalf of his daughter.

But, Jesus does stop and one of the most beautiful moments in the Gospel ensues.

The woman gets her voice back, tells Jesus it was she who had broken all the taboos and touched him. He turns to her and says:

'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.'

He, Our Lord Jesus Christ, calls the outcast who had endured social isolation for twelve years, 'Daughter'. This woman heard this term of relationship, this term of affection and care, 'Daughter', from the lips of Jesus. Can you imagine the liberating and joyful effect of hearing that title of honour and love from Our Lord?

Yes, Jesus went on to heal the little girl. But unlike the disciples he did not regard stopping as an interruption. It was a priority which totally subverted the expectations and the power structures of that society.

We are not Hindus. A caste system within the church is utterly at odds with this gospel. The Church is distorted if power, prestige, pedigree or wealth give one special status. The saving and healing presence of Jesus must always be allowed to be radically egalitarian.

This is good for you and for me when we need the presence of Jesus, the Divine Physician. You and I are a priority when we need that healing presence.

I want you to close your eyes for a moment. Bring to mind whatever it is that is making you ill-at-ease with God. Something you have done or failed to do you now experience as a dis-ease in part of your personality.

Then say with the woman of today's gospel: 'I will touch the outer garment of my Lord and Saviour. I believe he will forgive me and heal me.' Say it with her profound confidence in divine power.

Keep your eyes closed and hear Him say to you:

'My son [or] my daughter, my son [or] my daughter your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your dis-ease.'

© Fr Michael Tate

## Psalm Response

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## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Our Saviour Jesus has done away with death and brought us life through his gospel. *Alleluia!*

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## Around the Parish

**Installation:** 9.15am Mass, July 26th 2015 will see Bishop Peter return to Woy Woy to install Fr. Jack as our Parish Priest and Frs. Timothy and Phillip as our assistant priests.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Zara O'Neill, Cloe Stewart, Kanasha Evans, Joseph Sharp, Thomas Sharp and Cooper Djuricin who were baptised last Sunday.

**Parish Nurse:** Sadly (for us) Ellen Bevan has started a new endeavour in Pastoral care with Peninsula Village. She will be sorely missed, especially by those she ministered to. We wish her every success & thank her for her skill, love & concern she so generously shared.

**Our Catechists** have welcomed fellow parishioner, Jose Torres, to their Ministry. Jose will begin his Mission at Woy Woy South & Ettalong schools after the holidays.

**Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** You are invited to join our team of extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, who take Holy Communion to people at home or in hospital on the Peninsula. Day/Times flexible. Training and support given. Contact: Co-ordinator. Phoebe Glacken on 4341 6324

**St. Vincent de Paul** urgently requires donations of 8 ply wool for their volunteer knitters, Please contact Joan 0422 272 339 if you can help.

**'El Shaddai' Prayer Group Meetings** for July are 4th, 11th and 18th. Enquiries: Grace Lloyd on 4343 1504

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 3/7/15:** Terry Murphy, Linda Potestas, Mary McCumstie, Kevin Glacken.

**Altar Flowers:** A single display of silk flowers is to be installed at the base of the Altar. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the purchase of these flowers is kindly asked to make their donation at the parish office or via the collection at Mass in an envelope clearly marked "Altar Flowers".

**Bus Trip – Toronto via Toukley (1/7 full)** Wednesday, 8th July, leaving 9am. Cost \$15. Phone Susie 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

**Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Rosters** available in Servers Sacristy.

**St. Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** raised \$4,870. Thank you for your generosity.

**Volunteers needed** to sew together knitted squares. Contact Piety Stall.

## The Just Word

### The Role of Sport:

Sport has a vital role to playing our physical and mental health—but it can also have important benefits for the health of the society. It can open the door for many who are shut out from the society around them. There are many examples where the provision of sporting facilities or programs has been linked to a fall in crime rates. As well as building up society, sports provide a bridge, reaching out to those who are most vulnerable, providing an avenue into the life of

the community around them.

Participation in sports can be a means for those at the margins of society to move from the edges to the centre. Many individual sports men and women have become trail-blazers during and after their sporting careers.

### The Tigers Eleven:

'I think of the Tigers Eleven Soccer Club formed in Brisbane in the early 2000's as a social outlet for unaccompanied minors who came as refugees from Afghanistan and other parts of Western Asia. The players are mainly

Muslim; the team plays in a Christian church soccer competition and is managed and supported by locals from Christians and Muslims, and between Australians and asylum seekers and refugees. Some years ago, the team toured to regional areas and played against local teams, helping to change local attitudes towards asylum seekers from suspicion and fear to wholehearted support.'

*Peter Arndt, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Brisbane.*

*A Crown for Australia, Social Justice Statement 2014-15.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Positions Vacant:** A three day position is available in Pennant Hills, for a **Human Resources Practitioner**, who provides HR advice and support to the Chancery and Parishes in the Diocese. For information contact [denis.mcnamara@dbb.org](mailto:denis.mcnamara@dbb.org) or phone 9847 0444. Applications close Wednesday 1st July.

**Administration Assistant:** A full time position is available for Administration Assistant

to the Chancellor and the Office of Pastoral Administration who provides word processing, support for meetings and is responsible for the filing system, databases and financial records. For information contact [pauline.finch@dbb.org.au](mailto:pauline.finch@dbb.org.au) or phone 9847 0444. Applications close Wednesday 1st July.

**Rhema CC 94.9** are taking on the *The Journey* Catholic Radio program and broad-

casting it weekly on Sunday at 1pm. Each week the show provides good information (reflection 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.

# Readings Today and Next Sunday

28th June 2015

Bruce Janiga

## 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 28

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13

2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35-43

The writer of the Book of Wisdom reflects the theology of his day: "God did not make death" (v 13), he tells us. Rather, God made everything to be good. As for humanity, "God formed [us] to be imperishable" (v 23). It is only through the devil that death comes into the picture. We are called, then, to choose God and the way of life.

In light of a collection being taken up for the needy within the church, Paul appeals to the generosity of the Corinthians by speaking of the example of Jesus, who "though he was rich" (v 9) became poor for the sake of the believers. This kenosis or self-emptying of Christ is to serve as an example for us. Appealing to the example of God's gift of manna in the wilderness (v 15), Paul writes that it is God's will that none should go without, which means "your abundance ... should supply their needs" (v 14). God gives generously of his abundance; so must we.

The two miracles in today's Gospel — the healings of Jairus' daughter and the woman with the haemorrhage — exemplify people with great faith. Jairus' daughter "is at the point of death" (v 23), and the woman, who has been suffering for 12 years, has depleted her funds "but only grew worse" (v 26). Yet they both believe that Jesus can do something for them. Both the young girl and the woman are cut off from society: the girl by her illness and the woman because her haemorrhage makes her unclean. In reaching out to Jesus, Jairus and the woman express their faith that he can make them whole, restoring them to the fullness of life. These sicknesses would be seen as the work of the devil in Jesus' day. By healing them Jesus shows that he has power over the devil. The story of Jairus' daughter, complicated by her death, shows that Jesus even has power over death.

**For reflection:** How have I shared in the abundance of God's graces? How have I shared that abundance with others? What personal brokenness do I need to bring to the Lord for healing?

## 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 5

Ez 2:2-5

Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

2 Cor 12:7-10

Mk 6:1-6

The prophet Ezekiel is sent to a rebellious people. They are "obstinate of heart" (v 4), but still he must speak the words; they must hear them, for the Lord has something to say. When he has spoken, "they shall know that a prophet has been among them" (v 5). Like ancient Israel, sometimes we too know God is speaking to us, but we refuse to listen.

Paul speaks of the mysterious "thorn in the flesh" (v 7) that was given to him to keep him humble. Though tons of ink have been spilled over this passage, no one has conclusively determined what exactly this "thorn" was. But its significance is spelled out by the apostle as he tells us that through it he came to humbly rely on God's grace rather than on his own strength. In our own lives as well, when we are weak, we sometimes experience the strength of God.

Jesus' visit to the synagogue of Nazareth elicits a mixed response from the crowd. For Mark this is true of the reception given to the gospel in his time as well. He tells us that many who heard Jesus "were astonished" (v 2), marvelling in the wisdom of his words and mighty deeds. But others are not convinced, and "they took offence at him" (v 3). This response is not unexpected, as Jesus indicates by the proverb he quotes. Their problem is that they know him, and their expectations of him do not allow for him to be a great preacher or miracle worker. So his visit to Nazareth is relatively uneventful because of their lack of faith: "he was not able to perform any mighty deed there" (v 6).

**For reflection:** How do I deal with rejection or failure when I am doing God's work? What "keeps me humble"? Do I allow God's grace to overshadow my own weaknesses?

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Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at 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.



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Today's reading from St. Paul explains the "divine economy" of stewardship — "The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may in turn one day supply your need."

SEE 2 CORINTHIANS 8:13-14

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## 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 Black-  
wall 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.

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 MSPS & Fr. Philip Thottam.  
MSPS. *Assistant Priests*.

*Office Staff*: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill,  
Margaret Cooper.

*Office Hours*: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m., Monday to  
Friday.

*Deadline for The Voice*: 3.30 p.m. Wednesday.

## Merit

### Paul Turner

Occasionally at Mass the priest offers a prayer that includes the word "merit." For example, near the end of Eucharistic Prayer II, he asks God that "we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life." In Eucharistic Prayer I, he asks God to admit us to the company of the saints, "not weighing our merits, but granting us your pardon." The word appears many times in other prayers throughout the course of the liturgical year. At first, it sounds as though it is up to us to earn our salvation, but that is not what Catholics believe. We cannot earn it. Christ alone saves us.

In love, God acts first, preparing us for salvation with grace. Secondly, we collaborate with God, yet even the good we do happens because the Holy Spirit has first inspired us. The church speaks of us meriting somewhat like the way children merit a birthday party. They were given the gift of life, and they have cooperated with those responsible for that gift. But it's not like they earned the celebration. They "get" to cele-

brate their birthday. That is similar to the way the prayers at church use the word "merit."

The first preface for saints' days in the missal refers to Sermon 298 of St. Augustine when it proclaims to God, "In crowning their merits, you crown your own gifts." *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "The merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful" (2008).

Although the revised prayers have introduced the notion of "merit," no one should think that we can earn our salvation alone. We earn it only after God has made us worthy of it. Once that has happened, we merit to be coheirs to eternal life.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy*, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your parish as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2012 Resource Publications, Inc. 160 E. Virginia St. #290. San Jose, CA 95112. (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant'Anselmo University in Rome. Comment on line at [www.rpinet.com/wwwboard/forum8/](http://www.rpinet.com/wwwboard/forum8/).

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES** Vigil Saturday 5pm, 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 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 Wednesdays 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 0243 445 049.

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

**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.

**CASH HOUSIE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. and McMasters Rd. Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.20 p.m. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

We're on the Web!

[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of  
Broken Bay