



The Voice

23rd October 2016 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Psalter Week 2



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Alfred Barnes, Lea Ambroisine,
Mary Bowen Jones, Aubrey Johnson,
Margaret Pollard and Miles Burns.
- **Anniversaries:**
Aubrey Floor, Brigid Boylan,
James McNamee and Melinda Fairley.
- **And the sick:**
Peter John Grima, Tracie Passlow,
Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence,
Maryanne Diorio, John Allen,
Audrey Barsendich,
Vince Zappavigna, Bryan Moroney,
Irene Beck, Alan Harland,
Carren Quinn, Sr. Margaret Wall,rsj.
Keith Oakes, Heather Joyce,
Albie Curtis, Celeste Boonaerts, Louise
Dunn, Nola Davies, Margaret Thoms,
Baby Winter, Kaye Purser, Helen
McKeon, Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Lorna
Russom, Margaret Jackson, Maureen
Cows, Jason Wellin,
Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon,
Maureen Carlon, Keith Carlon,
Ivy-Rose Levine and Liam Robson.

A well-known multi-millionaire once had a near fatal heart attack. After he recovered he was invited to appear on a national television chat show to reflect on the experience. At one stage the interviewer asked him, 'Did you have a near-death experience after your heart attack?' The multi-millionaire pulled himself up to his full height and exclaimed, 'I was clinically dead. I went to the other side, and I am here to tell you there's nothing there!' In his case, of course, there might not be anything there, but his response reminds me of the Pharisee in today's Gospel.

One of the pitfalls of personal success is the arrogance that sometimes comes with it. The Pharisee was, no doubt, a very good-living, devout man, but he made himself feel important by putting others down. He even did this in his prayer, reminding God of just how good he was in comparison to others. It's a wonder he went to the Temple at all because he does not seem to need God. Like the multi-millionaire, he trusts too much in his own righteousness.

On the other hand, it is a wonder that the tax collector turned up at the Temple too, but for very different reasons. Tax collectors were despised in Palestine. They were Jewish functionaries used by the Roman occupying army to extort the ferocious Imperial taxes from the local community. No wonder he stays close to the back door of the Temple. He might have to beat a hasty retreat. But here he is in prayer recognising the brokenness of his life and his need for God. This tax collector becomes the model of right behaviour for Luke's

community.

There is nothing wrong with being devout and successful. Conversely, there are plenty of dangers in doing a job that demands constant moral compromises, like being a tax collector for the Romans. What Jesus notices is what the life situations of both these men do to them. Hence the social outcast's humility shows up the haughty Pharisee.

For far too long we have thought humility meant putting ourselves down, pretending we were nobodies, worthy of nothing. This is not Christian humility. Being humble does not mean we hide or minimise our God-given gifts, talents or resources. It means we honour others by sharing them, enabling them to benefit from the goodness of God. Humility comes from the Latin word, humus, meaning 'close to the earth'. The tax collector lived close to the earth and so he was open to conversion, to being lifted up by God. The Pharisee was so successful at being religious he was closed to it. He had altitude sickness from taking the high moral ground.

Most of us find ourselves in between these extremes.

May this weekly Eucharist ground us enough that we open ourselves to being converted again to put all our gifts and talents at the service of Christ's Kingdom. In doing so, we can go home justified that we are truly humble and that after we die we can see the abundant life that awaits us on the other side.

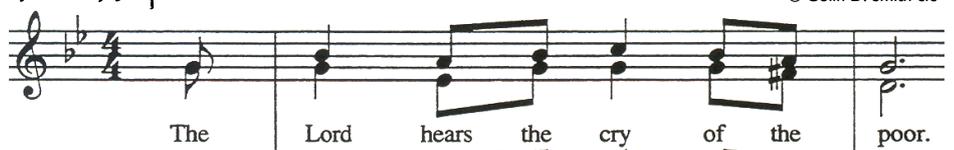
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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. *Alleluia!*

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Jonah Ippolito, Jordan Ippolito, James Godfrey-King and Aislinn Neal baptised last Sunday.

Catholic Missions Yearly Appeal: Collections at all Masses this weekend. The need is great and your generosity would be appreciated.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal will be held next weekend 5th/6th November. Envelopes are available in the gathering area.

November Mass Envelopes are available in the gathering area. All Masses during November will be for November Mass intentions. Normal intentions will resume in December.

The Book of the Names of the Dead will be in the church during November. You are invited to write the name of the faithful departed in it. A lamp will be lit at all Masses.

All Souls Memorial Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass All Souls Day on Wednesday, 2nd November, 7.00pm. Together as a Parish Community, we will remember our deceased family and friends and all those who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year.

Blessing of the Graves: Wednesday, 2nd November. Fr. Philip will lead the blessing of the graves at Point Clare, Prayers to start at 10.30am in the 'green hut'.

Prayers at Palmdale will start at 11.45am in the undercover area to the east of the Chapels.

Children's Liturgy Roster 30/10/16: Christine French, Therese Carroll, Anthea Haughan.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 28/10/16: Rano Spiteri, Warren Sparrow, Maria Wickens, Linda Potestas.

Amoris Laetitia "The Joy of Love": Resulting from two synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015, Pope Francis' most recent apostolic exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia' was much anticipated. A lengthy document, it speaks to the joy of marriage and family life, as well as recognising the lived experiences and challenges that families face. To break open this document, Pina Bernard from the Catholic Life & Faith Formation Team of the Office for Evangelisation will speak at 7.30am Mass and again during morning tea after 9.15am Mass, next Sunday 30th October. Length of talks 10-12 minutes during Mass and 30 mins. during morning tea (20 minutes talk and 10 minutes Q&A). To read the document in preparation, a link can be found at www.dbb.org.au

Catechists' Monthly Meeting this Thursday, 27th October, 9am in the Boardroom.

Catechists' State School Christmas Assemblies: We are making costumes for a wide variety of characters for this year's Assemblies. We are in need of a myriad of fabric in any size, colour, pattern or amount. Trimmings, sheets, old shirts, skirts - whatever. There will be a basket clearly marked "FABRIC for SRE" in the gathering space, you can leave your donations up until Sunday 6th November. (Any unused fabrics will go to Vinnies). Thanks for your support.

Melbourne Cup Trifecta: The Rosary Ladies are selling tickets at all Masses this weekend for 50c.

Liturgy Meeting cancelled this month

Prayerful Condolences to family, relatives and friends of Alf Barnes, Frank Schmidt and Margaret Pollard buried from our church the past week.

"Peninsula Paradise" Cinema Paradiso will be showing a cinematic production about the history of the Peninsula from October 26th, running for two weeks. Times and prices will be available at the Cinema. A DVD version will be available from the Piety Stall for \$14.95. Our Parish Hall, Church and Mary Mac's Place histories are featured in the production.
Mary Mac's Fundraising Committee.

Mary Mac's Cake Stall at the Garage Sale: Mary Mac's Place knows how wonderfully the Parish bakers bake and love to bake. If you are one of them, we are asking for your help in stocking our Cake Stall at Mary Mac's Garage Sale 12th November. Cakes can be dropped off at Mary Mac's on Friday 11th or early Saturday 12th. Thank you in anticipation of your wonderful support.

Rosary Beads Sale: Greatly reduced prices now at our Piety Stall.

R.C.I.A. - Rite of initiation of Adults. Do you know anyone interested in becoming a catholic? If so, we are starting up again on Wednesday 26th October, 7:30pm in the Leo Mahon Room. Enquire at the Parish Office 4341 1073.

Taize: A Taize Prayer Celebration will be held at Holy Cross Church, Sth Kincumber on Saturday 29th October, 7pm. All ages & denominations welcome. Ask your friends to come along.

The Just Word

Dignity and Wellbeing for the most Vulnerable:

There was a father, mother and their many children, and a grandfather lived with them. He was quite old, and when he was at table eating soup, he would get everything dirty: his mouth, the serviette...it was not a pretty sight! One day the father said that, given

what was happening to the grandfather, from that day forward he would eat alone. And so he bought a little table, and placed it in the kitchen. And so the grandfather ate alone in the kitchen while the family ate in the dining room. After some days, the father returned from work and found one of the children playing with wood. He

asked him: "What are you doing?" to which the child replied: "I am playing carpenter." "And what are you building?" to which the child replied: "A table for you papa, for when you get old like grandpa." This story has stayed with me for a lifetime and done me great good. Grandparents are a treasure.
Pope Francis.

From the Diocese and beyond

Ministry of Healing: Tuesday 1st November, 7pm-8pm, Hornsby Cathedral Parish. The Healing Service will begin with Exposition and brief reflection on Scripture. As silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance and separately, for those who wish to avail of it, individual prayer for healing.

World Community Day: You are invited to join the Australian Church Women to come to "World Community Day" in a combined service theme, empowered by the Spirit. 10am, Friday, 28th October, Kincumber Uniting Church, Avoca Drive, Kincumber. Guest Speaker, Naomi Anderson. Salvation Army Umina. Morning tea will be served. Also featuring Fellowship of the Least Coin. Enq: 0407 911 904 or Parish office 4341 1073.

Charity Event—Rosemaree Freeman Trophy Charity Cricket Match Sunday 6th November, 10am. St. Edward's College Oval. A fundraiser for Lifeline Central Coast, so come and watch a game of cricket, bring a picnic lunch and help with the fundraising. If you can't make it but wish to donate, go to www.everydayhero.com/au/Rosemaree-freeman-trophy-2016. If you or anyone needs help, call Lifeline on 13 11 14

Scripture Reading

Bruce Janiga

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
October 23

Sir 35:12–14, 16–18

Ps 34:2–3, 17–18, 19, 23

2 Tm 4:6–8, 16–18

Lk 18:9–14

The Book of Sirach, also known as Ecclesiasticus, dates to about 200 years before Jesus. The text is concerned with religious fidelity. “Give to the Most High as he has given to you, / generously” (35:9), the author advises just before the text of today’s reading. Throughout the Bible God is depicted as a giving, generous God: creating, calling, redeeming, forgiving, revealing. God’s act of self-revelation is an invitation to a relationship that results in blessings for us. He shows no partiality “toward the weak” (v 16) but has a special concern for “the oppressed ... the orphan ... the widow” (vv 16–17).

In 2 Timothy we hear that “the just judge” will give “the crown of righteousness” (v 8) to those whose lives witness to their faith. God is faithful, and those whose lives have been spent in the service of the gospel, like Paul, have reason to stand firm in their faith. “The Lord ... will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom” (v 18). With his “time of ... departure ... at hand” (v 6), Paul is confident in God’s goodness.

In today’s parable we hear of a Pharisee who is convinced of his own goodness and a tax collector conscious of his own sinfulness. Luke tells us that Jesus “addressed this parable / to those who were convinced of their own righteousness / and despised everyone else” (v 9). The Pharisee goes beyond the requirements of the Law; the Law requires an annual fast, but he fasts “twice a week” (v 12). But he is blinded by his own pride, which tells him he is “not like the rest of humanity” (v 11). This is his downfall, for “whoever exalts himself will be humbled” (v 14). He may be keeping the Law, but he fails to love his neighbour, and in failing to do this he fails to love God as he should.

For reflection: How do I witness to my faith? Am I open to God’s self-revelation in my life?

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.

Standing in the Humus of Life

This parable begins ‘two men went up to the temple to pray.’ But only one of them actually prayed: ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’

The other took the opportunity to keep God informed about how well he was doing in the piety stakes. In fact the gospel says that he prays to himself!

Notice he strings together a whole lot of verbs, and they are all in the first person singular! ‘I thank God that I am not like ... / do this, I do that.’ This means that he is in mortal danger of staying in the first person singular for the whole of his existence before and after death, which is, of course, to be in hell.

What makes this character particularly obnoxious is that he only knows how to bolster his own self-image (and it is all self image) by putting down others.

He is really behaving like a child. You know how a child quite often cannot grasp that a parent has enough love for all the children and so an anxious child points out the faults of brothers and sisters in order to secure the limited quota of parental attention and affection.

This is acceptable in a child, though they have to be weaned of it.

It is unattractive in an adolescent or supposed adult.

It is very unattractive amongst those religious types who take the high moral ground and constantly denigrate the actions and religious practice of others.

By contrast, what of the tax collector? He is said to be humble. Don’t misunderstand this word. It has nothing to do with being obsequious and obnoxiously self-effacing. It comes from the same root as *humus*, soil, earth. A good gardener wants plenty of humus in the soil rather than leaving it mere dust and lacking in nutrients.

A humble person is one who is truly-earthed, well-grounded, knows where he or she is standing, sometimes in the manure of life.

This was the case with the tax collector, a collaborator with the Roman authorities, backed by the occupying army, regarded



Both the first reading and today’s psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts — of time or money or abilities — to be the means by which God answers their need?



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of
Broken Bay

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Kooilewong, 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”

Parish Priest: Fr. Jack Robson.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS.
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).

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 HOUSE 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.

Standing in the Humus of Life cont.

(Continued from page 3)

by his fellow Jews as being in a sinful situation.

He admits that that is where he is standing and says 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.'

For God, it is not the utterance on the high moral ground which pierces heaven. On the contrary, we are told in the first reading: 'the *humble* man's prayer pierces the clouds.' It is the prayer from the humus, from the one whose feet are in the manure of life, which is heard.

We need to hear this parable. We are to come 'as we are', admit, when we need to, that we are in some 'humus' situation and ask for God to show mercy towards us.

God's greatest desire is to be merciful. We simply have to be honest about ourselves. This can happen very beautifully in confession, which often takes courage and humility in the best sense.

But it can happen in less formal situations. We simply have to emulate the tax collector at the back of the Temple. We are told in the parable that 'not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven, ...he beat his breast and said: "God be merciful to me, a sinner."'

This is all we have to do, with meaning. Do that, and we may confidently hope to hear our Lord say about us 'This woman, this man, this boy, this girl, went home at rights with God.'

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