



The Voice

26th October 2014

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 2

ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Margaret Callaghan,
Michael Wheeler,
Annie Syddall.
- **Anniversaries:**
Norman Cardinal Gilroy,
Brother Colin Smith, c.f.c.
Fr. Bill Daniel, s.j.
Roseanne Hill, Eunice Gaffney,
Fr. Clem Gailey,
Fr. Pat McMaugh,
Sheila Mortimore,
Daniel and Kate Dawson,
Hilda Rudgley,
Val and Ellen Cubis.
- **Remembrances:**
Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- **And the sick:**
Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor,
Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,
Mary Harrison, Lola Proctor,
Renee Glase, Grace Williams,
Alan Harland,
Margaret Woodward,
Brother Michael Knights,
Gada Selim, Evangeline Cusay,
Neil Cameron, Olive Brittliff.

More on Funerals

There has been a new development on the funeral front. More and more funeral directors are demanding that the churches submit invoices before they will pay the "clergy fee."

In a way, this is not surprising, because the law requires that "fees for service" should be invoiced (and GST added). Until recently, funeral directors have considered that the Catholic Church is "different" in this area, and have simply paid the clergy fee directly to the Parish, along with associated payments for musicians and the use of the building itself. They now feel that they cannot any longer avoid using the invoice system.

Charging in this way for the "associated payments" just mentioned makes some sense, because it could be argued that these are services for which a fee can be charged. Funeral directors, however, have been right in seeing something different in the Church's attitude to the "clergy fee."

The simple fact is that what the clergy do for their parishioners at funerals is not a service that requires payment, but the simple doing of their duty. The relatives of the deceased do not hand over a "fee for service," but give a free offering, or a donation. Canon law is quite firm that no one is to be denied the rites of the church because they are poor: this applies to baptisms, weddings and funerals. Such offer-

ings or donations, by the way, do not attract GST.

A person who charges a service fee is under an obligation to provide a service according to the wishes of the purchaser. Given the various choices available in the reformed Funeral Rite, this is in a sense applicable to Catholic funerals—and it is part of the priest's job or of someone who is helping him to guide the mourners in their choice—but what is finally done is a Funeral according to the Roman Rite. The priest is not in the position of, say, a secular celebrant, who will provide what service you want, for an appropriate fee.

Perhaps we are invoking an ideal picture, but what is envisaged is this: a Catholic parishioner, who has supported the Church all his life, is entitled to the rites of the Church in sickness and death. He may have provided for this in his will, or his relatives may choose to do so, but what he gives is an offering or donation, not a fee. He is not an outsider buying a service, but a member of the church receiving his due.

So what has produced the new situation? Partly it is because conditions of modern life have removed the family more and more from caring for their members when they die, so that most of the work is assigned to funeral directors (who do pro-

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Psalm Response

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I love you, Lord, my strength, with all my heart.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

All Souls Memorial Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass of Light, Sunday 2nd November, 6pm Mass. Together as a parish community we will remember our deceased family and friends who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year.

Blessing of the Graves: Fr. Hill will bless the graves at Point Clare on Sunday 2nd November, 10.30am.

All Soul's Day Cemetery Visits: Point Clare. Prayers start in the Green Hut 10.30am Sunday 2nd November.

Palmdale: Prayers start at 11.45am at the undercover area to the East of the Chapels (next to the Native Gardens).

All Saints Day: After the morning Rosary c. 10.25am on Saturday 1st November, there will be about 20 minutes worth of short saint stories concluding with the Litany of the Saints.

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.

November Mass Envelopes are available in the gathering area. The Bishops of Australia have set a stipend for November Masses at twenty dollar (\$20).

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist family extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Noel Pyper whose funeral occurred last week.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group will meet next Thursday, 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All welcome!

Charitable Works Fund Appeal will be held 8/9 November. Envelopes are available in the church for your convenience.

Catholic Missions Appeal held last weekend has raised \$3,483. Thank you for your generosity.

Bus Trip to Pokolbin Village, Hunter Valley via Cessnock for morning tea, Tuesday, 28th October, leaving 9am.

Bus Trip to St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel Healing Mass, 13th November, leaving 8.30am. Phone Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Mary Mac's Place would like to thank and acknowledge the Parishioners, who generously donated cakes and goods for Mary Mac's Place Garage Sale, held Saturday, 19th October. It was a very successful event and we raised over \$3,600.00.

Mary Mac's assist people who are socially and financially disadvantaged. Mary Mac's seeks to create an atmosphere of acceptance and to welcome all members of our community in need. With Christmas fast approaching we would welcome any offers of support be it dry goods or toiletries.

I would welcome members of the Parish to drop in and see the good works that Mary Macs volunteers do for those less fortunate in our community.

Christine Burge.
Project Coordinator.

Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion new rosters now available in Servers Sacristy.

El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for November are 1st, 8th and 15th. Enquires: Linda Thurlow 4342 9092

The Just Word

Economic Justice from Three Angles

1. Pope Francis No.

He says: **"No to an economy of exclusion and inequality,"** criticising the trickle-down theory which leaves the excluded still waiting.

He says: **"No to the idolatry of money and the dictatorship of an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose."**

He says: **"No to a financial system which rules rather than serves,"** reminding financial experts (i.e. Treasurers):

2. Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga from Honduras is co-ordinator of the group of eight

advising Pope Francis on reform of the Vatican. He is also president of Caritas Internationalis. Coming from a country where almost 50% of the population experiences multi-dimensional poverty, Cardinal Maradiaga knows first-hand what real grinding poverty is. He recently gave a speech in the USA when he said, **"Elimination of the structural causes of poverty is a matter of urgency that can no longer be postponed. We are no longer to trust the blind forces and the invisible hand of the market...that become thief from the world's poor."**

3. Thomas Piketty is a Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics. His book, **"Capital in the 21st Century"**, now a bestseller, is an economist's analysis of inequality in the distribution of wealth, how the rich are getting richer at a faster rate and the gap is widening. "What we are witnessing is a strong comeback of private capital in the rich countries...the emergence of a new patrimonial capitalism."

He writes about how governments are being enablers in this process. "The revival of private wealth is partly due to the privatization of national wealth."

From the Diocese and beyond

Love and Beauty—1 day Retreat. St. Teresa's poetry, a resource to bring love and beauty to our life of faith today. Presenter: Fr. Greg Burke, O.C.D. Cost \$20. 9.30am-4pm. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre. 247 St. Andrews Rd. Varroville. BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Enquiries: 8795 3400. retreats@carmelite.com.au

World Community Day Friday, 31st October. 10 am Service followed by morning tea. St. Paul's Anglican Ministry Centre, Avoca Drive, Kincumber, at the roundabout with Maitland Drive, Kincumber. Guest Speaker: Mrs. Dawn Bickford.

Central Coast Philharmonic Choir presents **Gloria—Vivaldi**

meets Rutter. Saturday, 8th November, 7.30pm. Gosford Anglican Church. Full details of the concert on leaflets in the gathering area.

Tickets \$30 for adults. \$25 concession and children under 16 free, available at the door, from the choir.

Website: ccphilharmonia.com.au



Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

All Saints, Saturday, November 1

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 John 3:1-3
Mt 5:1-12a

As we celebrate All Saints Day, we are reminded that the church “sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints ... as models and intercessors” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 828). The communion of saints is God’s gift to the church.

In the Book of Revelation, the seer John offers a message of hope to his audience. Those who are faithful, who are “marked with the seal” (v 4), will share in God’s gift of life. The saints we celebrate today are part of that “great multitude, / which no one could count” (v 9), who stand in the presence of God. “They contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth”; therefore, “we can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world” (CCC, 2683).

In First John we read, “we are God’s children now,” but there is more to come, for God has prepared for us a life in which, like the saints, “we shall be like him” (v 2). Our task, like that of the saints before us, is to cooperate with God’s grace, which enables us to be transformed more fully into God’s image.

In the Beatitudes Jesus encourages us to embrace an attitude and a lifestyle that will lead us to share in God’s life. These eight aphorisms invite us to see things through God’s eyes. Being “poor in spirit” (v 3) is a blessing because we realize that we are completely dependent on God. The Beatitudes remind us that seeing things through God’s eyes offers a different perspective, and that perspective invites us to live a life dedicated to living God’s will. By doing this, we find ourselves truly blessed.

For reflection: What role do the saints play in my spiritual life? How can I better live the call to holiness, serving as an example for others?

Fr 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

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls), Sunday, November 2

Is 25:6-9 [no. 1]
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [no. 1]
Rom 6:3-9 [no. 3]
Mt 25:31-46 [no. 3]

Lumen Gentium, quoting the Vulgate, states, “it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead” (50). The document explains that “the pilgrim Church from the very first ages ... has cultivated with great piety the memory of the dead.” On All Souls Day, we remember our beloved dead and pray that they “may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace” (Mass no. 1, prayer after communion).

Isaiah, writing in the eighth century BC, envisions a great feast hosted by the Lord on the mountain of Jerusalem. For Israel, Mount Zion is the place where heaven and earth meet. For the prophet, there is an expectation that the Day of the Lord will bring about a renewal of creation. “All peoples” (v 6) will gather at this mountain to share in God’s blessings. Though Isaiah does not express a developed sense of resurrection and eternal life, the prophet believes that God “will destroy death forever” (v 8).

Paul tells us that by sharing in Christ’s baptism, we also share in his death and resurrection. For the early church, the baptismal font was both a tomb and a womb, for we are “buried with him through baptism into death” (v 4), and “we believe that we shall also live with him” (v 8).

In the Gospel today, Jesus calls us to live a life worthy of our baptism. He presents an image of the final judgment, “when the Son of Man comes in his glory” (v 31). At this time we will be judged for our actions. Knowing that we all sometimes fail to respond to Christ’s presence in “the least” of his brothers and sisters (v 40), we depend on God’s mercy and the prayers of the church. As we remember those who have gone before us, let us pray for them, that they may hear the invitation, “Come, ... inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (v 34).

For reflection: How does remembering the dead impact my own spiritual life? Do I emphasize God’s judgment or mercy when I think about All Souls Day?



We fulfil the commandment to love our neighbour when we exercise good stewardship — joyfully sharing our gifts of life, abilities, and resources to meet our neighbour’s need.



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

"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

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.

More on Funerals

(continued)

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vide a service and who do charge a fee); partly it is because more Catholics have been distanced from the Church, no longer attend Mass, and have come to regard the Church as a provider of services, when and how they are required (and so, like the funeral director, charges a fee for service); partly, because increased government regulation has drawn even legitimate pastoral activity into its net.

Of course, you might say, this is all very well as an ideal vision, but what does the Parish do if people do not support the Parish but turn up only for baptisms and funerals? Can one be practical about this? One answer is to charge for the use of the church (which would attract GST) but this, I think, would play into the hands of those who want to reduce us to yet another commercial activity. Yet one must admit that this is already done in other Christian denominations and in overseas parts of the Church, and it cannot be entirely ruled out.

Another consideration is this: if we are to preserve our character as Christ's church in the world, one thing we might consider is, as practising Catholics, to make our offering or donation on the occasion of a funeral directly to the Parish itself. Then it is not a "fee for service", nor can it be construed as such; it is something that we might give or not give, because it is certainly not a fee on the same level and of the same kind as that charged by the funeral director.

Of course, you might say, then some people (who already give no support) will give nothing; but at least they are being consistent. Anyway, if we remain a strong faith community, such matters will fall into place; if what we aim at is a well celebrated funeral (whether with or without Mass), where we join pray for the deceased and for the bereaved, we have done the most important thing. God will take care of the rest.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

We're on the Web!
www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of
Broken Bay