



The Voice

25th October 2015

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Gwen Byers.
- **Anniversaries:**
Cardinal Norman Thomas Gilroy, Eunice Gaffney, Aubrey Floor, Noel Ranasinghe, Carmel Stewart.
- **And the sick:**
Peter Wellins, Loretta Holt, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, June Ferry, Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen, Lola Proctor, Jack Moulds, Maryanne Diorio, Charles Knowles, Alan Harland, Mark Taylor, Connor Cole, Fr. Bill Meacham, Fr. Brian Rowland, Carol Cross, Bruce Spence, Mary Dolan, Grace Williams, Arnold Diorio, Tony O'Neill, Peter Harrison, Nathalie Rankin, Vince Zappavigna.

One Monday, three priests, a Franciscan, a Dominican and a Jesuit were having a hard time on the golf course. The golfers in front of the priests were the slowest and worst they had ever seen. Golf balls were going everywhere. Against golfing etiquette, the group never asked the priests to 'play through'. By the 18th hole the priests were furious. At the clubhouse, just as they were going over to blast the group, they were told that the men were blind.

The Franciscan, moved with remorse at how they had spoken about the group, said to the Dominican and the Jesuit, 'I am going to say Mass every day that God may grant them a miracle and restore their sight'. The Dominican, equally filled with regret, told the Jesuit and the Franciscan that he was going to get the blind men an appointment with the best eye surgeon in town. The Jesuit, however, looked at the Franciscan and the Dominican and declared, 'I can't see why they don't play at night!'

To have any type of disability in first century Palestine not only meant financial hardship, but social segregation. Because Jesus' contemporaries did not understand the causes of disability and illness they assumed it was, to some degree, a curse sent by God in punishment for sins. They also thought the curse could be caught. So the blind, the lame, the crippled, the leper and the bleeder were desperately poor and socially outcast. Incredibly in our day, with all our supposed sophistication, some Christians have made similar statements about God cursing gay people with AIDS. Given the way Jesus acts toward those he encounters with illness, we know that God never sends disease as a curse for sin.

Bartimeaus is, however, a desperate man and in the story he acts desperately, calling out until he is heard. And in one of the strangest questions in the Gospel, Jesus asks a blind man what it is he wants. Maybe Jesus wants Bartimeaus to name his deepest desire. Maybe Jesus knows that it is, often, the unseen hurt that is the most diseased and needs healing first. Whatever of his motives, Jesus' question gives the man dignity.

American dramatist, Michael Moynahan, has written a moving play entitled *Bartimeaus* which

centres around that pivotal question, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. The action of the parable, as we have it in the Gospel, freezes when Jesus puts the question.

As Bartimeaus considers his options, he hears the voices of those he might have to look at if he regains his sight. The poor remind him that, 'once before you could see and what you saw disgusted you'. The hungry ask, 'do you have the courage to experience and share my hunger?'. The elderly inquire whether he wants to see those 'put away because we remind you of the frailty of life'. The captives challenge him to see those 'unjustly bound and oppressed'. And finally the Self wants to know, 'Are you willing to look inside yourself to see your beauty and ugliness, darkness and light?'. It's a gripping scene.

It reminds us all that sight, and the insight that can come from what we see, bestows on us the dignity of having options and the responsibility to do something about what we behold. We are in the position of making choices about what we look at. Not everything in the world needs to be seen. There is enough violence and abuse of human dignity in real life to discourage us from seeking out most fictionalised portrayals of it. We cannot, however, let ourselves off the hook in regard to seeing the world as it is and doing something about creating a better vision of humanity for everyone, everywhere.

Michael Moynahan's play finishes, like the Gospel story, with Bartimeaus requesting from Jesus the gift of sight. But in the play, in a powerful twist, as Bartimeaus follows Jesus on the path, he stops, turns and sees the human faces behind the challenging voices. He goes back, embraces them and together they walk the Christian path.

In this Eucharist, then, the same question is put by Jesus to us, 'What do you want me to do for you?'. And if our answer is to have sight or insight, then let's also pray for the courage to shoulder the responsibility that comes with every gift.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

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

Around the Parish

All Souls Memorial Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass of 7.30pm 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. Philip will bless the graves at Point Clare on Monday, 2nd November at 10.30am.

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

Palmdale: Prayers start at 11.45am at the undercover area to the east of the Chapels (next to the native gardens.)

November Masses Envelopes available in the gathering area.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for the month of November are 7th, 14th and 21st. 'El Shaddai's Prayer meeting will be held in the Walter Baker Hall until further notice.

3rd Charitable Works Fund due 8/11/15: Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

Baptisms: We welcome into our faith community and pray for Addison Berrigan, Matilda Hudnall Conroy, Alea Hodgson and Mason Peters who were baptised last Sunday.

Listing of the Sick in the Parish Newsletter: Permission must be given to publish names of those who are sick and asking for prayers, so as not to contravene the Federal Government's Privacy Act.

Attention Catechists: Date of the Diocesan Mass at the Cathedral in Hornsby has been changed to a Saturday (*not a Sunday*), 31st October at 11.30am. This change is to fit in with the availability of Bishop Peter who wishes to celebrate this Mass.

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

Your 'used postage stamps' help the Sisters of St. Joseph: Mary MacKillop International incorporates the mission work of the Sisters in East Timor and Peru. The Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Peru more than 30 years ago, focusing on empowering local women to develop skills and earn income to support their families. Projects there include health education, community mental health, community aged care, support for people with a disability and their carers, support of children through play and learning centres, dental hygiene and care for children. Used postage stamps are sold to provide much-needed funds for the Sisters in their work so please continue your past support by dropping off your used postage to the parish office or piety stall for forwarding.

Please be advised: The Parish Office will be closed Thursday 29th October.

The Just Word

Indigenous voices ignored in township debacle:

State and Federal governments must become serious about the immense shortage of housing stock in Aboriginal townships, instead of contemplating how they can make it worse by forcing more people from remote areas into town zones already suffering from serious deprivations.

The crime rate in townships is far greater than in remote areas, as is serious drug abuse. Needles are not found lying around in bunches in remote villages as they are in regional townships. The original argument in favour of closing off funds to many

remote communities was an economic one. There is not enough money to pay for the homelands, it was said.

It is simply amazing how it is in this country that whenever governments over-spend or income shrinks, it is always the poor who pay to rectify the fiscal shortfall.

There is no evidence to suggest that leaving traditional homelands for life in towns will benefit the people presently living in remote villages than in fringe-dwelling settlements.

Massive overcrowding of houses, a lack of working sanitation, the absence of any reasonable community facilities and

the prevalence of substance abuse in these satellite town settlements is testimony enough to the existence of confused minds in high places.

"There is no better prospects for meaningful employment in the towns than in the remote villages. Rural Australia is in a depressed state and the Aboriginal people in rural Australia are better off when living in traditional lands, than in exile away from it," Bishop Saunders said.

To access the statement, 'Solidarity: On the road to justice', call the Secretariat for Relations with Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, (02) 6201 9868; www.catholic.org.au

From the Diocese and beyond

"Dancing with the Stars" - Preparing for November's 'All Saints' and 'All Souls' to be held at St. Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, 8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South. Wednesday, 28th October, 10am-2.30pm. Anyone interested, please let us know for catering purposes, morning tea/lunch will be provided. The cost for the day is \$25. Bookings

Ph: 4368 2805 or email: bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au

Diocese of Broken Bay Annual Charity Race Day next Thursday, 29th October, The Entertainment Grounds, Central Coast. Details on notice board.

Public Debate on same sex marriage proposals Wednesday, 28th October, 7.30pm-9pm. Kincumber Neighbourhood

Centre, 20 Kincumber Street, Kincumber, near Holy Spirit Church. Speakers: Dr. Frank Mobbs & Johanna Hetherington for traditional marriage. They are members of St. Patrick's Church.

Father Rod Bower (Anglican Archdeacon of the Central Coast) & Hayden Williams (Central Coast Greens) for marriage equality.



All Souls' Day: We Remember Them

David E. Fedor

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
(Entrance antiphon, funeral Mass)

Respect for the dead and calling them to mind are common practices among cultures and religions that believe that those who have died somehow continue to exist. Because of this belief, those who are living feel a connection with the departed that goes beyond the sentiment of loss. As Christians, our belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus and his promise that we will share his resurrected life tells us that this life on earth is not all there is. Life does not end when we experience death.

From the earliest days of the church, evidence from writings on the walls of catacombs indicates that offering prayer for departed brothers and sisters was a common practice. Early liturgies often contained diptychs, or lists, of the living and the dead to be commemorated during the Eucharist. In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he prays for his departed friend Onesiphorus (1:16-18). The early church father Tertullian (d. 230) writes that we have an obligation to pray for the dead.

Concern about those who have gone before us has been a preoccupation of the church throughout its history. As the theology regarding departed souls has developed, it has survived extremes and superstitions regarding the plight of souls who enter that state of existence between the completion of life on earth and the resurrection of the body.

The earliest record of a day set aside to commemorate the faithful is found in France. St. Odilo of Cluny (d. 1048) established November 2 as a day dedicated to pray for the dead. It was believed that the living, through prayer, could hasten the journey of the dead to their reward in the presence of God (heaven).

Catholics remember their dead at every eucharistic liturgy. Over the centuries, different cultures have developed many

customs that honour the dead. Some families decorate graves and pray before them. Others give food or clothing to the less fortunate. Some do penance on the anniversary of the death of a loved one in the hope that prayer and penance by the living will benefit the dead.

The church's remembrance of the dead is emphasized during the entire month of November, beginning with our Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) on November 2. Over the years, praying for the faithful departed has taken on a special significance in many parishes. All Souls' Day has become a day on which a community can especially remember all those who have died during the last year. This is not only a way for parishes to remember the dead but also a way to reach out to the families of the deceased, letting them know that the community cares for them and continues to keep them in mind and in prayer.

The most common way of reaching out is to celebrate a special Mass on All Souls' Day, during which the community specifically prays for those who have died during the past year. Invitations are sent out to their families. If the parish has a bereavement ministry, they should play a significant role in this Mass and its preparation. Members of this ministry often have knowledge of the families involved, which can be invaluable for the success of this liturgy. A beautifully bound Book of Remembrance, in which are written the names of the deceased, can be displayed, opened to the page containing the names of those who died during the past 12 months. The paschal candle is placed nearby to bring to mind the Easter promise made to us through the resurrection of Christ. During the universal prayer, the names of the deceased can be read. Some parishes choose to read these names during the eucharistic prayer.

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The phrase in today's psalm, "May you see your children's children," is really a prayer for a long life. The good steward knows that every day is a gift from God, to be lived with joy and thanksgiving. "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives!"

SEE PSALM 128



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, 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 and Phegan's Bay.

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"

Fr. Jack Robson. *Parish Priest.*

Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S. Fr. Philip Thottam.
M.S.F.S. *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

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. Ph: 4341 0884. Fax: 02 43 44 5049.

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

CATHOLICCARE Counselling and Family Relationships. Ph: 4356 2600.

MARY MAC'S PLACE Volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cook 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 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

All Souls' Day (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

In addition to this special liturgy, some parish communities provide the families of the deceased with a votive candle that has the name of the deceased on it. Often the lighted candles are placed near the Book of Remembrance during the liturgy. After the Mass, families are encouraged to take their candle home and let it burn in memory of their departed loved one. In some communities, the bereavement ministry provides light refreshments at the conclusion of the service. The Book of Remembrance remains open in its place for the remainder of the month.

Celebrating a liturgy as described above gives a community the opportunity to minister to those who suffered the loss of a loved one; offers continued support and consolation for the living as we join with them to renew our hope of resurrection for those who have died; and reminds us that, as believers, our final destiny is union with Christ.

I am the Resurrection and the Life, says the Lord.
Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die forever.
(Communion antiphon, All Souls' Day)

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David Fedor holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for 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.



Fr Jack's November Dates:

Mass – 9:15am, Sunday 1 November
Mass – 6pm, Sunday, 8 November
Mass – 5pm Saturday, 14 November
Mass – 7:30am Sunday, 22 November

Mass – 7:45am, every Tuesday & Wednesday
Mass – 9am, every Thursday, Reynolds Court, Bateau Bay



Diocese of
Broken Bay