



The Voice

30th October 2016 Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Psalter Week 3

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Frank Cavanagh, Jim Dwyer,
Elizabeth Chifley, Vince Zappavigna.

- **Anniversaries:**
Eunice Gaffney, Shirley Job,
Fr. Patrick (Paddy) Gillic,
Dan and Kate Dawson.

- **And the sick:**
Tracie Passlow, Maryanne Diorio,
John Allen, Audrey Barsendich,
Keith Oakes, Margaret Thoms,
Baby Winter, Helen McKeon, Margaret
Jackson, Lorna Russom,
Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Jason Wellin,
Maureen Cowsls, Sr. Margaret Wall rsj,
Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon,
Maureen Carlon, Keith Carlon,
Kevin and Sheila Houghton.
Elizabeth Anne Kenney, Irudaya Mary.

Philip was getting ready to graduate from university. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him he wanted this car as a graduation gift from the family. His father did nothing. As his graduation day approached, Philip awaited signs that his father had purchased the car.

Finally, the day after his graduation, his father called him into his study and told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and that he loved him. He handed Philip a beautifully wrapped box. Philip opened the box and found a beautiful, leather-bound Bible, with Philip's name embossed in gold. He did not even take the Bible out of the box.

Angrily, he yelled at his father and said, 'Is this it? With all your money you give me a Bible?' and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible behind. Philip's family ran after him, but he jumped in his car and sped away. He refused to answer his mobile phone, even when his family kept ringing it for hours and hours.

Very late that night, when he had cooled down somewhat, he drove home to discover that his father had suffered a massive heart attack and died two hours before. His father had a history of heart disease. His furious and heart-broken mother told him to go and find the Bible which was the cause of the scene that morning.

He found the Bible right where he had thrown it down on his father's desk. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. He came to a bookmark where his father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, 'And if you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father in heaven give to those who ask Him?'

As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was

the date of his graduation, and the words...PAID IN FULL. Philip broke down and sobbed.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

The Gospel we have just heard is often called, 'the little man's revenge'. Zacchaeus was the least likely person in Jericho to host Jesus at dinner. In fact, as this marvellous story goes, that was the last thing on his mind as well. All Zacchaeus seems to have wanted is get a good look at Jesus who was on a 'walkabout' in the village.

Jesus, however, seized the opportunity, given him by the actions of Jericho's chief tax collector, to teach everyone about how God's Kingdom comes in extraordinary packages. Because of his job, the local Jewish community would have hated Zacchaeus and yet Jesus does two things that welcome into the family of God: he calls him by name and dines with him. Jesus might have gone in the door of Zacchaeus' home, but he brings Zacchaeus out through God's door. He enables Zacchaeus to face up to his extortion and wealth and to claim his salvation.

It's the same with us. If only we have the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the arms to embrace, Jesus comes to us through the most unusual people, times and places. We are his family, he calls us by name and he dines with us as often as we choose to accept his standing invitation to this table. But there's a price tag: we are meant to be different people for this encounter, generous with all we have to offer the world and transparent in all our relationships.

No matter how lost we are, how far up a tree we get stuck or even when we are consumed with regret at the dreadful judgements we have made about the wrapping of God's gifts, Jesus calls us by name, invites us to his table and tells us that salvation is near at hand.

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Psalms Response

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I will praise your name for e - ver, my King and my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

All Souls Memorial Mass:

Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass on All Souls Day this 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: Fr. Philip will lead the blessing of the graves at Point Clare. Prayers to start 10.30am in the 'green hut'.

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

Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal will be held next weekend 5th/6th November.

Mass Intentions: All Masses during November are for November Mass intentions only, not for normal intentions. Normal intentions will resume in December.

St. Patrick's East Gosford will have prayers Wed. 2nd November, 9.30am, Point Clare Cemetery, remembering the departed. All welcome, especially those whose loved ones rest there.

Rosary Bead Sale at greatly reduced prices now at the Piety Stall.

Volunteer Church Cleaning roster 4/11/16: Jo Salter, Kevin Glacken, Anisha Burns, Elena Egan.

Parish Family Ministry

Christmas Hampers: Christmas is fast approaching and it now time for us to start thinking about how we can help those less fortunate than ourselves. Over the past 10 years our Parish Family has been extremely generous to those in our community who may be widowed, single parents or disabled or in some other manner in need. They may have no family, live alone, or in a nursing home or other care facility. Christmas is a sad, often lonely time for them. A Hamper Gift from you, a member of the Parish Family, would be greatly appreciated and will give them much joy at Christmas.

Individual parishioners, families, parish groups or a group of families may like to put a hamper together. Lists of the various types of hampers will be on display the weekend 12/13 November Please take note of each hamper's code. Single items can be left in the gathering area from next weekend No cigarettes, alcohol or perishables please.

Hampers will be collected the weekend of 10/11 December. Note: This is a separate collection from St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas collection. If you know of anyone in need of a hamper, please contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

Mary Mac's Cake Stall at 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 for your wonderful support,
Mary Mac's Fundraising Committee.

Catechists' State School Christmas Assemblies:

Reminder: Please don't forget to drop off pieces of fabric etc. For the children's Christmas Assembly costumes this week, up until 6th November. If anyone would like to lend a hand in creating the costumes and "farm animal" masks, just pop your name and a contact number in the basket too. Bless you all! Container in gathering area.

Prayerful Condolences to family, relatives and friends of Vince Zappavigna and Elizabeth Chifley who were buried from our church the past week.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Annual Diocesan

Mass next Saturday, 5th November, 11.30am, Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Ave., Waitara. Join us as we celebrate the Ministry of SRE with Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli. Three of our catechists will be receiving Service Awards: Suzanne French—20 years Dorothy Fulton—35 years Mary Wood—15 years.

We congratulate them & thank them sincerely for their life

The Just Word

Social Justice Statement 2016-2017:

Pope Francis has warned of how individuals, families and communities suffer when money displaces the human person as the focus of the economy:

When money becomes the end and the motive of every activity and of every venture, then the utilitarian perspective and brute logic—which do not respect people—prevail, resulting in the widespread collapse of the values

of solidarity and respect for the human being.

If we are to see the benefits of a longer life span, we need to confront three challenges.

First, as we have seen, we need to eliminate the obstacles older people face in staying in dignified work, applying their talents and accumulating adequate retirement income. We also need to acknowledge that some people are simply unable to keep working. An office worker may be able to

remain at work after 60, but it may be unjust to ask this of people whose work life has been one of hard physical labour over decades. If pensions and benefits are so low they do not prevent people falling into poverty, they will need to be lifted. When jobs for older workers do not materialise, they will have to be created. And where retirement savings are so low they cannot ensure basic standards of living, they must be supplemented.

From the Diocese and beyond

Adult Faith Forum—Matters of Life and Death:

Saturday, 12th November, 7.15-8.30pm (after Vigil Mass) at the hall in the school grounds. St. Agatha's Church, 20 Boundary Rd. Pennant Hills. (entry via Boundary or Trebor Roads).

What does the Church teach about death and eternal life?

In death, 'life is changed, not ended', for example.

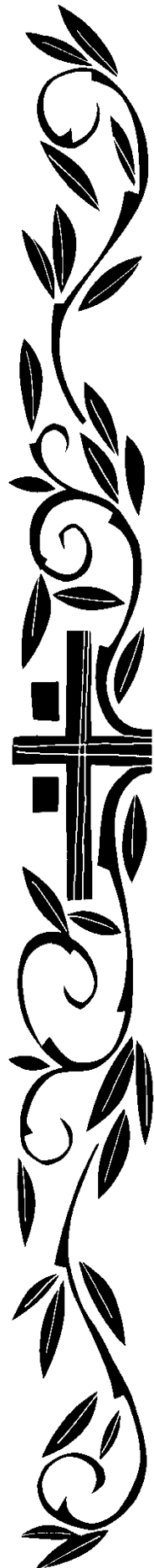
What are the elements of a good

death? Can reflecting on death and dying help us to become more fully active?

A light supper will be served following the forum and time for Q@A. Gold coin or other donation requested to cover costs. R.S.V.P. by 9 November to parishsecretary@stagatha.org.au or phone 9484 1427 during office hours.

Charity Event: Rosemaree Freeman Trophy Charity Cricket

Match, Sunday, 6th November, 10am. St. Edward's College Oval. A fundraiser for Lifeline Central Coast, so as to 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.



Readings Today & Next Week

30th October 2016

Bruce Janiga

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 30

Wis 11:22—12:2

Ps 144:1–2, 8–11, 13–14 R. see v.1

2 Thes 1:11—2:2

Lk 19:1–10

The Book of Wisdom speaks today of God's limitless mercy. As creator of the universe, God loves "all things that are," for "what you hated, you would not have fashioned" (11:24). God brings all things into being and sustains them. For our author, God is incomparable, and our existence is sustained because God "willed it" (v 25). God's "imperishable spirit" (12:1) dwells in us, and so we should strive to walk in the way of Wisdom, who is to be our constant companion, guiding us in God's ways.

Paul tells the Thessalonians that "we always pray for you" (1:11) to remain firm in the faith. God's grace can be made manifest in us if we cooperate with it. We must strive to avoid being "shaken out of your minds suddenly" (2:2) by a contrary gospel. This is apparently a danger for the Thessalonians, who have been told by another party that Jesus' return is imminent. Paul knows better and calls them to remain firm in the faith they received by living lives in which "the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified" (1:12).

As a tax collector working for the Romans, Zacchaeus probably didn't have many friends among his fellow Jews. Jesus originally "intended to pass through" (v 1) Jericho, but his encounter with Zacchaeus led him to alter his plans. Seeing the tax collector in the sycamore tree, Jesus tells him, "Today I must stay at your house" (v 5). Zacchaeus receives Jesus "with joy" (v 6) and pledges to make restitution for his sins. As a result of this encounter, "salvation has come to this house" (v 9). Doing God's work sometimes means taking a detour from our plans in order to let God's grace work through us.

For reflection: Have I experienced God's limitless mercy in my life? Is there somewhere in my life where I need to make restitution?

All Saints, Tuesday, November 1

Rv 7:2–4, 9–14

Ps 23:1–6 R. see v.6

1 Jn 3:1–3

Mt 5:1–12

On All Saints Day we celebrate the men and women who have gone before us, having lived lives of outstanding holiness. In the Book of Revelation, the seer John has a vision of "one hundred and forty-four thousand marked / from every tribe of the Israelites" (v 4) with "the seal of the living God" (v 2). This vision is followed by another vision of "a great multitude, / which no one could count, / from every nation" (v 9). Standing before the throne, they cry out praise to God, who has redeemed them.

The author of 1 John calls us to celebrate the fact that God's love makes us God's children now. This love has been "bestowed on us" (v 1); it is God's gift. But there is more to come, for "what we shall be has not yet been revealed" (v 2). Being united with God through baptism, we already have a share in the divine life, but not fully. When God's self-revelation is complete at

the end of time, "we shall be like him" (v 2).

The Beatitudes in Matthew present us with a way of life. Introducing the Sermon on the Mount, they call us to embrace the way of holiness. They are not so much about what to do as they are about what to be. Not all the saints were "meek" (v 5) or "peacemakers" (v 9), but each of them allowed God's love to shine through their lives as the sun shines through stained glass. As the glass has its imperfections, so too do our saints. Their exemplary lives and their place in the communion of saints give us hope that we too can respond to God's call in a way that, with God's help, allows us to walk in holiness and in God's light.

For reflection: Do I have a favourite saint? What about this saint encourages me? What intimidates me?

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day), Wednesday, November 2

Selected from the Proper of the Celebration

Is 25:6, 7–9

Ps 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

or Ps 25:6, 7b, 17–18, 2–21 or Ps 27:1, 4, 7, 8b, 9a, 13–14

Rom 6:3–9

Mt 25:31–46

On All Souls' Day we ask God to "wash away ... / the sins of your departed servants" (Prayer over the Offerings, Mass 2). Not all of us die as saints, so the church engages in the practice of praying for those who are still in need of God's mercy after they die. The notion of praying for the dead predates Christianity; for example, it is found in Jewish texts such as 2 Maccabees 12.

The prophet Isaiah envisions a time when God will host a feast "for all peoples" (v 6) on Zion, the mountain of Jerusalem. This feast will be a joyous time when the people acknowledge that the Lord "has saved us!" (v 9). Isaiah is calling his audience to acknowledge that their God, the God of all peoples, desires that all people be saved.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul reminds us that our baptism unites us to Christ so completely that we share in his death and resurrection. We are given the promise of "newness of life" (v 4). This gives us reason to hope because "we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (v 5). But still we struggle with sin in our lives and so need God's mercy when we die.

In the Gospel today Jesus tells us that we will be judged according to our acts of love. The "Son of Man" (v 31) will gather "all the nations" (v 32) for a final judgment. This imagery refers to what we call the final judgment at the end of the world. On All Souls' Day, let us remember in prayer our beloved dead; may our prayers assist them in coming to know God's mercy.

For reflection: How does the practice of praying for the dead impact my own spirituality? Do I strive to love Christ as I find him in my neighbour, especially the poor and needy?
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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. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



We are called to be good stewards of our personal vocations. St. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is therefore ours, too — "that our God may make us worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfilment every good purpose and every effort of faith."

See 2 Thessalonians 1:11



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula



Diocese of
Broken Bay

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South,
Umina, Umina Beach,
Ettalong, Ettalong Beach,
Koolewong, 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 HOUSIE 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.

Joint Parish School Event

At the Parish Council meeting this week we spoke about holding an event in 2017 which could bring both parishioners and parents and staff from SJB school together to strengthen our bond. Thus, we are planning on holding a Parish School Dinner Dance on Saturday, April 29th 2017. If you are interested in being on the organising committee please email Susie Simmons on

soozesimmons@gmail.com

