



The Voice

31st May 2015

Trinity Sunday, Year B

Psalter Week 4



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- Recently deceased:**
 David L. Brown,
 Carole Barnes,
 Rosemary Mullins.
- Anniversaries:**
 Bishop Leo Clarke,
 Fr. Leo Mahon,
 Fr. Ted Shepherd,
 Marie Meyer, Auguste Meyer.
- Remembrances:**
 Mary and George Hilliard,
 Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
 Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
 Leslie Denning, Valerie Price,
 Molly and Jack Dunne.
- And the Sick:**
 June Ferry, Kate Stinson,
 Janelle Darson, Pat Bombell,
 Kevin Houghton, Lola Proctor,
 Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,
 Alan Harland, Terry Curtis,
 Grace Williams, Irene Beck,
 Roy Beveridge, Arnold Diorio,
 Peter Kenneth Thorson.

One of the things we often hear in times of domestic, local or international crisis is that 'everyone pulled together'. We are rightly proud, and a few times amazed, at how people can set aside their differences and strive for the common good. Sometimes this experience of working together has the long-lasting benefit of breaking down boundaries. Other times, sadly, old enmities, prejudices and suspicions return when the crisis is over.

Trinity Sunday celebrates that whether we are in crisis or not, in season and out of season, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit do nothing but 'pull together' to love and save us. What we glimpse as the best attribute of our family, town or nation defines who our Christian God is, and what they see, how they judge and the way they act toward the world. A famous icon of the Trinity depicts the three persons at a table where there are four place settings. The final place, in the lower half of the painting, invites the viewer to take the seat and join them. It's profound theology and masterful art, but we can quickly misunderstand it.

We are not just personally invited to join in the very life of God, and pull together with them in their loving and saving of the world. The seat at the table is reserved for all of humanity.

In practical terms it is impossible to profess belief in the Trinity, on the one hand, and then work at things which pull the human family apart, on the other. It is scandalous to hold to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and be known as racist, bigoted and sexist, to

not care about refugees or those who die each day of starvation. We cannot keep signing ourselves in the name of a Triune God and then work hard at getting richer and more secure while the rest of humanity grow poorer and lack the necessities for human dignity. Ghandi once said, 'I love the New Testament and the Christian ideas about God and I would take the waters of Christian baptism tomorrow if I saw Christians practise what they the preach.'

Trinity Sunday is not about theological mathematics, working out how three goes into one. It's about gaining the strength at this Eucharist to pull together to see that all of God's children have the opportunity to hear the good news of how much God loves us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and so can take their privileged place at God's table. Most people will learn about the saving love of God primarily through the way they observe us seeing, judging and acting.

It's not by accident that in our Catholic tradition the usual moment we invoke the Trinity is when we make the sign of the cross. It reminds us that 'we cannot have our cake and eat it too'. Every time we profess the Trinity we recommit ourselves to die to self so that God's saving love may be realised for everyone, everywhere.

So let's not only profess our belief in the three persons that make up our one God, but live the life that goes with it, 'In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.'

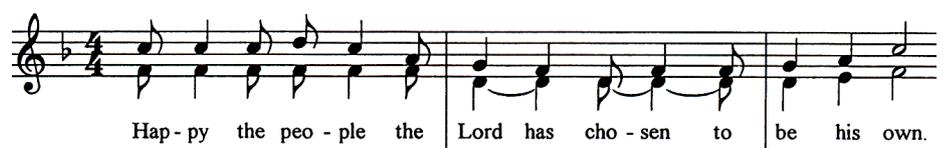
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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: To God who is, who was, and who is to come. *Alleluia!*



Around the Parish

Our Lady—Mary Star of the Sea Patronal Feast of our Diocese occurs this Sunday. We pray for our Bishop, Clergy and all parishioners and the needs of the Diocese.

Parish Transport Service Faces Crisis:

40 or more parishioners, each week, rely on a few dedicated drivers to help them get to Mass each weekend. In spite of appeals, no additional drivers have joined the ministry to replace those no longer able to drive the bus. Unless more drivers join the ministry soon, the service may not be able to continue at its current level.

This ministry offers women and men of the parish a way of serving the community in an excep-

tional and rewarding way. An LR grade (or higher) licence, easily obtainable from the RMS, is required to drive the parish bus.

Further information: Call Vince on 0418 485 417 or Bernard on 4341 6343.

St. Vincent de Paul Cash Appeal will be held over the weekend of 6/7 June. Envelopes available in the Church from this weekend and a leaving collection will be held at all Masses on 6/7th June. Please give generously towards assisting the needy and marginalized in our Community.

Ken Hall/Joan Murphy on behalf of the Peninsula Conferences.

Anyone wishing more information on the Society's work in our community should contact Ken Hall on 4341 2769.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 5/6/15: Kevin Glacken, Terry Murphy, Rano Spiteri, Mary McCumstie.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group: Monthly meetings for June are 6th, 13th and 20th. Enquiries: Mary Owen. Ph: 4341 7612.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered at 4pm Mass this Friday, 5th June.

Cancer Support Group for those suffering from cancer or those wishing to pray for them meeting this Tuesday, 2nd June 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room.

The Just Word

Religious Freedom in Decline:

Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need released a report in November 2014 titled *Religious Freedom in the World*. It analysed the degree to which countries uphold the principles of religious freedom—particularly those enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—as well as the impact of extremist groups within societies.

The report found that religious Freedom is impaired or in decline in 81 of 196 countries globally. It also found that religious persecution is increasing, with 55 countries seeing a rise in levels of persecution in recent years.

Nigeria is among 20 countries where religious freedom is se-

verely curtailed or where people face significant threat for their beliefs.

That list of countries includes 14 other Islamic nations, including Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as six countries with authoritarian regimes, including China, Eritrea and North Korea.

The targets of persecution are not always Christian. In places like China, people of many religions are among those persecuted for their faith. In Islamic countries, the targets may be Shia, Sunni or Mandeian as well as Christian. It is often difference, rather than Christianity in particular, that is persecuted.

It's also important to note that Islamic and authoritarian coun-

tries aren't the only places where persecution takes place. Allen cites the example of Orissa in north-eastern India, where 500 Christians were killed and thousands of others driven from their homes by Hindu radicals in 2008.

'There are 2.3 billion Christians in the world', he said. 'They often live in some fairly dangerous neighbourhoods, and precisely because they are Christian they are seen as alien by some of their neighbours—even though they often have roots that go back centuries in those cultures.' *Aid to the Church in Need's Religious Freedom in the World—Report 2014 can be found at www.aidtochurch.org*

From the Diocese and beyond

Vigil for the Feast of the Sacred Heart: On the night of Friday/Saturday 12/13 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church, Sth. Kincumber by an all night Vigil. This Vigil will commence with Mass at 6pm, Friday night and end at 6am Saturday morning. This devotion now a tradition of Holy Cross takes place in the historic 1842 church in which St. Mary MacKillop slept during

her visits to the adjoining orphanage during that building's construction. After Mass there will be both communal prayer and periods of silent meditation before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. The theme of the night is for world peace, especially in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Tea/coffee, light refreshments outside the Church, toilet facilities available. The Church is heated but visitors are advised to bring a cushion/pillow if

staying for a length of time. There is no time limit at the vigil and visitors are encouraged to come and stay as long or as little and at any time during the night. Enq: phone Paul Salmon 0407 100 640.

Mini Market Sat. 13th June 8am -12 noon. St. David's Presbyterian Church, Woy Woy. Books, Cakes, Gifts, Toys, Jams and homemade biscuits etc. All proceeds for the Patrol Padres in the Outback. See notice board.

Lectionary Spirituality: Trinity & Corpus Christi Sundays

Bruce Janiga

Most Holy Trinity, May 31st

Dt 4:32-34, 39-40

Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22

Rom 8:14-17

Mt 28:16-20

Trinity Sunday reminds us that our God is a mystery. We have experienced God as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. This mystery is something theologians have tried to explain over the millennia, but they have not been completely successful. God is still more than we can comprehend.

In Deuteronomy, just before Moses dies, he exhorts the people to remain faithful to the covenant with the Lord. Their faithfulness should be rooted in an awareness of all the good things God has done for them. Deuteronomy frequently uses the phrase "the Lord, your God" to distinguish him from the gods of the other nations. For Moses and Israel, other nations had gods, but the Israelites are called to an exclusive relationship with the God of their ancestors. Only over the centuries does Israel come to learn that there is no other God.

Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans that because God's Spirit dwells in us, we are children of God and can address God as "Abba, Father." As we are united with Christ in our suffering, so too will we find a share of his glory.

In the Gospel, Jesus sends the 11 apostles out to continue his mission: baptizing, preaching, and making disciples. For Matthew the meeting takes place in Galilee, on a mountain. The mountain location reinforces the Moses imagery, and Galilee is where most of Jesus' public ministry occurred. Empowered by the Spirit, the apostles are able to share in the work of spreading the gospel. They are commanded to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (v 19). This is the first use of the Trinitarian formula in the Gospel texts.

For reflection: How have I experienced God in my life as mystery? As Father? Son? Holy Spirit? What does it mean to say that in baptism I have a share in God's life?

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 7

Ex 24:3-8

Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18

Heb 9:11-15

Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus, we focus on God's gift of self to us in the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Christ is present to his church in a unique way; under the appearances of bread and wine, we are invited to be one with him in communion. United with him, we are called, challenged, and strengthened to become more like him.

In Exodus, as a sign of the covenant the Israelites are sharing with the Lord, Moses makes a sacrifice, sprinkling some of the blood of the sacrifice on the altar and the remainder on the people. This covenant binds the two parties together. The people, having heard "all that the Lord has said" (v 7), agree to live by the commandments. He will be their God and they will be his people. It is a foundational moment for the people of Israel.

The writer of Hebrews writes of how Christ's sacrifice replaces the sacrifices of the prior covenant. Christ's own blood obtains for us "eternal redemption" (v 12); as the perfect sacrifice he offered himself on our behalf in order that "those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance" (v 15).

In the synoptic tradition the Last Supper is remembered as a Passover meal shared by Jesus and his disciples. This connects Jesus' death with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb, whose blood brought about freedom and life for the Israelites. Mark says that Jesus took the bread and wine and after blessing them, shared them with his disciples, identifying them with his body and blood about to be shed. Beginning on Easter Sunday the early church continued to share this meal in fulfillment of Jesus' command to "do this in memory of me." For Catholics, sharing in the gift of the Eucharist identifies us as a people whose lives have been purchased through the blood of the cross.

For reflection: What significance does the Eucharist have for me? Do I allow myself to be taken, blessed, broken, and given in service of the gospel?

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.



Today's second reading reminds us that we are the adopted sons and daughters — the heirs — of God. We are good stewards of our inheritance when we share our faith and fulfil Our Lord's command to "go . . . and make disciples of all the nations."

See Matthew 28:19



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 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 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

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 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 & McMasters Rd., Woy Woy. 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 Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Some Thoughts on Holy Communion

Richard Husted ofm & Caroline Thomas

Receiving Communion

Receiving communion is at the heart of every Eucharist that we celebrate. When we receive the Body or the Blood of Christ, our response is the same: "Amen." It is our way of saying, "Yes, I believe!" "Yes, I will try to be the presence of the Lord with the nourishment of this gift." A few simple steps might help receive the Lord with greater reverence:

1) If you wish to receive the consecrated bread on the tongue, your folded hands communicate this to the minister. Extend your tongue after you have made the response, "Amen."

2) If you wish to receive in the hand, then your hands should be held in front of you, one under the other so that they form a throne to receive the host. With your bottom hand take the host and place it in your mouth.

3) Do not try to take the host from the one who is ministering, but allow the minister to place it on your hand.

4) If you are receiving from the chalice, take the cup firmly in both hands from the minister.

Eucharistic Bread

When we receive Eucharist, our response to the invitation "Body of Christ" is "Amen." That response is an act of faith. We are saying in effect, "Yes, I believe that what I receive is the presence of Jesus." As Catholics we believe that the bread becomes the body of Christ during the eucharistic celebration.

Needless to say, if we do not believe, then we should not receive. When you receive the host, you should not move away from the minister without first consuming the host. The care we show in following the proper procedure in receiving is our way of demonstrating our respect and belief.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay