



The Voice

14th September 2014

Triumph of the Cross, Year A

Psalter Week 4

ORDINARY TIME

A Parish Centenary

OF YOUR CHARITY RE-MEMBER THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Florence Lee, Valda Passlow, Doreen Luff, Hazel Easton.
- **Anniversaries:**
Glorene Petty, Alfred Dwyer, Leonard Noel Owen, Leonora (Lea) Esposito.
- **Remembrances:**
Richard Charles McCarthy.
- **and the sick:**
Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor, Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen, Mary Harrison, Denis Glacken, Lola Proctor, Grace Williams, Michael Wheeler, Alan Harland, Margaret Woodward, Brother Michael Knights, Mary McCumstie, Evangeline Cusay.

One reason for holding our mission event next week is that this year we celebrate an important centenary.

The original church—now the Walter Baker Hall—was blessed and opened on 23rd August 1914. The stone that records this event may be seen through the fence on Blackwall Road, near the corner with Victoria Road.

There is no mention of the reigning Pontiff, because there wasn't one: Pope (later Saint) Pius X had died three days before, on 20th August; the conclave did not assemble until 31st August; Benedict XV was elected on 3rd September.

There was no cardinal in Australia at the time (Cardinal Moran had died in 1911), so no one from here experienced the difficulty of trying to get to Rome (in 1914!) before the doors closed on the conclave. Even Cardinal Gibbons, who had only to get to Rome from Baltimore (U.S.A.), arrived too late. The rules for the conclave were simply impossible for any cardinal who lived outside Europe.

Australia was at war. Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife had been assassinated at Sarajevo on 28th June and the United Kingdom (and therefore Australia) had declared war on Germany on 4th August and on Austria-Hungary on 12th.

The crowd that assembled in Woy Woy to welcome Archbishop Michael Kelly could not have failed to be affected by the sombre atmosphere that enveloped both Church and State at that time.

Pius X had done his best to avert war and his successor, Benedict XV, worked hard to bring the Great War to an end. He got no credit or thanks for this, however: the Germans felt that he favoured the French, and the French, that he favoured the Germans (or at least the Austrians). There is a CTS pamphlet on sale in our CTS display rack, explaining his role in the War.

So the church was blessed and opened at a critical time in church and world history. A war was starting that would end with most of the belligerents disappeared or weakened: there would be no German Empire, no Austro-Hungarian Empire; the British Empire would never be the same again; the United States would emerge as a major power; new nations would come about. Under Benedict XV and Pius XI, the Church would begin to move from the fortress mentality that prevailed until Pius X, to a fresh engagement with a changing world.

A hundred years later, everything is once again changing. May our mission event help us to face the future!

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Do not for - get the works of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

The Parish Mission Event: Book your seat on the bus now through the Parish office. Make a note of the times: 9.15 am and 7.30pm Thursday, Friday and Monday, with 10.30am and 7.30pm Sunday. Free admission for young and old, everyone is welcome. Come to one session—come as many as you like. You'll be so happy you did.

We need more warden volunteers for the events. Please contact Tony on 4342 4707 if you can help.

Baptism: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Nash James Harivel who was baptized last Sunday.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 19/9/14: Elena Egan, Sally Doyle, Melissa Krall.

Children's Liturgy Roster 21/9/14: Christine French (L) Geraldine Baxter (L)

Bus Trip: To Newcastle. Visit the Embroiders Guild Exhibition. Tuesday 16th September, leaving 9am. \$5 entry or wander around Newcastle. Bus Trip \$15 and morning tea. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Doreen Luff and Valda Passlow who were buried from our Church the past week.

Mary Mac's Garage Sale: October 11th Contact Christine on 0417 671 973. More details over the coming weeks.

Coffee/Tea/Chat: A group of seniors meet 3rd Monday each month due this Monday, 15th September, 1.30pm-3pm in the Leo Mahon room. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport available.

Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parishes: Proclaim 2014 this August offered practical tips into *evangelization and facilitating parish growth*.

If you are interested in receiving some of these invaluable insights, workshop and keynote presentations available as visual or audio for free online.

www.proclaimconference.com.au/resources

Planned Giving Envelopes and Taxation Receipts: Please collect from the gathering area.

Social Justice

Thomas Merton's Prayer for Peace:

O Loving God, help us to be masters of the weapons that threaten to master us. Help us to use science for peace and plenty, not for war and destruction. Show us how to use atomic power to bless our children's children, not to blight them. Save us from the compulsion to follow our adversaries in all that we most hate, confirming them

in their hatred and suspicion of us. Resolve our inner contradictions, which now grow beyond belief and beyond bearing. They are at once a torment and a blessing; for if you had not left us the light of conscience, we would not have to endure them. Teach us to be long-suffering in anguish and insecurity, teach us to wait and trust. Grant light, grant strength and patience to all who work for peace...grant us

prudence in proportion to our power, wisdom in proportion to our science, humaneness in proportion to our wealth and might. And bless our earnest will to help all races and peoples to travel, in friendship with us, along the road to justice, liberty and lasting peace.

Thomas Merton, Non-Violent Alternative, (59)

From the Diocese and beyond

Position Vacant—Parish Youth Ministry coordinator (Part Time Permanent) 15 hrs. per week, including some weekend work. Catholic Community of North Harbour, Broken Bay Diocese.

Areas of responsibility would include: planning, co-ordinating and overseeing activities related to youth in the parish. The primary focus of this ministry will be engaging with and leading young people to a fuller and richer experience of Christ and the Catholic faith. More information and a copy of job description visit parish website www.northharbourcatholic.org.au

and go to downloads on the left menu.

Applications to parishmanager@northharbourcatholic.org.au or Parish Manager, Catholic Community, 2 King St. Manly Vale. This position is subject to Working with Children Clearance. Closing Date: Friday, 19th September.

Quiet Reflection at the Grail Centre, 22 McHutton St. Nth Sydney, Tuesday, 16th September, 10am—12 noon. We

will be reflecting on some writings of Etty Hillesum, a Dutch Jewish woman who wrote an extraordinary account of her spiritual journey between 1941-1943, and who perished at the age of 29 in Auschwitz. Time for silent meditation and an opportunity to share thoughts in a group. More information phone Grail Centre 9955 3053 or contact ruthcrowe@ozemail.com.au

Spark Camp—For Young People in Years 7-9 at School:

Spark your light as you climb, fly, jump, sing, dance, laugh and much more, while meeting new friends and sharing your faith. The camp is open to all students in years 7-9 and will be facilitated by the Diocesan Youth Ministry staff, along with a team of school and parish youth ministry coordinators. The cost includes accommodation, food and all activities. Transport to the camp is not included. Sunday 21st Sept—Tuesday 23rd Sept. Southern Cross Outdoor Education Centre, Somersby. Cost: \$120 per person. Registration details www.dbb.org.au/youth

The Legion of Mary will be celebrating **Our Lady's Birthday** at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Hall, 165 Serpentine Road, Terrigal on Sunday, 28th September.

Beginning with 10am Mass and ending with Benediction at 4.30pm. Includes Rosary Procession and talks on Our Lady by Rev. Francis Afu of Armidale. Lunch BYO. Tea/Coffee provided. Enquiries: Parish: 4367 4610. Dawn 4367 6665 or Justine 4381 1255. Full details of the day's programme available on flyers on table in the gathering area.

The Oaktree Foundation is holding a free screening of "Poor Us" on Sunday, 28th September, 4.15-5.45pm in the Walter Baker Hall Oaktree is a youth-led organization with a vision to end extreme poverty within their generation.

Come along to the event with like-minded youths on the issue of extreme poverty. What are some actions that you personally can take? What are some changes that you want to see happen?



Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Sunday, September 14

Nm 21:4-9
Ps 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Phil 2:6-11
Jn 3:13-17

The feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross has its origins in the fourth century, when St. Helena, mother of Constantine, discovered what she believed to be the Cross of Christ. Constantine memorialised this discovery by having the churches of Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre constructed in Jerusalem. After the dedication of the churches, the feast was celebrated annually to commemorate the cross's discovery. We honour the cross because it is a sign of both the death of Jesus and his victory over death.

The episode in Numbers anticipates Jesus's crucifixion. The bronze seraph serpent that Moses makes is a sign of the death brought by the serpents, but it is also the sign that brings recovery from the snakebites. Moses mounts the bronze serpent on a pole and lifts it up in the sight of the people so that when "any who have been bitten look at it, they will live" (v 8).

Paul speaks of how Jesus "emptied himself, / taking the form of a slave, / coming in human likeness" (v 7). In response to Jesus's self-abasement, "God greatly exalted him" (v 9). For Paul, this example of humility is one we ought to follow as disciples of Christ. Unlike Adam and Eve, who sought to exalt themselves by eating the forbidden fruit, Christ shows us an example of true humility in embracing humanity and accepting death, "even death on a cross" (v 8).

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of himself as "the one who has come down from heaven" (v 13). As God's Son, he came into the world so "that the world might be saved through him" (v 17). His being "lifted up" (v 14) refers to the crucifixion; for John, this represents not defeat but triumph, the hour of Jesus's glory.

For reflection: Do I think of the cross as a sign of defeat or of victory? Is the cross or crucifix displayed in a prominent place in my home?

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 21

Is 55:6-9
Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Phil 1:20-24, 27
Mt 20:1-16

Isaiah reminds us that God "is generous in forgiving" (v 7). The Lord tells us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, / nor are your ways my ways" (v 8). We should not expect God to act as we would; rather we should strive to conform our actions to the mind of God. God calls sinners to return, not so that they might be condemned but that they might be forgiven.

The church in Philippi was the first Christian community in Europe, a major step in the growth of Christianity. Writing from prison (see v 7), Paul calls the Philippians to persevere in their faith, conducting themselves "in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ" (v 27). Not knowing whether he will face death or release from prison, he longs "to depart this life and be with Christ" (v 23). But to "remain in the flesh / is more necessary for your benefit" (v 24).

The parable of the workers in the vineyard makes many people uncomfortable. Why should someone who worked only an hour get the same pay as someone who "bore the day's burden and the heat" (v 12)? It doesn't seem fair. Jesus tells this parable to teach us that God is more concerned with being merciful than with being fair. We should not be envious because God is generous (v 15).

For reflection: Am I an all-day labourer, or have I come to work late in the day? What is my response to God's mercy extended to others? Do I see God as not fair or as generous?

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



Even though the Lord led them out of Egypt and provided for their every need, the people in today's first reading were complaining and ungrateful. Does my stewardship of God's gifts show that I know from Whom they came and am grateful?



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 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria 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

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 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.

Weddings at Sunday Mass

Paul Turner

A Catholic wedding may take place during a regularly scheduled parish Sunday Mass. Many people think about a wedding as a separate event to which specific people are invited, but it is permissible to celebrate the rite of marriage within a Mass at which members of the parish community are already gathered on their own.

Various circumstances may suggest this idea. Perhaps the bride and groom are well known to the people who attend a specific Mass at the parish, and they would all like to share this joyful day together. Perhaps the couple has very few friends in the area but would like a larger community to witness their marriage. Perhaps the church already has a crowded schedule of services on the weekend when the couple would like to be wed, and they could take advantage of a Mass already on the calendar. Perhaps the priest travels to various church buildings on Sundays and will be only briefly in the locale where the bride and groom would like the service.

If either the bride or the groom is not a Catholic, their wedding usually takes place

outside of Mass. But when both are Catholic, they usually celebrate the wedding during a Mass. Sunday Mass makes one option.

If the Sunday falls during Ordinary Time of the liturgical year, one of the Scripture readings normally assigned for the day may be replaced with one from the wedding lectionary (*Order of Celebrating Marriage*, 34). At other times of year, the readings are always taken from the Sunday lectionary.

The couple may join the entrance procession behind the ministers and the priest. People sing the congregational parts of the Mass. The exchange of consent and nuptial blessing take place as they do in any wedding Mass.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2014 Resource Publications, Inc., 5369 Camden Ave., #260, San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay