



# The Voice

21st June 2015

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 4



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**  
Dominic Briscoe.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Joy Ryan, Wafaa El-Khatib,  
Fr. David Hume, David Steele.  
Joan Fitzgerald, Kath Leonard.
- **Remembrances:**  
Jim Walker.
- **Sick:** June Ferry, Kate Stinson,  
Janelle Darson, Pauline White,  
Past Bombell, Kevin Houghton,  
Lola Proctor, Beryl Allen,  
Fr. Brian Rowland,  
Fr. Bill Meacham,  
Alan Harland, Terry Curtis,  
Grace Williams, Irene Beck,  
Roy Beveridge, Arnold Diorio,  
Rene Glaze, Audrey Winsbury,  
Peter Kenneth Thorson,  
Patricia Welsh, Bruce Spence.,  
Peter Crookes.

Every element of the universe, even the most destructive, is listening for the voice of Our Lord, "Quiet, be still." In this Gospel story, the waters of chaos respond to the voice of the Lord of all creation, allowing Jesus to accompany his disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

We all know of times when chaos storms into our life, when we feel we are being swamped whether from outside or from some part of our own personality. Some part of our life is facing death. We may cry out to Jesus "Don't you care?"

He *will* come to accompany us but always to "the other side". Our Lord does not indulge the fantasy of "turning back the clock". We have to keep rowing in a new direction. There is no

nostalgic return to the old situation. We may well feel displaced, disoriented, but Our Lord is our companion in the unfamiliar situation we have reached.

We could take a moment to pray for Our Lord to help us in all life-threatening situations, especially in the final transit through the wrenching chaos of death. May we hear him rebuke the Prince of Darkness and Death: "Quiet, be still" as he accompanies us to the other side, to the promised land of Heaven.

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## Psalalm Response

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Give thanks to the Lord; his love is ever-lasting.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Our Patronal Feast of St. John the Baptist** will be celebrated next Sunday, 28th June. Our Catechist team will serve morning tea in the Leo Mahon room following 9.15am Mass to which you are warmly invited. Also, supper will be held after 6pm Mass—please bring a plate to share in the Leo Mahon room.

**From the school**—we will celebrate the Feast of St John the Baptist with Mass at 9.00am on Wednesday, 24 June in the school hall (21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy South). Mass will be followed by cake & coffee.

**Installation:** 9.15am Mass, July 26th 2015 will see Bishop Peter return to Woy Woy to install Fr. Jack as our Parish Priest and Frs. Timothy and Philip as our Assistant Priests.

The occasion will be marked with morning tea in the Leo Mahon room to which you are warmly invited.

**2015 e Conference** live over the internet this Tuesday 23rd June, 10am-2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Topic: Religion: Catalyst

for Violence or Peace? Probing the Abrahamic traditions for answers. This conference will tap into interfaith issues Judaism and Islam. For catering purposes, please write your name on the list in the gathering area if you are attending.

**St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Appeal** will be held next weekend, 27th- 28th June.

**St. Vincent de Paul** urgently requires donations of 8ply wool for their volunteer knitters, Please contact Joan 0422 272 339 if you can help.

**Catechists Meeting** Thursday 25th June, 9am in the Leo Mahon room. Lots to report! Share your news! Bring your ideas for finding *new* catechists to join our dwindling group. Enquiries always welcome. Contact Susie Simmons 0411 566 622.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 28/6/15:** Kylie Spicer, Therese Carroll, Carol Yates.

**Church Cleaning Roster 26/6/15:** Maria Wickens, Julie Vanderputt, Warren Sparrow.

**Altar Flowers:** A single display of silk flowers is to be installed at the base of the Altar. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the purchase of these flowers is kindly asked to make their donation at the parish office or via the collection at Mass in an envelope clearly marked "Altar Flowers".

**Liturgy Meeting** meeting Tuesday, 23rd June, 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

**Family Ministry** meeting Thursday, 25th June, 1pm in the Riley room of the Ethel Cox Centre.

**Ordination to the Diaconate:** Brother Matthew Boland, O.P. will be ordained to the Diaconate by Archbishop Anthony Fisher. O.P. on 4th July, 10.30am. St. Benedict's Church, 104 Broadway. Parishioners are invited to attend. Refreshments will follow across the courtyard from the church. R.S.V.P. By 24th June. [matthew.boland@op.org.au](mailto:matthew.boland@op.org.au) or [james.baxter@op.org.au](mailto:james.baxter@op.org.au)

**Bus Trip—Toronto via Toukley** Wednesday, 1 July leaving 9am. Cost \$15, call Susie 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

## The Just Word

**14-20 June Refugee Week:** From the website of the Refugee Council of Australia:

*Refugee Week provides a platform where positive images of refugees can be promoted in order to create a culture of welcome throughout the country. The ultimate aim of the celebration is to create a better understanding between different communities and to encourage successful integration enabling refugees to live in safety and continue making a valuable contribution to Australia.*

**Global Refugee numbers:** The number of people displaced by persecution and conflict as at 31 December 2013 was estimated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) at 51.2 million—33.3 million internally displaced persons, 16.7 million refugees and 1.2 million asylum seekers, Of the 16.7 million refugees, 11.7 million were refugees under UNHCR's mandate and 5.0 million were Palestinian refugees under the mandate of the UN Relief and Works Agency.

**Key Countries of origin and asylum:** The top five countries of origin for refugees under UNHCR's mandate as at December 2013 were Afghanistan (2,556,556), Syria (2,468,369), Somalia (1,121,738), Sudan (569,212) and Democratic Republic of Congo (499,541). The five countries hosting the largest number of refugees were Pakistan (1,616,507), Iran (857,354),

Lebanon (856,546), Jordan (641,915) and Turkey (609,938). UNHCR ranked Australia 48th for hosting refugees (62nd per capita and 85th relative to total national Gross Domestic Product) with 34,503 refugees.

**Protracted situations:** UNHCR estimates that 6.3 million (54%) of the 11.7 million refugees under its mandate are in protracted refugee situations) left with no durable solution for five years or more). The University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Centre says that the average length of displacement for these refugees is 'approaching 20 years'.

*From Refugee Council of Australia, 'Refugee Needs and Trends: A Statistical Snapshot. August 2014.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**WYD Pilgrim Information Sessions:** If you are interested in joining our WYD Pilgrim Information Session we will present information regarding itineraries, costing, pilgrim considerations, leadership, supervision, and the support of the diocese. Thurs. 25th June, 7.30pm-9.30pm. St. Leo's Catholic College, 16 Woolcott Ave. Wahroonga. R.S.V.P. [wyd@dbb.or.au](mailto:wyd@dbb.or.au)

**Day Retreat- Desiring God's Will:** Fr. Aloysius Rego, OCD. 247 St. Andrews Rd., Varroville.

Cost: \$20. Phone 8795 3400. [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com) [www.retreats@carmelite.com](http://www.retreats@carmelite.com) "We will consider how to open ourselves to God's will". Registration: 9am-10.15am. Retreat 10.20am-4pm. Tea/coffee provided. BYO lunch. Pick-ups from Minto station: 9.30am and 10am.

**"In the Footsteps of St. Mary of the Cross".** Have you considered participating in the National Pilgrimage? While on the pilgrimage it gives you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St. Mary of the Cross. While on pilgrimage you are invited to reflect on St. Mary of the Cross's life and recognize her relevance in your own life. Dates: 21st October-31st October. Cost ex Sydney: \$2,700 (all inclusive: airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and all meals). Single supplement \$530.00. Further information: Phone 8912 4858. or [therese.leydon@sosj.org.au](mailto:therese.leydon@sosj.org.au)



# Old Testament Commentary

by Mark O'Brien

## Job 38:1, 8-11

One could say that the book of Job is in a sense about boundaries or limitations. It is a fictional tale about a non-Israelite from the land of Uz (therefore perhaps representing any human being) and is arranged like an upstairs-downstairs play; Job and his friends are downstairs on earth and haven't a clue about what's going on upstairs in heaven where God and the Satan are (not our devil but a kind of prosecuting attorney or trouble shooter). The reader is however permitted to eavesdrop on both realms and to assess the relationship between them. Is God being just in taking up the Satan's mocking question 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' and allowing him to test Job to see who wins the bet? God has effectively wagered his divinity on his creature; that's how highly God esteems 'my servant' Job (the human being). The reader is then invited to listen in on the debate downstairs between a sorely afflicted Job and his three friends (as friends, they are genuinely concerned for him). If they and Job knew why he was being afflicted it would kill the story and the drama of the play - the struggle by us earthlings to explain reality. The friends believe that the traditional view best accounts for Job's situation; it is some kind of punishment for sin. Job has overstepped a forbidden boundary somewhere along the line. Job will have none of the traditional view and steps out into the unknown, challenging God to explain the suffering of the innocent. It is the great question of theodicy; can one justify God in the face of such evil?

What is particularly intriguing about the book is our reading. The theologian (s) who composed it have God enter the human realm at this point but without answering Job's agonising question. Instead God takes Job on a guided tour of creation to show him how everything is in its proper place and God is definitely in charge - as evident in

the poetic depiction of God setting the boundaries beyond which the foaming sea shall not trespass. The questions that God fires at Job are unanswerable from a human point of view. We just cannot see things as God does and so account for all of reality. As Job says halfway through the tour, 'See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?'. Does this indicate that Job fears/reveres God for nothing and so the Satan has lost the bet? That is, one must revere God above all things - particularly the desire to know the answers. The text does not say and leaves it up to readers to draw their conclusions. Although Job is obliged to admit that he cannot penetrate the mystery of creation let alone of God, the guided tour does, or is designed to, assure him that he is embraced within the divine order of creation as much as any other part of it. What he is experiencing is not chaos.

## Psalm 106:23-26, 28-31

The responsorial psalm gives thanks to God for protection, care and deliverance in a variety of situations, including sin. All of these testify to God's steadfast love or *khesed*, a Hebrew term that expresses God's unswerving commitment to humanity and creation and to bringing the divine purpose for both to its fulfilment. Our selection from the psalm refers to sailors and traders at sea. Ancient Israel was not a seafaring nation, unlike the Philistines and Phoenicians who were the great traders of the Mediterranean coast, and one has the impression that Israel did not warm to the idea of sea travel (cf. the fictional tale of Jonah who gets into trouble on a sea voyage and is swallowed by a giant fish).




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St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that Christ died "so that those who live might live no longer for themselves." What we give to and do for others, we give to and do for Jesus!

See 2 Corinthians 5:15

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## 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** 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 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 Wednesdays 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 0243 445 049.

**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. and McMasters Rd. 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 the Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818. oceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY** – for information and events contact Robyn on 0432 619 182.

## Old Testament Commentary

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The upside of this is that Israelites probably did not take the sea for granted and so were sensitive to its power, majesty and danger.

Hence it could provide a powerful image or metaphor for exploring in poetic fashion the infinite power of God and the human being's complete dependence on God. This God, who can create the mighty storms that one encounters at sea is also the God who, in a maelstrom that overwhelms the senses, can hear the faint cry of the distressed and in response use that same infinite power to still the storm

to a whisper and create complete calm. God is as present to those distressed and in danger at sea as God is in the mighty storm. The transcendent God is the immanent God and vice versa. There is some similarity of thought here to the reading from Job. And God's care is not a passing thing (like a storm) but ongoing; as the psalm states 'he led them to the haven they desired'. Those who trust in God and cry to God in need will arrive at their journey's end.

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We're on the Web!  
[www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://www.woywoycatholic.org.au)



Diocese of  
Broken Bay