

The Voice

19th June 2016

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Psalter Week 4



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
John Dooley, Yolanda Venega,
Tom Jackson, Rita Connell,
Kevin Davies, Stephen Nelson.
- **Anniversaries:**
Irma Carberry, John Ashley,
Bede Ashley,
Patrick John Simmons.,
Fr. Paul Campbell. OFM.
- **Remembrances:**
Ellen and David O'Regan,
Barbara Cooper.
- **And the sick:**
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
Bill Hunt, Lindsay Hardy,
Rene Glase, Peter John Grima,
Jack Moulds, Rosemary Anderson,
Maryanne Diorio, Tracey Passlow,
Bruce Spence, Frank Schmidt,
Keith Maiden, Kate Stinson,
Mary Ann Gormley, Beryl Allen,
Lorna Russom, Carren Quinn,
Coral Williams, Irene Beck,
Jonell Georges, Cara Rodigus,
Ralph Weate, Keith Oakes,
John Allen, Anne Singleton,
Don Boland, Celeste Boonaerts,
Cheryl Douglas, Albie Curtis,
Vince Zappavigna, Louisa Dunn,
Bryan Moroney, James Mulquinney,
Lisa Hill, Cate Stinson, Janelle
Dawson, Nola Davies.

The Pope and the Right Words

The identity of Jesus has fascinated people century after century, indeed now after two millennia. That identity has so much depth that it is easy to be misled by emphasising one element to the neglect of mystery.

In today's Gospel, we hear Peter proclaim: 'You are the Christ of God'. So Peter is saying: 'You are the Anointed One of God', the Messiah yearned for by the Jewish people.

This inspired insight is good so far as it goes. But did you notice the strange twist in the story? Jesus instructs Peter and the other disciples not to say anything, to keep quiet, not to spread this description of him. Why?

Jesus knew that this title could so easily be misunderstood.

One of the temptations which Jesus had faced was a short cut to the success of his mission.

He could use his popularity to marshal political support and achieve his program with sovereign power overcoming opposition ideologies.

But, Jesus rejected that greatest temptation. He had read enough of the prophet Isaiah to know that humiliation and suffering and the desolation of a wrenching death was the way marked out for him.

Jesus knew that Peter, the rest of the disciples, and certainly the crowd, had nowhere near reached that point. Jesus understood the tragic, frightening implications of being 'the Anointed One of God'.

And Jesus knew Peter very well. His birth name was Simon. Jesus changed that to Peter. It was a nickname full of irony. It means 'rock' in Greek and conveys the

idea of rock solid, dependable. But for this effervescent, changeable fisherman, 'Sandy' might have been more accurate than 'Rocky', Jesus knew Peter very well.

If anyone could claim to understand the true identity of Jesus, but then completely misunderstand it, it was Peter. So, he was told to keep quiet.

Nevertheless, grace had been given to Peter: to find correct words to express the faith of the disciples, the followers of Jesus, and thereby to tell the truth, even if not yet the whole truth in all its dimensions and implications.

This is still the role of the successor of St Peter, the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. By the grace of God, the Pope finds the right words to express the faith of the followers of Jesus.

We need to pray that the Pope continues to find the right words to express the faith of the church about Jesus in ways appropriate for our times. For example, he needs to find the words to express the fact that:

Jesus is more than a prophet. Even Islam believes that Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet, but Peter's successor needs to lead Muslims to a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus.

Jesus is more than a fully enlightened, compassionate being. Even Buddhism can believe that Jesus of Nazareth was such a being, but Peter's successor needs to lead Buddhists to a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus.

Jesus is more than a wise teacher who portrayed a noble way of life and was done to death by a squad of Roman soldiers. Many in the western world believe that much, but Peter's successor

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Psalms Response

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My soul for you is thirst-ing, O God my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

World Youth Day Pilgrim Blessing Mass: The WYD blessing Mass is to publicly acknowledge and formally bless the diocesan pilgrims prior to leaving on their WYD pilgrimage. At this Mass for all pilgrims, leaders, chaplains, supporters, pilgrims will receive the pilgrim pack and representative T-shirts for the event. We also invite all community leaders and pilgrim family members to join in this joyous event., Tuesday, 28th June. Mass 7.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Yardley Avenue, Waitara. RSVP: youth@dbb.org.au for catering.

WYD 2016 Krakow Fund Raising: Raffle, Chocolate Sales and guessing Jar at all Masses this weekend to raise funds for our youth journeying to Poland.

Bus Trip to St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Nth. Sydney for 11am Mass with parishioners from East Gosford Parish. Wednesday, 29th June, leaving 8.30am. Cost: \$15. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639 for all bookings, enquiries and payments.

Morning Tea Roster 26/6/16 will be our Parents and Friends Group.

Childrens Liturgy Roster 26/6/16: Kylie Spicer, Carol Yates, Therese Carroll.

Catechists: Your prayers are asked for our Catechists that they are given the guidance of the Holy Spirit to persevere in their efforts to bring their children to Jesus. St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop—Keep them healthy and joyous in God's service. We, in turn, will keep our fellow parishioners in our prayers.

St. John the Baptist Feast Day Mass will be celebrated at the school, Monday, 27th June, 12 noon. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Coffee 'N Chat: Yay! Pat and Phil are joining us. Now what about you? We need you for good company. 3rd Monday each month in the Leo Mahon room. Arrive around 1.00pm. We'll even pick you up. Coffee and chat, sandwiches, scones and good companions. Ring Bernie for bus/car on 4341 6343.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 24/6/16: Maria Wickens, Pam Hickey, Judy French, Warren Sparrow.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish offers prayerful sympathy to family and friends of John Dooley who will be buried from our church this week.

Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion New rosters now available.

The Live, Pray, Love Project will hold an event to celebrate it's vibrant and diverse community at a cultural day event on Sunday 3rd July by the sounds of music from Colombia, Spain, Chilli. Performances include the Flamenco, Salsa, Belly Dance, Paso Doble to name a few. It is the beginning of NAIDOC Week and Mr. Ray McMinn will perform a Welcome to Country. Walter Baker Hall. 12md-5pm.

Bring a cultural dish or a plate of food to share.

There will be fun activities for the children so bring them along. Call Gladys 0421 312 362 if you have any questions.

Catechists Meeting this Thursday, 23rd June, 9.00am in the Leo Mahon room.

Liturgy Meeting this Thursday 23rd June, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Invitation to the Ordination of Brother Matthew Boland OP. 9th July, 10am. St. Benedict's Church, 104 Broadway, Broadway. Full details on notice board. R.S.V.P. 26/6/16.

SVdP Winter Cash Appeal raised \$4173—the Peninsula Conferences thank you for your generous donations.

The Winter Clothing Appeal is 25/26 June—bags are available in the gathering area.

The Just Word

What is this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy all about?

Pope Francis' desire is that all people of God will be more attentive to the Father's mercy and forgiving love and that his mercy will be spread throughout the world.

So...what is mercy? The dictionary defines mercy as 'compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm'. The mercy is love and that love climaxes in the Incarnation of God's only son—Jesus who was born, died and rose from the dead. As we can see in the

Gospels, Jesus is for us the model of God's mercy.

How can we show mercy in our families and our communities. A good place to begin is to be more aware not to judge people. Instead of judging others, it is better to show mercy and leave the judgement to God.

The capacity for us humans to show mercy is expressed more readily with those with whom we have a special relationship. Perhaps this year, we might be more mindful of those whom we might casually pass judgement upon—migrants, refugees the unemployed, parishioners, neighbours, even family and

friends. When we judge people, we assume the role of God. Perhaps, also we could make a concerted effort not to gossip. Through gossip we put our judgements out to the universe which creates the capacity to multiply the damage as the gospel is spread. We are called to love our neighbour—the ones we like and the others we might have a problem with. If you are inclined to gossip about others, I urge you to pray for those people and to show mercy to them rather than to judge them.

Let us be 'merciful like the Father'.

CCD Diocesan Co-ordinator, Alison Newell.

From the Diocese and beyond

Proclaim 2016 early bird registration ends 27 June. This national conference on parish evangelisation hosted by the Diocese of Broken Bay will run from 1-3 September at Chatswood. The theme, 'On a Mission of Mercy: Evangelising Parishes', so that our practices, resources, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world. (Evangelii Gaudium 27). Keynote speakers include Cardinal

Donald Wuerl of Washington, Bishop Nicholas Hudson of Westminster and Dr. Susan Timoney from Washington. Program details and registration at www.proclaimconference.com.au

Will a new government protect religious liberty?: Religious liberty is an important freedom that is increasingly under threat. What is the fundamental importance of religious liberty and why does it need to be protected?

The Ambrose Centre for Religious Liberty in conjunction with the Diocese of Broken Bay invites all to attend a free talk with Bishop Peter Comensoli and Mr. Rocco Mimmo, Ambrose Centre Founder and Chairman. Arrive 7.15pm for 7.30pm start (refreshments available-gold coin donation). Our Lady of the Rosary Primary Hall, 23 Yardley Ave., Waitara.

Behind Illusion

Ron Raab

I wake up to the reality of my own selfishness every day. People living under bridges or under caves of cardboard reveal to me how I take for granted the easy life I live as a priest. People suffering severe illnesses of the mind model for me a sincere trust in how life unfolds.

I worry about my own survival, even when my religious community pays for my health insurance, even when I sleep in a safe, heated room on a clean bed each night. I cling to my internal fretting, even though I overeat every day. I remain anxious, even though I have friends to shelter me from the bitter cold of loneliness and self-pity. Each day I see more clearly beyond my illusions of fear as I look into my own heart, as I ponder the incredible gifts God gives me.

Living and working among people suffering poverty allows me to realise that I cling to my external possessions and fears. I hold on because I believe that these possessions identify me in the world. Without these labels, I fear I would lose my place in society, my status in the church, my image among my friends. I live the labels of priest, preacher, friend, writer, or cook because without these names I fear I would not be known to God or to myself.

I listen to the Gospel of Luke in these four weeks from mid-July to mid-August, realising our possessions do not name us. Luke invites us again to examine our relationship with all that claims us. Our real identity rests in letting things go in order to discover God behind our illusions.

Jesus tells us to not be afraid any longer, even when we are asked to sell all we own and give alms. Jesus promises us that our lasting treasure, our authentic identity and relationships, will come in this action. In fact, we will also find our genuine selves, our hearts' desires, and even eternity in Christ.

Many church leaders live in fear today. Our natural instinct is to protect our children after the crisis of the sex crimes of some clergy. We worry over fewer young people attending Mass. We fret over vocations to the priesthood when we bury our aged clergy. We agonise over the rules of the church in days when our faith seems watered down as we struggle to find our authentic Catholic identity. We stew over mixed-culture parishes when downsizing and consolidation seem to be the only answers for survival.

Luke invites us not to worry over our struggles, our identities, and our futures. He challenges us to not even view our faith as a possession. We are called to welcome those who challenge us, love those who hate us, and offer hospitality to those who cannot repay us. Luke shows us that we must rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way of living the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

If we listen carefully to these passages of Luke's Gospel, we will learn to rely on the daily bread that is offered us and even, in turn, offer it to someone who begs at nightfall. He teaches us not to worry about the externals of the church and not to hide our deep trust in God's love for us. We may fret and be anxious, as Martha was serving the person of Christ. However, we must realise that the true presence of Christ is within us forever.

We must learn from people in poverty, whom Luke calls us to serve. This knowledge offers survival to our communities of faith. We give alms to realise our trust in God, not to make us feel better about our own generosity. We do not offer the marginalised food, shelter, clothing, and communion to show other people how much faith we have or to make us look good to someone else. We offer people faith and love so we may be converted to an even deeper love.

If we are to live the model of the sacramental church, then we must be converted when the bread of life is broken and shared, when the cup of salvation is poured out for the many. This sacramental action will allow us to release our grasp on many of our possessions and allow us to become the people we claim to be: followers of Christ, who gave up even his life for our sake. The action of the Eucharist becomes Luke's message for us to give up our pretence, our security, and everything we own to become people of authentic trust and deep love.

People who live on the edge of survival teach me to trust this genuine life God gives me. This process of self-stripping, of letting go of my false identity, gives me courage to live out the gospel message, to serve people in poverty, and to receive my portion of God's offering of daily bread. **ML**

Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as an associate pastor at the Downtown Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Portland, Ore. He hosts the radio program On the Margins, a weekly Gospel reflection that can be heard online at KBVM.com. His email address is raab@downtownchapel.org From Ministry & Liturgy,



"Who do you say that I am?"
 Jesus asks Peter in today's Gospel. Does my use of the gifts and talents entrusted to me accurately reflect *my* answer to that same question? How willing am I to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow in His steps?

See Luke 9:20



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.

The Pope and the Right Words (continues)

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needs to lead them to a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus.

The Pope needs to find the words to proclaim to the world that Jesus of Nazareth

is the body language of God

is the conqueror of death, the vanquisher of the grave

is the One anointed to bring us salvation

is the One who will transfigure our bodies in the light of his resurrection

is the One who will fill us with eternal joy.

© Fr Michael Tate

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.

**The Feast of St John the Baptist,
our Patronal Feast, will be celebrated
at all Sunday Masses, 25th/26th June,
instead of Friday 24th June
and all readings will be of the Feast.**

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-6

Resp. Psalm: Ps 138:1-3, 13-15. Rv.14

2nd Reading: Acts 13:22-26

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66. 80.