



# The Voice

9th October 2016 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Psalter Week 4



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Anniversaries:**  
Sharyn Gapps, Noelle Davidovic, James and Elizabeth Carr, Barry Follett.
- **Remembrances:**  
Sr. Kay Ferguson, Bruno de Souza, Bernie Hanna, Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**  
Rene Glase, Beryl Allen, Jack Moulds, Peter John Grima, Tracie Passlow, Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence, Maryanne Diorio, John Allen, Coral Williams, Vince Zappavigna, Bryan Moroney, Irene Beck, Alan Harland, Audrey Barsendich, Keith Oakes, Heather Joyce, Albie Curtis, Celeste Boonaerts, Louise Dunn, Jannelle Dawson, Nola Davies, Margaret Thoms, Baby Winter, Kaye Purser, Helen McKeon, Frank Schmidt, Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Lorna Russom, Margaret Jackson, Maureen Cowsls, Jason Wellin, Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon, Maureen Carlon, Keith Carlon. Sr Margaret Wall, rsj. Carren Quinn.

There was once a parish priest who, with the passing of the years, had become a very difficult pastor. The president of the parish council decided to write to the Bishop and ask for the priest's removal. The Bishop reluctantly agreed, but insisted that the parish council arrange for a good farewell for the departing priest, one with a strong spiritual motif. The council agreed. They planned an elegant farewell that would begin with the singing of a hymn.

At the farewell the president began, 'For many years Father has been telling us that Jesus sent him into our parish. More recently, Father has been saying that Jesus requires him to stay in our parish. And, though he hasn't said it, I guess it follows now that Jesus has decided that it's time for Father to move on from our parish. I'd like you all to stand and join me in singing what is now my favourite hymn, "We give thanks to Jesus with all our hearts!"'

Have you noticed how the words 'please' and 'thank you' are less frequently used these days? Many people seem to act and speak as though anything done for them is entirely their due; no recognition, no please and no thank you. This should not come as a great surprise; there's been a rapid shift to seeing many social institutions as commodities rather than services and we always want value for money from commodities. My fear is that we are increasingly treating people as commodities as well. By contrast, however, Christians are identified by asking for what we need and being grateful for every blessing.

The Gospel of Luke was written about 60 years after the death of Jesus, most probably for the Gentile community at Antioch in Syria. It has four major themes: compassion, healing, prayer, and the outsider. Luke loves telling stories about the Gentiles, not only because they are outsiders, but also because they often show up the faith of the Jews. The story of the ten lepers has Luke at his best.

Lepers were until this century treated as outcasts. Also, in Jesus' day, they were considered sinful and ritually impure. If one touched a leper one incurred that same fate. The leper who comes back to Jesus, however, was also a Samaritan! This guy can't win a trick! He is a leper, a Gentile and a Samaritan. He would have been rejected and despised by everyone, even the other Jewish lepers.

The story of the ten lepers is not just about asking for what we need and being grateful when we get it, as important as that is. In this rich and multi-layered story, Jesus does three things: he reaches out to the untouchables of his day; he heals them and enables them to be welcomed back into the community; he draws attention to the fact that the poorest of the lepers, a Samaritan, is the only one who can recognise the source of the healing and has the humility to return and praise God for it.

As well as the virtue of gratitude, then, Jesus also announces that the Christian community is the place where there is no such thing as an unclean or untouchable person. Jesus touches the lepers and then goes about his business. In doing so he rejects centuries of ritual taboos. We are called to do the same today. We are challenged to get our hands dirty with the most unclean groups of our society, confront the assumptions that marginalise and oppress them, and defend their rights to dignity and participation. Not surprisingly Christians who do this often report the same experience as Jesus: they are staggered at the gratitude and faith of the people society has rejected.

May this Eucharist then be a celebration of the fact there is nothing in our life or in our world that Christ won't touch and heal. All we have to do is say 'please' and 'thank you'. May it also give us strength to go out and do likewise in the name of Him who has healed us, finding the humility to keep singing that great old hymn, 'We give thanks to Jesus with all our hearts'.

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### Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

The Lord has re-vealed to the na - tions, his sa - ving pow'r.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!** For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus. **Alleluia!**

## Around the Parish

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Maksimus Cox, Imogen McAndrew, Adam O'Brien, Chloe Oehm and Leo Saez who were baptised last Sunday.

**Children's Liturgy Roster**  
16/10/16: Kylie Spicer, Frances Giunta, Isaak Giunta.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning**  
14/10/16: Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan, Christine French, Michael French.

**Bus Trip to Mangrove Mountain for a Picnic.**  
Wednesday, 12th October, leaving 8.50am. Cost: \$25. Morning and lunch provided. Contact Susie 0403 417 639 for all enquiries, bookings, and payments.

**Mary Mac's Garage Sale:** Save your treasures, Save the date. Saturday 12th November. Drop your treasures Friday 11th. No electrical or large furniture please. Christine Burge 0417 671 973.

**Can you drive the bus once a month?** Our Parish Bus Service is in danger of folding as we do not have enough drivers. Can you help once a month for either Saturday or Sunday Masses? If you need to upgrade your license to an L.R. License, the Parish Council will sponsor the upgrade. For more information contact Bernard on 4341 6343 or the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

**Of Grace and Faith Study Group** meeting Thursday, 13th October, 11am. Leo Mahon room.

**Catholic Missions Yearly Appeal** will be held at all Masses the weekend 22nd/23rd October. Envelopes for the appeal are in the church for your convenience. The need is great and your generosity would be appreciated.

**Ministry to the Sick:** Please ring the Parish office if you know of a family member, a friend or a parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

If someone is being admitted to hospital, please notify the Parish office for a priest to visit as due to Hospital Privacy Policy, the clergy are not automatically notified.

## The Just Word

**World Habitat Day 9/10/16:**  
The United Nations' World Habitat Day is a day to reflect on the state of human settlements and people's rights to sufficient shelter. It also aims to remind people that they are responsible for the habitat of future generations. The notion of the common goods also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of

sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic

question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who follow us. The Portuguese bishops have called upon us to acknowledge this obligation of justice: 'The environment is part of a logic of receptivity. It is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next.' An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision.

**Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #159.**

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Loss and Grief Workshop:**  
The *Seasons for Growth* workshop provides participants an opportunity to learn more about the nature and consequences of change, loss and grief in our life. Monday, 24th October or 5th December, 9.30am-12.30pm. Flora Room, Mary MacKillop Place, 7-11 Mount St. Nth. Sydney. Cost: \$15. Please Register here: [mmpevent.bookings@sosj.org.au](mailto:mmpevent.bookings@sosj.org.au)

**menALIVE Weekend** at St. Patrick's Catholic Parish, 76 York St. East Gosford, 22/23 October. All men (Dads/Grandads/Brothers and Uncles) are invited to this dynamic and powerful menALIVE weekend gathering at St. Pat's as follows: Saturday 8am-9pm, Sunday 8.30am-1.30pm at St. Patrick's Hall, Victoria Street School Campus. Only \$50 or \$25 concession, which includes workshops, morning and afternoon teas and BBQ dinner on Saturday night. To book log on to [www.trybooking.com/LQJU](http://www.trybooking.com/LQJU) or phone Parish office 4325 1042.

### St. Aloysius' College—Open Day— Sunday 23rd October:

St. Aloysius' College invites you to attend our biennial Open Day. We will demonstrate how St. Aloysius' educates young men on conscience, competence, compassion and commitment. This is an opportunity for you to tour our facilities and to meet our teachers and students, providing an insight into teaching and learning at St. Aloysius'. A range of co-curricular activities including Sports, Drama, Music and Cadets will be on display, showcasing the well-rounded school experience the College offers. Staff and students will be also available to share with you the religious and spiritual life of the College, how we care for each student, and partner with their parents as they become "Men for Others".

Junior School (Years 3 to 6) 9.30am-12.30pm at 29 Burton St. Milson's Point.

Senior School (Years 7 to 12): 10.30am-1.00pm at 47 Upper Pitt

St, Milsons Point.

Bookings are not required. For further information, please visit the College website: [www.staloyisius.nsw.edu.au](http://www.staloyisius.nsw.edu.au) or contact: The Registrar, Phone: 02 9936 5535. Email: [registrar@staloyisius.nsw.edu.au](mailto:registrar@staloyisius.nsw.edu.au) Please note parking in the area is limited; however, parking is available at Luna Park (charges apply).

**"Sara's Place":** A much needed pregnancy crisis centre has opened in Gosford for women with unplanned pregnancies to receive counselling, support and practical assistance to continue with their pregnancies. The centre will also be a place of understanding and counselling for those women suffering as a result of pregnancy loss including abortion and miscarriage.

We are calling for volunteers to be trained and to devote some of their time to share in this great work on behalf of pregnant women in need. Full training will be provided. Your help is urgently needed. Phone Linda 1300 851 592 or Paul Sheeran on 0408 677 432.

# Scripture Readings

9th October 2016

Bruce Janiga

## 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 9

2 Kgs 5:14–17  
Ps 97:1–4 R. see v.2  
2 Tm 2:8–13  
Lk 17:11–19

Naaman, the cured leper in Kings, returns to Elisha and declares that “there is no God in all the earth, / except in Israel” (v 15). His offer of a gift is refused, so he asks for “two mule-loads of earth” (v 17) to bring back to his country, Aram. There he will “offer holocaust or sacrifice” exclusively to the Lord, the God of Israel, acknowledging that he is Lord of all the earth.

In Second Timothy today we are called to be faithful to Christ; we might be imprisoned for the sake of the gospel, but “the word of God is not chained” (v 9). Because we are united with Jesus in baptism, “we shall also live with him” (v 11). Many in the early church suffered, “even to the point of chains, like a criminal” (v 9), knowing that God would not abandon them. We are called to persevere as they did. Our last verse today holds out hope for those who have been “unfaithful” (v 13): Christ’s offer of forgiveness stands firm.

The healing of the 10 lepers reminds us of God’s grace and our obligation to be grateful. Continuing on “his journey to Jerusalem” (v 11), the city of death in Luke, Jesus encounters the lepers crying, “Have pity on us!” (v 13). Their condition requires them to remain apart from others; they are outcasts. As such, they are an example in Luke of those whom Jesus focuses on in his ministry. Without narrating the actual miracle, Luke tells us that Jesus ordered them to “show yourselves to the priests” (v 14), as commanded by the Law of Moses, sacred to both Jews and Samaritans. Luke tells us that only one of them returned to thank Jesus, and “he was a Samaritan” (v 16). Like him, we should never be too busy to thank God for our blessings.

**For reflection:** Does my prayer include gratitude along with petition? How can I bring Christ’s presence to the lepers of today’s society?

## 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 16

Ex 17:8–13  
Ps 120: R. v.2  
2 Tm 3:14–4:2  
Lk 18:1–8

All of our texts today illustrate the value of intercessory prayer. While the Israelites are in the wilderness, they battle with the Amalekites. Sending Joshua to lead the troops, Moses climbs to the “top of the hill” (v 9) to pray for them. The battle goes Israel’s way “as long as Moses kept his hands raised up” (v 11). Eventually Moses tires and must lower his arms, and the tide changes. So “Aaron and Hur supported his hands,” keeping them “steady till sunset” (v 12), and the Israelites were successful in battle.

In closing the letter to Timothy, our author writes, “proclaim the word; / be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient” (4:2). Proclaiming the gospel sometimes comes at a cost, but we are called to persevere in our task, “through all patience and teaching.” Knowing that what we have learned is true, we “remain faithful” (3:14). Being rooted in Scripture, which is “inspired by God” (v 16), our teaching equips us “for every good work” (v 17). Let us strive to persevere.

In Luke’s text, prayer is an important theme. Jesus prays before key moments in his life, setting an example for his followers and illustrating his relationship with the Father. In today’s parable, Jesus encourages us to persevere in prayer. If even an unjust judge will heed the requests of the widow, will not our gracious God “secure the rights of his chosen ones” (v 7)? But prayer is not always easy, so Jesus challenges the disciples and us, asking, “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (v 8).

**For reflection:** As Moses needed the assistance of Aaron and Hur, so to the “official prayers” of the church need support in prayer. Do I participate in this, or do I get discouraged?

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Jesus healed ten lepers in today’s Gospel. Only one (ten percent) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord — indeed, all I am and all I have is gift! How and how often have I remembered to thank Him?

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# 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](mailto:parish@woywoycatholic.org.au)

**Website:** [www.woywoycatholic.org.au](http://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 AND BENEDICTION

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.

