



The Voice

12th October 2014 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Psalter Week 4

ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY, PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Nola Garnett, Dorothy King, Ruth Edwards.
- **Anniversaries:**
Thomas, Patrick and Maureen Davin (Jackson), Albert Petty, Thomas Doyle, Vourn Doyle, Dorn Schumacher.
Hass El-Khatib, Arthur Pegler, Lee Sung-Ryae, Maureen and Bernie Melere.
- **Remembrances:**
Essie Davin, Kevin Garnett, Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the following sick:**
Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor, Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen, Mary Harrison, Denis Glacken, Lola Proctor, Grace Williams, Michael Wheeler, Renee Glase, Alan Harland, Margaret Woodward, Brother Michael Knights, Mary McCumstie, Evangeline Cusay.

Synod on the Family

As you read this, the Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops is taking place in Rome from 5th to 19th October, on the theme, *Pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation.*

This is the first of two stages in updating the Church's pastoral approach to the family. The second stage will be the Ordinary Assembly in 2015.

The two assemblies are important for another reason. The Synod of Bishops was established after Vatican II, in response to the wish expressed by the Council that the bishops of the world should be associated more closely with the pope in the pastoral direction of the Church. Such were the fears of many, during and after the Council, that papal primacy thereby would inevitably be diminished, however, that the synods became mere debating exercises, the results of which were determined (and promulgated) by the pope of the time. Since his election, Pope Francis has made it clear that it is his intention that the Synod should have real legislative competence. It will be interesting to watch these two assemblies, because their management will give an indication of what form this competence will take, and what balance between primacy and collegiality will be the norm for the future church.

The chief importance of the two assemblies, however, will be the way in which the Church brings the light of the Gospel into contact with the family in the post-modern world. The first assembly, now in session, is "extraordinary" in the sense that it has been summoned, in accordance with the relevant regulations, to deal with a subject that "requires rapid definition." It was convoked by Pope Francis on 9th October 2013, and its membership is more limited than is that of ordinary assemblies: presidents of episcopal conferences, presidents of synods of the Eastern Churches, heads of Vatican departments and three representatives of the Union of General Superiors.

As the Synod General Secretary remarked at a press conference last year, 'It is evident that the social and spiritual crisis of today's world has an impact on family life and creates a situation of genuine pastoral urgency, which justifies the convocation of an Extraordinary General Assembly.'

A survey and questionnaire were circulated throughout the Church last year, and answers had to be received by the Vatican by January this year. Episcopal conferences were asked not to publish the re-

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Psalm Response

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I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Leonardo Santucci, Liam Spiteri, Brodie Wilson and Brax Brenton who were baptized last Sunday.

Bus Trip to Pokolbin Village, Hunter Valley. Morning tea at Cessnock. Leaving 8.30am, Tuesday 21st October. \$15. Ph: Susie Casey 4344 1742 / 0403 417 639.

Coffee/Tea/Chat: A group of seniors meet monthly in the Leo Mahon room due Monday, 20th October, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

Children's Liturgy Roster 19/10/14: Leif Spicer (L) Marina Mondal (L) Jenny Fitzgerald (H)

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 17/10/14: Pam Hickey, Sally Doyle, Melissa Krall.

From the Parish Nurse: Just as we are encouraged to make our wishes known regarding our funeral so there is a need to make our wishes known about our health care needs and treatment preferences.

A information session on advanced care plans will be held in the Leo Mahon room Wednesday, 22nd October at 10.30am and repeated at 7.30pm.

Liturgy Meeting: *Please note* this meeting has been brought forward to this Thursday 16th October, 7.30pm in the Parish Office for this month only.

Melbourne Cup Trifecta: Members of the Rosary Making Group are selling tickets after all Masses next weekend, 18th/19th October. Tickets 50c.

Rosary Making Group meet every Tuesday 10am in Walter Baker Hall making rosaries and scapulars for the Missions. New volunteers warmly invited.

Attention Current and Potential New Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Meeting to be held next Tuesday, 14th October at 2pm in the Leo Mahon room.

New members will be welcomed and given support to enable them to be part of this special ministry. Contact: Phoebe Glacken on mobile 041 605 6324 or ph: 4341 6324.

St. Vincent de Paul Society assists many people on the Peninsula. If you would like to learn more about this work as a volunteer, please contact Ken Hall 4341 2769 (leave a message if unanswered). Such work offers the opportunity to develop your own spirituality and bring the love of God to others.

Columban Calendars 2015 \$9 each. **Medals – Copy of Pope Francis Pectoral Cross** \$4.00 each available in the Piety Stall.



The Just Word

Anti-Poverty Week – 11-17 October:

Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor. In Anti-Poverty Week, you can help fight poverty and hardship! The main aims of poverty week are to:

- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world

and in Australia

- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems.

Everyone is encouraged to help reduce poverty and hardship by organising an activity during the week or taking part in an activity organised by others.

...despite economic growth and increasing living standards for many Australians, poverty according to the Australian institute of Health and Welfare, 13% of the population is living

in relative poverty. This translates to almost three million Australians ... Every day, people living in poverty have to overcome a number of structural and personal barriers that makes surviving difficult and thriving impossible.

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Two Australias : A report in the land of plenty (2013), p.5.

For more information: www.antipovertyweek.org.au

From the Diocese and beyond

Fashion Parade: The Ettalong Ladies Fellowship invites all to a Fashion parade by Sarongs. Tuesday 28th October, 10.30am in the hall of the Ettalong Uniting Church, Picnic Pde. A light luncheon will be served after the parade. Cost \$10. To assist with catering please RSVP by 18th October to June Jepson 4342 2046.

Divine Will Seminar: Insight and instruction into general aspects of the Divine Will focusing on divine lives. Fri/Sat/Sun. October 31/November 2. St. Patrick's East Gosford Parish Hall. Guest Speaker John Brown. Register ASAP. Ph:

0408 273 280 or 02 4367 6673.

The Gospel of St. Mark: A 4 week program presented by Bishop David Walker on readings of St. Mark just prior to Advent to become more familiar with this Gospel. This is the shortest and most fast paced of all Gospels with a mysterious ending. Join us and discover the texts in a new way. Over 4 Tuesdays, 28th October and 4th/18th/25th November. Parish Centre Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. 239 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. RSVP Friday 24th October. To register call Colleen/Leanne on 9847 0448 or 4332 9825. Email registrations@dbb.org.au

St. Patrick's Parish East Gosford will host the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Paul R. Gallagher who will be the main celebrant at 9am Mass on Sunday 26th October followed by a talk on the nature of the Church at 10am.

50 Year School Re-union for girls who attended Stella Maris College, Manly between 1960 and 1964 (intermediate year 1962 and Leaving Year 1964) will be held at Dee Why Saturday, 8th November. If you are interested to catch up on 'old friends', please contact Vilma Smith (Boros) on 02 9913 3490 or tonvil5@optusnet.com.au

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 12

Is 25:6-10
Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

In these last weeks of the liturgical year, our readings focus on things associated with the end of the world. Isaiah anticipates a day when God will defeat the enemy and host a great feast. He envisions this feast to be held on Mount Zion, the mountain of Jerusalem, when the Day of the Lord comes. "Rich food and choice wines" will be provided "for all peoples" (v 6). A note of hope is sounded when the prophets tells us that God "will destroy death forever," wiping away "the tears from every face" (v 8). For God's people, it will be a time of great joy.

In a personal note Paul speaks of his experience of living both "in humble circumstances" and "with abundance" (v 12). Because of "him who strengthens me" (v 13), Paul can face any trial that comes his way. He goes on to thank the Philippians for their support while he is in prison: "it was kind of you to share in my distress" (v 14). Their generosity reflects a close relationship, witnessed in his opening words, "I hold you in my heart, ... partners with me in grace" (see 1:7).

The imagery of a wedding feast in today's Gospel anticipates the Day of the Lord. For the church this banquet represents the messianic banquet at the end of time. The parable teaches us that it is not enough to accept the invitation; we must act on it as well. Those who were originally invited to the feast "refused to come" (v 3) when the time of the feast was announced to them. As a result the invitation is extended to others, reminiscent of the church's outreach to those outside Israel.

For reflection: What is my image of the Day of the Lord? Why is caring for each other such an important part of our vocation?

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 19

Is 45:1, 4-6
Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thes 1:1-5
Mt 22:15-21

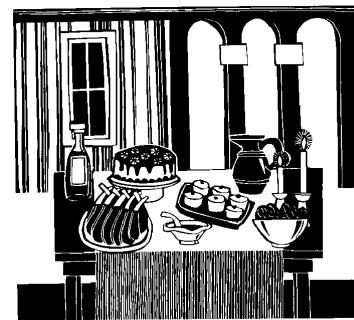
In 539 BC, King Cyrus of Persia defeated Babylon. Shortly after this victory, he allowed the Jewish exiles to return home. Isaiah interprets all of this as part of God's plan. Cyrus is acting as God's "anointed" (v 1), *mashiah* in Hebrew. Before Isaiah applied this word to Cyrus, it had only been used to refer to Israelites. Calling Cyrus "messiah" indicates that he is carrying out the Lord's work, even though he doesn't realize it. "I have called you by your name," the Lord says, "though you knew me not" (v 4). For our prophet, this is an indication that the God of Israel is the God of all the earth: "there is no other" (v 6).

First Thessalonians is the oldest writing we have from Paul. Although the letter is associated with Paul, the opening verse identifies the senders as "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy," three missionaries who give thanks to God (typical of Paul's letters) for the church in Thessalonica's witness of faith. We hear about the work of these three apostles in Acts, where Luke calls Silvanus "Silas" (see Acts 16-17).

In Israel in Jesus's day, paying taxes to Rome was not popular. The annual "census tax" (v 17) could only be paid using a Roman denarius coin, which had the image of the emperor on it along with an inscription acknowledging the emperor's divinity; thus both the tax and the coin required to pay the tax were offensive to the Jews. The fact that Jesus's questioners can produce "the Roman coin" (v 19) is evidence of their hypocrisy. St. Augustine pointed out the contrast between the emperor's image on the coin, which "belongs to Caesar" (v 21), and the fact that Genesis says we are made in God's image — that is, we belong to God. For Jesus, our obligation to God does not invalidate our debt to "Caesar," but it is more important.

For reflection: Do I thank God for the example of faith in the lives of those around me? How can I more fully give "to God what belongs to God"?

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In today's second reading, St. Paul thanks the Philippians for being willing to share in his hardships and promises that God, in turn, will fully supply all their needs. Our God truly cannot be outdone in generosity!



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 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"

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.

Synod on the Family

(continued)

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sults, but a number of conferences did so anyway. A number of commentators have noted that the practice of Catholic family life seems to have moved some distance from its theory, which is (supposed to be) based on the biblical and patristic tradition of the Church. It is largely to establish the truth of the situation that the current first assembly has been convoked.

Few Catholics would argue with St John Paul II when he said that the natures of family and marriage are inextricably linked, nor with Cardinal Péter Erdő, the Relator General of the Synod: 'The family appears as a reality that springs from the will of the Creator and that constitutes a social reality. It is not, therefore, a mere invention of human society or, much less, of some purely human power, but rather a natural reality that has been elevated by Christ the Lord in the context of divine grace.'

The theme of the Assembly is in the context of evangelisation: the need to evangelise families, and the family as a means of evangelisation. Both of these aspects of evangelisation have to be understood *pastorally*; the Assembly has not been called to deal with doctrinal issues (which, in any case, have been treated thoroughly in recent papal pronouncements), but with the way in which families can receive the joy of the gospel into their lives and in which they can transmit that joy to others.

This will require listening to the problems and expectations of many families today. The work of those involved needs the support of our prayers. Two critical issues are at issue: the future of the Christian family, and the style of the future Church. If faithfulness to the Gospel and pastoral sympathy prevail, we may hope for great things.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay