



The Voice

11th October 2015

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 4

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:

• **Recently deceased:**

“Marjorie,” Jim Finucane, Nancy Strain, Irene Diebold, Eileen Robinson, Ivy Bartlett, Noelle Davidovic.

• **Anniversaries:**

Maria Mravinac, Sr M Stephanie OCD, Maureen & Bernard Melere.

• **Remembrances:**

Bruno de Souza,

• **and the sick:**

Sara Selim, Peter Wellins, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, June Ferry, Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen, Lola Proctor, Jack Moulds, Maryanne Diorio, Charles Knowles, Alan Harland, Mark Taylor, Connor Cole, Fr. Brian Rowland, Carol Cross, Bruce Spence, Mary Dolan, Grace Williams, Sandy Sirrell, Rita and John Webb, Marsha Bursynski, Tony O’Neill, Peter Harrison, Anne Singleton, Vince Zappavigna.

John Calvin, one the founding fathers of the Protestant Reformation, reacted against what he saw as medieval Catholicism’s adherence to the sacramental law as a means to salvation. ‘If you keep the law, the law will keep you.’ He was right to condemn the preaching of some Catholic priests of his day. Calvin maintained that since time began God predestined those who, by faith, would be saved. Calvin argued that the rest of humanity would be lost. It was impossible to know for certain, Calvin argued, who was who. This was tough stuff!

Within a few years, however, his own congregation in Geneva wanted to know how anyone could be sure they were on the right path to salvation. Calvin’s disciples taught that strict and right behaviour was an indication of who belonged to those elected by God to be saved. Not dancing, drinking, swearing or gambling, but working hard, saving one’s money and the careful observance of the Ten Commandments became the benchmarks of the elect. Within a few generations of Calvin’s death, it is easy to see that the observance of the strict, Protestant, moral code had replaced the seven Sacraments as the way of being assured of heaven.

The rich young man wanted to be assured of salvation too. He was a good man; an observant Jew and someone Jesus looked on with love. But he was hoping the law would save him. He wanted to be sure of gaining heaven by jumping through the right hoops, at the right time, for the right reasons.

Jesus doesn’t reject the importance of faithful and good living, but he offers the young man a relationship that would make sense of the choices involved in following him. Without a loving relationship with God, who calls us to live the best life we can, the fulfilment of any law, civil or moral, is a tyranny. We do not believe in a tyrannical God.

We do believe, however, in a God who makes demands of us, who often challenges us in the places where we are most vulnerable. For the young man, his money was an obstacle. He

could not embrace a relationship with Jesus because this would have placed in peril his wealth and the comfort that his many possessions afforded him.

For the earliest Christian community today’s Gospel highlights serious issues on which people left their company: the role of the law in following Christ; the divide between rich and poor; the commitment demanded of followers in the earliest community. In comparison to our forebears in faith, we have domesticated this radical edge of the Gospel.

We often comfort ourselves with the assurance that the law will save us, whereas Jesus tells us that salvation comes from a loving relationship with him, shown in the sacrifice of our lives. To the degree that any law enables us to deepen this relationship with Jesus and to serve his people, then it is helpful and good. If a civil or religious law gets in the road, then its moral authority over us is questionable.

In a world where the vast majority of the world’s wealth and resources are held and used by a dominantly white, educated and, at least nominally, Christian First World, then the demands of today’s Gospel should be as confronting to us as they were to the rich young man. ‘There is still one thing you lack, sell everything and come follow me.’ It has suited us to move away from this financially hard teaching of Jesus.

The law and money are in themselves neutral things. They can be used for good or evil. At their worst the law and money seduce us into pride, greed and power. At their best they can serve the liberation of all people and enable our world to better reflect the Kingdom of dignity, justice and equality Jesus taught and lived.

Given that all things are possible for God, let’s pray in this Eucharist that we might stop domesticating the Gospel but allow it to lead us more deeply into a relationship with Jesus who looks on us, loves us and calls us to write the law of love on our hearts in such a way that there will be justice for all people.

Psalm Response

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Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Readings for Today and next Sunday	3
Directory	4

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Letter from Bishop Peter:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Pope Francis has called an Ordinary Synod of Bishops on the theme 'The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church in the Church and the Contemporary World' which takes place in Rome from 4-25 October, the second of two synods on the family held over a two year period. This Synod has a very important task of examining how pastoral support for marriage and family life can be strengthened and renewed to meet the challenges and difficulties of the modern world.

I am sure all members of the Broken Bay Catholic Community will join me in welcoming the commencement of the Synod and in offering our fervent prayers for its intentions.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness of the family and its beauty in God's Plan.

Most Rev. Peter A Comensoli.

Catholic Missions Sunday next Sunday. Special collection at all Masses. The need is great and your generosity would be appreciated. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Liam Fink, Lilly Hodder, Summah Hodder and Mi Yeon Reynen baptized last Sunday.

Children's Liturgy Roster 18/10/15: Leif Spicer, Frances Giunta, Jenny Fitzgerald.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 16/10/15: Pam Hickey, Philomena Curtis, Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen.

Piety Stall: Columban Calendars 2016 available. \$9 each.

Living Faith booklets - Meditations on daily Bible readings. \$2 each.

Bus Trip: Mystery trip north. 21st October leaving 9am. Cost \$15. Contact Susie. 0403 417 639 or 4344 1742

Melbourne Cup Trifacta: Ladies of the Rosary Group will be selling Trifactas 17/18 Oct. Tickets 50c

Cake and Jam Stall raised \$640 at the recent sale. Thank you all for your support. Proceeds go towards the maintenance of our parish bus.

Please keep in your Prayers all of our Parishioners sitting the HSC beginning Mon, 12th October.

Encounter Table—Once a month we'll be setting up in front of the outdoor shrine of St John the Baptist on the Thursday prior to First Friday (5 Nov, 3 Dec) from around 11am till 1pm. Pop around to meet some other parishioners before going into the Blessed Sacrament to pay Jesus a visit. Should you have a question about what the Catholic Church teaches, we'll have a go at finding answers for you. If you want to ask people to pray for a special situation in your life, ask. We'll pray. Do you have a friend who has been asking about Catholicism and needs to meet some other Catholics? Bring your friend along. If you want to learn how to pray, or need some encouragement to keep praying, someone will be able to help you with that.

The Just Word

World Mental Day:

World Mental Day is observed on 10 October every year, with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilising efforts in support of mental health.

From the website of Mental Health Australia:

People with a mental illness can be among the most disadvantaged in society, and they often confront many barriers as a direct result of their illness. Stigma and discrimination is

one major barrier and can often be worse than the illness itself. Changing perceptions about mental health illness can go a long way towards breaking down some of the barriers that stigma and discrimination creates.

Approximately 20 per cent of the Australia population will experience mental illness in any given year. Services must be improved to meet increasing demands and to ensure that people with a mental illness receive high quality and targeted services.

For more information: <https://mhaustralia.org>

- Nearly half (45 per cent) of the population will experience mental disorder at some stage in their lives.
- During a one-year period, anxiety disorders will affect 14 per cent of the population and depression will affect 6 per cent.
- Depression is one of the most common conditions in young people and increases during adolescence.

SANE Australia: Facts and figures about mental illness.

From the Diocese and beyond

The Ascent of Mount Carmel:

Bishop David Walker will be leading us through St. John of the Cross' spiritual classic 'The Ascent of Mount Carmel' which describes the path of deeper prayer beyond the basics. These sessions will be held on Wednesdays from October 14 for 4 weeks, Holy Cross Church, Humphreys Rd. Kincaid. Mass at 9.15am, followed by morning tea 9.45am and the talk 10am-11am.

Copies of the *Ascent of Mount Carmel* (\$20) will be available at the church. More detail call Adrian on 4344 7507. teloepa14@gmail.com

Seniors Mediation—a supportive, neutral environment for family decision making:

Discussing the best way to care for an ageing family member can be very emotional for all involved. Disagreements regarding the most appropriate way forward are not uncommon. CatholicCare can provide family members and their advisors a forum in which issues and concerns can be voiced, possible solutions generated and agreements developed. CatholicCare's Seniors Mediation is impartial and serves all members of the community. Our accredited mediators are qualified, skilled National Mediation Accreditation. Contact Central

Coast family centre for more information. Ph: 4356 2600.

Wine and Cheese Evening for Married couples unable to have children.

Saturday, October 17th, 7.45pm-9.30pm. Holy Name Parish Wahroonga Sunroom (room attached to left side of church). 35 Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga. This is the first initiative for this group of couples from the Diocese and it is hoped to be

"An evening of friendship, support, hope and encouragement".

Please RSVP to Katie Fullilove, by 14th October, on katie.fullilove@dbb.org.au

Readings for Today and next Sunday

Bruce Janiga

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 11

Wis 7:7-11

Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

Heb 4:12-13

Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

The Book of Wisdom is dated to the century before Christ. Its author, speaking as Solomon, tells us that the spirit of Wisdom is more valuable than any other gift. "All gold, in view of her, is a little sand" (v 9). To have wisdom is to share in the mind-set of God. In the Bible the wise, who walk in the way of God, are often contrasted with the foolish, who reject God's ways. Wisdom is that priceless gift that enables us to know God's will and to do it.

In Hebrews we are told that "the word of God is living and effective" (v 12). God's word is given to us for our benefit. But the word must bear fruit, for one day "we must render an account" (v 13) to God for our lives. Israel, under Moses, heard God's word and disobeyed. But "we have received the good news just as they did" (v 2), and we should strive to follow God's word in our lives. It is only with the help of Christ that we are able to "approach the throne of grace to receive mercy" (v 16).

Mark's story of the rich man who comes to Jesus reminds us once again that there is a cost to discipleship. He approaches Jesus looking for a deeper dimension to his relationship with God. He knows the commandments and keeps them. Jesus responds to him with a deep, penetrating look. Mark tells us that Jesus "loved him" (v 21) using the Greek word for love, *agapan*, which refers to the love God has for us. Mark never again tells us that Jesus "loved" anyone; there is something special in this man that elicits Jesus' love for him. The Lord issues him a challenge: sell everything, give your money to the poor, and become a disciple. But this is too much for the man, and he "went

away sad" (v 22). Jesus' teaching on wealth concludes by reminding us that only by God's grace can we "inherit eternal life" (v 17).

For Reflection: What do I consider truly valuable in life? Do my possessions get in the way of my discipleship? Do I own them, or do they own me?



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 18

Is 53:10-11

Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

Heb 4:14-16

Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

Isaiah continues speaking about the Suffering Servant in today's reading, saying, "The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity" (v 10). Isaiah's mysterious servant "gives his life as an offering for sin" for the sake of others, a notion brought to fulfillment by Jesus in Christian theology. Bearing our iniquities through his suffering and death, "my servant shall justify many" (v 11). His death brings us life.

The author of Hebrews speaks of Jesus as our "great high priest" (v 14). As high priest, not of the house of Levi but "according to the order of Melchizedek" (6:20), Jesus' office surpasses that of other priests. As the word incarnate, Jesus is united with us and so can offer sacrifice on our behalf. In becoming flesh Christ embraced our humanity and clothed us with divine life. His sacrifice is for the forgiveness of our sins, fulfilling and surpassing all other sacrifices. Christ, as victim and priest, mediates between God and humanity. Because he, as high priest, has access to the sanctuary, he invites us to approach "the throne of grace to receive mercy" (4:16).

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the rich young man to give away all that he has in order to have treasure in heaven. But he is unable to free himself from his possessions, and so he goes sadly away. Does what I own keep me from following Jesus?



(Continued on page 4)

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. M.S.F.S. Fr. Phillip Thottam .M.S.F.S.
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

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 after 7.45am Mass 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. Ph: 02 4341 0884 Fax 02 43 44 5049.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP For information and events contact Sam French 042 244 9539.

CATHOLICCARE: Counselling and Family Relationships. Ph: 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 pm and finish Approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Sunday Readings

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

James and John's request in light of Jesus' teaching about true greatness and the cost of discipleship shows they are still spiritually blind. It is significant that in Mark this passage comes immediately after Jesus' third Passion prediction. Jesus has been talking about his impending death, and the sons of Zebedee approach him asking to "sit one at your right and the other at your left" (v 37) when he comes into his glory. By this request they show that they only understand half of what Jesus has been teaching them. While they believe Jesus will enter into glory as the Messiah, they fail to address the fact that it is only through suffering that this glory will be achieved. Jesus' suffering is not to eliminate our suffering but to unite

him with us in our suffering. There is no escaping the cross for a disciple.

For Reflection: When have I truly experienced suffering in my life? Was I aware that in suffering I was united with Jesus? Is my discipleship about service or honour?

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's Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

Fr Jack's October Dates:

Mass – 6pm Sunday, 11 October
Mass – 5pm Saturday, 17 October
Mass – 7:30am Sunday, 25 October
Mass – 9:15am, Sunday 1 November
Mass – 7:45am, every Tuesday & Wednesday
27th – Clergy Remuneration Fund Meeting & Twilight Conference, Pennant Hills.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay