



The Voice

24th August 2014

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 1

ORDINARY TIME

Mission Event

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Joseph Camilleri, Hazel Cahill, Mary D'Arcy, Nola Garnett, Priscella Dianysus.
- **Anniversaries:**
Jan Andrews, Alan Player, Lawrence White, Ellen and David O'Regan, Cathy Carroll, Olive Beach.
- **And the sick:**
Michael Wheeler, Beryl Allen, Anne Singleton, Irene Beck, Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor, Fr. Bill Meacham, Wanda Grima, Mary Harrison, Therese Payne, Denis Glacken, Grace Williams, Barry Gleeson, Margaret Woodward.

In mid-September we are going to host a "mission event" conducted by the "Catholic Guy" team. The plan raises a number of questions.

1. *What is a mission?* Parishioners below a certain age will have never heard of a "mission" - let alone have experienced one. It is a time of renewal for a parish, when over a few days a concerted effort is made to reach as many parishioners as possible, especially those who have given up going to Mass or receiving the sacraments. The idea is to renew fervour in the practice of the faith.
2. *What will I get out of it?* Those who do remember taking part in a mission will give you different answers to that - they either liked it or hated it. Missions were conducted by various religious congregations, and each had its own style - Jesuits, Vincentians, Passionists and especially Redemptorists. In some cases the preaching was very dramatic indeed, and many Catholics actually enjoyed hearing that (unless they repented) they were going to hell but (naturally) many did not like to hear that. That is why you will get different answers to the question.
3. *So what is a mission event?* The word "event" is used to make a number of points: it is not as confrontational as the

missions of the past; in an age when there was little entertainment, missions were (in a sense) entertaining, but in these days of TV (for example), preaching God's word has to compete with many other things that we can do in a day or especially of an evening, so it has to be different; the religious congregations that used to do the job in the past are greatly reduced in numbers, so nowadays the work is generally done by lay people.

4. *So who is this "Catholic Guy"?* A small group of Catholics in Perth, W.A., was asked by Archbishop Hickey to take on this sort of work and, besides conducting a TV programme, undertook the task of bringing mission events to people of the 21st century. They now have moved to the east coast, so we are lucky to have them conduct this event for us. When the leader of the project ran into someone who could not remember his name, the latter could only say, 'I know you - you're the Catholic Guy.' The name stuck. So it's not for men only - it is for men and women, young and old' - "guy", after all, is applied to both sexes these days.

5. More details later.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Lord, your love is e-ter-nal; do not for-get the work of your hand.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Parish Mission Event: An all-ages event that connects you with God and benefits our entire community. Together, we will celebrate being workers for Christ by sharing the good news stories of God's presence in people's lives. September 18-22.

Parking in the lane way
Further complaints have been received. Please be mindful when parking in the 'lane' beside the church grounds and do so with consideration and respect for our neighbours. By letting your passengers out before you park, you will be able to move closer to the fence line opposite the church. This will allow more room for residents to enter and exit their properties and not preclude them from doing so as happened recently. A lane is after all, much narrower than a road, and this one has only one entrance/exit. If we

are not considerate of our neighbours, they will take this request to Council which could see parking in the lane banned altogether.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal held last week raised \$5,761.15. Thank you for your generosity.

Catechists will meet at 9am in the Leo Mahon room on Thursday, 28th August to finalise their role in the Parish Mission.

Liturgy Team meeting next Thursday, 28th August 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Family Ministry meeting Thursday, 28th August, 1pm in the Riley room, Ethel Cox Centre.

Children's Liturgy Roster 31/8/14: Frances Giunta (L) Marina Mondal (L) Ted Meyer (H).

Lectio Divina Prayer Group will meet next Thursday, 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Parish Bus Trip: Central Coast Gathering of the Clans. Sat. 6th September. Cost \$15. Leaving the church, 8.15am. Please place your name on list in the gathering area. An informative flyer with details is available.

Parish Bus Trip: Rose Farm, Warnervale. Sept 10th, leaving 9.00am. Cost \$25 includes tour and morning tea. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Baptisms: We pray for and welcome into our Faith community, Darcy Chivers, Miah O'Brien and Benjamin Richardson who were baptized last Sunday.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Patrick Bottle and Nola Garnett who were buried from our church the past week.

The Just Word

Treacherous path to US-style austerity:

St. Vincent de Paul Society chief executive John Falzon said the budget was deeply offensive to people for whom every day is already a battle. "The government would like us to believe that this budget is tough but fair, but for people who struggle to make ends meet it can only be described as being tough and cruel," Dr. Falzon said. You don't help young people or older people or people with a disability or single mums into jobs by making them poor. You don't build people up by putting them down.

"And as even the OECD acknowledges, you don't build a strong economy by increasing the level of inequality. You don't create a strong country on the backs of the already poor. "There's nothing human or humane about humiliating people because they are outside the labour market or on its low paid fringes. There's nothing smart about making it affordable for people to see a doctor. "We are not in the throes of a fiscal crisis but if we embark on this treacherous path of US-style austerity we will be staring down the barrel of a social crisis." National president Tony Thorn-

ton said: "We are saddened to see the government walking away from its responsibility to its people. It has shied away from the challenge to build a broader and more sustainable revenue base so that no one misses out on the essentials of life such as a place to live, a place to work and a place to learn. This budget hurts the people that the government should be helping." Australian business particularly welcomed a proposed 1.5 percentage point cut to the company tax rate.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

From the Diocese and beyond

CatholicCare Foster Care provides a safe and caring home on a short or long term basis to a child or young person who is unable to live with their own family and who has been placed into foster care.

You can make a difference in a young person's life by becoming a foster carer and providing a safe and nurturing home environment. Brochures on table in gathering area with full details.

The University of Notre Dame Australia Open Day, Saturday, 31st August with Mass at 9.00am. 104 Broadway, Ultimo. Experience life at Notre Dame

on Open Day, with course information, campus tours, live music and free BBQ. Find out more about our Care Curriculum, meet our friendly academic staff and socialize with current students. All welcome! Information or register online, visit www.notredame.edu.au/openday/sydney/

Serra Vocations Mass and Dinner: Fr. Geoff Bugden, celebrating Mass at 6.30pm, Sacred Heart Church, 2 Richard Porter Way, Pymble. Thursday, 28th August. The evening will commence with Mass followed by a light meal, a short meeting and the continuation of our online

adult faith programme. We will be playing a YouTube video on New Evangelisation titled "Open Wide the Doors to Christ" delivered by Most Reverend Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane. Please join us for what will be a very interesting evening. All welcome.

Please remember to pray daily for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life, for perseverance of existing vocations and for all seminarians. If attending, phone Terry Scanlan 0438 887 295 or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com



Lift High the Cross

Ron Raab

I arrived at Sacred Heart Church in Colorado Springs in summer 2013 to become pastor of the Tri-Community in Colorado. I had served in that community previously, in 1984 to 1987, shortly after my ordination, but had not returned to the parish in more than 25 years. As I walked into the simple, Spanish-style church again after all those years, I noticed first the very large, realistic crucifix.

Since my years there, the old mission crucifix had been placed into its own niche left of the sanctuary. For years it stood on its own near the sanctuary with fake, plaster rocks at its base to look like Calvary. The life-sized crucifix dominated the worship space for years.

I remember as a young priest not liking the oversize, dominant, and realistic dead Christ. I thought death was out of proportion in that worship space for the eucharistic celebrations of that community. I was young and had not yet faced real suffering myself.

However, as I entered the building again, I felt very comforted seeing the familiar crucifix. I even felt relieved that now it had a visual place of its own. The niche area is arranged so that people can walk up to view and touch the very large image of Christ's suffering. After Mass, I went up to the crucifix that is twice my height to touch the wood of the cross after all these years.

Seeing the old mission crucifix again, I realise my aging, my own sin, disappointments, and grief over the years. I bring so many more experiences of letting go of relationships, surrendering to life, and the tugging of the Holy Spirit. In other words, I now understand more fully why the oversize crucifix still dominates the worship space. I, too, need a visual place to rest my own suffering.

I also noticed something else. The crucifix in my previous community in Portland was small and in proportion to the windowless room. The contrast of the two crucifixes and the two communities is

startling. The people who came to that chapel often carried their belongings on their backs and reeked from living outside. Mental illness was visible in occasional outbursts. Addictions were obvious because people slept in the back pews. Their suffering was not hidden but exposed for everyone to notice and encounter.

In my new community in Colorado, suffering is much more hidden among families and in the hearts of people, and yet, the realistic crucifix dominates our prayer. The oversized dead Christ seems to express the hidden pain and suffering of this worshipping community.

I realise now that my ministry is to learn about the hidden suffering of people here so that healing might be obvious and real. My presence here is to allow people to see that their hidden suffering needs to be lived honestly and openly in the paschal mystery, the dying and rising of Christ Jesus.

As I reflect on the Sunday Gospels from Exaltation of the Holy Cross through 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, I hear Christ's call to enter into the wounds of our people and not to be instruments of condemnation. There is always room in the kingdom of God for the labourer who comes at the last minute. Every parish community must open up a place in our pews for the person who does not feel worthy of being among us in the first place. We never know the hidden suffering of a person who feels lost and last among the eager and talented.

Jesus reminds us that tax collectors and prostitutes view their need for God often before the rest of us. Their hearts cannot contain the poison of sin for long. The rest of us, in any sort of parish community, can easily hide our secrets and shame well into adulthood. We may run from the Christ who offers us a place, a home in the promise that love is near us.



In today's reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans — and us — that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that all is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

See Romans 11:36



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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
P.O. Box 264
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
100 Blackwall Road.

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.

Lift High the Cross

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Violence and greed are not the ingredients of a rich and fruitful relationship with God or with our neighbours. No person can hide the violence among us, even the abuse from our pasts or the neglect we have inflicted on our neighbours. We are inheritors of a great promise that love heals, forgives, and calls us into new relationships.

God invites us as we are to a feast that is more than satisfying. We ourselves are both the good and the bad; we hold the tension of our sin along with our love within our hidden hearts. However, every person is welcome to feast, to fill our souls on the wonder and mercy of God. We can even put our feet under the same table as our enemies.

Jesus tells us to love God with our entire beings, our souls and bodies. This love is revealed in our hearts and actions by how we love and serve others. Even when our own pain seems bigger than life, we lift up the holy cross everyday, and the cross reveals itself in how we love others — no matter how we hide our suffering. I look forward to entering into this community once again to see how love is manifest and how love calls us to live the holy cross in loving service.

ML

Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as pastor of the Tri-Community Catholic Parish in Colorado Springs, Colo. He broadcasts a weekly Scripture commentary, On the Margins, on radio KBVM.fm. Learn more at www.ronaldraab.com. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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Diocese of
Broken Bay