

# The Voice

16th October 2016 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Psalter Week I



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Leo Cahill, Peter Indulis Jirgens, Frank Schmidt, Miles Burns and Jannelle Dawson.
- **Anniveraries:**  
Hass El-Khatib, Shirley Custance, Ladislao, Anacorita, Romeda, Nobelo, Fabios and Pepito Suello.
- **Remembrances:**  
Fr. Leonard Busuttill, George Wilson.
- **And the sick:**  
Peter John Grima, Tracie Passlow, Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence, Maryanne Diorio, John Allen, Audrey Barsendich, Vince Zappavigna, Bryan Moroney, Irene Beck, Alan Harland, Carren Quinn, Keith Oakes, Heather Joyce, Albie Curtis, Celeste Boonaerts, Louise Dunn, Nola Davies, Margaret Thoms, Baby Winter, Kaye Purser, Helen McKeon, Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Lorna Russom, Margaret Jackson, Maureen Cows, Jason Wellin, Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon, Maureen Carlon, Keith Carlon and Sr. Margaret Wall, rsj.

## The Urgent Widow

What a scene portrayed by Our Lord! This desperate woman was a widow in a patriarchal society: with no male protector she was vulnerable, defenceless, and this judge was indifferent to her plight.

He only gives in when, as it says in the original language of the Gospel, he is afraid she will come back and 'give him a black eye'. Jesus' story uses the language of the boxing ring.

Yet, somehow, this little story is all about prayer!

Let's get one thing out of the way. Jesus says that God is *not* like the judge in the story; God does *not* need to be battered into submission: in fact, He is biased towards responding and giving justice to such as the widow of this story.

But Jesus *does* want us to pray like the widow. What was her situation? She was living in a country under military occupation by the Roman Army. There was constant threat of civil war, and she had no-one as close as a husband to protect her and her young family.

Think for a moment of a widow in any of the terrible civil wars that still bedevil many societies. She would be in a similar sort of situation as the woman in Jesus' Palestine. What would she be praying for?

We can guess that she would be praying for food for herself and her young family, basic shelter and warmth, that a sick infant not be wrenched away in death, that rapacious money lenders not reduce her to even more abject poverty, that the warfare raging around would cease.

In such a desperate plight, can you imagine the intensity, the urgency of her prayer?

Doesn't it put our praying in perspective?

Apart from praying for a sick infant, do we, in Australia, normally pray like her?

I think Our Lord wants to embarrass us.

I think Our Lord wants us to pray a lot less often.

I think of what those widows would be praying for tonight, and then think of what I pray for – and I think of how utterly trivial, how self-promoting, it mostly is.

*God is not the slightest bit interested in most of my prayers.*

God *is* interested in my being such a woeful pray-er and wants to change me.

After all, prayer is not about

(Continued on page 4)

### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
A New Job Description for Catholics	3
Directory	4
The Urgent Widow (continues) by Fr Michael Tate	4

### Psalm Response

© Colin D. Smith cfc

Our help is from the Lord, who made heav'n and earth.

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Catholic Missions Yearly Appeal** will be held next weekend. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience. The need is great and your generosity would be appreciated.

**Catholic Works Fund Appeal** will be held the weekend of 5th/6th November. Envelopes are available in the gathering area.

**November Mass Envelopes** are available in the gathering area.

**The Book of the Names of the Dead** will be in the church during November. You are invited to write the name of the faithful departed in it. A lamp will be lit at all Masses.

**All Souls Memorial Mass:** Parishioners are warmly invited to celebrate this special Mass All Souls Day on Wednesday, 2nd November, 7.00pm. Together as a Parish Community, we will remember our deceased family and friends and all those who have experienced the loss of a loved one this year.

**Blessing of the Graves:** Wednesday, 2nd November. Fr Philip will lead the blessing of the graves at Point Clare, prayers to start at 10.30am in the 'green hut'.

**Prayers at Palmdale** will start at 11.45am in the undercover area to the east of the Chapels.

**Amoris Laetitia "The Joy of Love":** Resulting from two synods on the Family in 2014 and 2015, Pope Francis' most recent apostolic exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia' was much anticipated. A lengthy document, it speaks to the joy of marriage and family life, as well as recognising the lived experiences and challenges that families face. To break open this document, Pina Bernard from the Catholic Life & Faith Formation Team will speak on Sunday 30th October 2016 at the 7.30am Mass and again during morning tea after 9.15am Mass. Length of talks: 10-12 minutes during the Mass and 30 minutes during morning tea (20 mins talk and 10 mins Q & A). To read the document in preparation, a link can be found at [www.dbb.org.au](http://www.dbb.org.au)

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/10/16:** Pam Hickey, Bill Cantley, Kathleen Cullen.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 23/10/16:** Rebecca Lalor, Anne Marie Tonkin, Brenda Sweet.

**Morning Tea Roster 23/10/16:** Parents and Friends Group.

**Melbourne Cup Trifecta:** Ladies of the Rosary Group will be selling Trifectas at all Masses on 22nd/23rd October. Tickets 50c.

**Living Faith Booklets:** Meditations on daily scripture readings available \$2 each.

**"Peninsula Paradise"** Cinema Paradiso will be showing a cinematic production about the history of Woy Woy and the Peninsula from October 26th, running for two weeks. Times and prices will be available at the Cinema. A DVD version will be available from the Piety Stall for \$14.95. Our Parish Hall, Church and Mary Mac's Place histories are featured in the production, both the DVD and cinematic versions. The after-production profits of the DVD will be going to Mary Mac's. Come along to the Cinema, buy a DVD or both and enjoy watching the fascinating story of the history and culture of Mary Mac's, St. John the Baptist Parish, Woy Woy town and the Peninsula as shown in the "Peninsula Paradise" DVD and movie.

*Mary Mac's Fundraising Committee.*

**Mary Mac's Cake Stall at the Garage Sale:** Mary Mac's Place knows how wonderfully the Parish bakers bake and love to bake. If you are one of them, we are asking for your help in stocking our Cake Stall at Mary Mac's Garage Sale 12th November. Cakes can be dropped off at Mary Mac's on Friday 11th or early Saturday 12th. Thank you in anticipation of your wonderful support.

*Mary Mac's Fundraising Committee.*

**Sympathy:** Our prayerful condolences to family, relatives and friends of Miles Burns & Aubrey Johnson who was buried from our church the past week.

## The Just Word

### Live a Merciful Life:

People are talking about mercy again! And it is all because Pope Francis is awakening our world to the need for mercy." Pope Francis calls it "a new era," and he urges each of us to "travel this path of mercy." He tells us that "mercy is the Lord's most powerful message," and he hopes that we will "find a form of mercy for all." We need mercy because we live in an imperfect world. We all know people who have suffered a death in the family, a serious illness, a divorce, a job loss, or

some other personal tragedy. We have heard shocking stories of violence, oppression, poverty, prejudice and abuse. And while we can't stop every bad thing from happening, Pope Francis believes that we can become more merciful in our response to people in need.

**What is Mercy?** We tend to think of "mercy" as compassion or sympathy, but the word has a much deeper meaning. It is more than feeling sorry for someone. Having mercy means that we enter into the other person's suffering.

We feel the other person's pain see through the other person's eyes, and place ourselves inside the other person's heart and mind. When that happens, we are moved to respond in a merciful way. We can be merciful because God is merciful. "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy. The Lord is good to all, compassionate toward all your works" (Ps 145:8-9). Mercy grows in us as we reflect on how God has been merciful with us.

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Annual Diocesan Charity Race Day:** The Entertainment Grounds, Gosford. 27th October. All funds raised support Mary Mac's, Woy Woy. To book your individual or group tickets, call Rhonda Andersen 9847 0726 or [Rhonda.andersen@dbb.org.au](mailto:Rhonda.andersen@dbb.org.au)

**"Sara's Place"- Gosford Crisis Pregnancy Centre:** You are invited to come and see a very special film "HUSH", in support of the Gosford Crisis Pregnancy Centre. One woman investigates the untold effect of abortion on women's health. Avoca Beach

Theatre, 27th October, 7pm. Cost: \$20. Concession \$15. To book [www.trybooking.com/226659](http://www.trybooking.com/226659). Paul Sheeran, Volunteer Fundraiser for "Sara's Place" and "Diamond Pregnancy Support" 0408 677 432.

# A New Job Description for Catholics

David E. Fedor

The answer to the question “What is church?” was radically changed with the work of the Second Vatican Council. Before, the common answer centred on the hierarchy. There were the pope, the curia, the clergy, the religious, and then the rest of us. Rules, theology, decision-making, and what was and was not considered sinful were determined at the top. As members, we were to “pray, pay, and obey.” We were called the faithful or the laity. If we got involved in our parish, it was understood as “helping Father” in his work as pastor. Lay involvement in the pre-Vatican II parish was often limited to working bingo or other parish fund-raising events and the like.

After the Second Vatican Council, the answer to “What is church?” included language that was much broader and deeper than the former definition. In the *Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)*, the church is now defined as the people of God who, with Christ as their head, possess the dignity of the children of God. This is primary to understanding what the church is. Not until the second chapter of *Lumen Gentium* do we find a discussion on the hierarchy and its role as part of the people of God. The *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* talks about the ministry of the laity as an important contribution to the work of the church. The people of God are called to build up the church by living the gospel. This new theology of church is considered by many to be the centrepiece of Vatican II.

Dominican priest John Markey conveys in a few words the deep significance of this new theology when he says:

Vatican II was a revolution .... It was the most fundamental shift in self-understanding by the church in 1,500 years. It fundamentally altered the structures that no one could have foreseen or planned. It is a revolution because it is not over yet. We now realise we are in the middle ... of a transformation that takes years to complete and is beyond the power of anyone to control or stop. (Quoted by David Gibson in *The Coming Catholic Church* [Harper Collins], 13)

No longer is the involvement of the laity mainly concerned with “helping Father”; we share in the salvific mission of the church. Through baptism and confirmation, all are appointed to this apostolate by the Lord himself (see *Lumen Gentium*, 33). As recently as August 10, 2012, in speaking to the International Forum of Catholic Action, Pope Benedict XVI said laypeople “should not be regarded as ‘collaborators’ of the clergy, but, rather, as people who are really ‘co-responsible’ for the Church’s being and acting.”

If you are old enough to have experienced the church before 1960, you know how far the church has come in beginning to live out the vision forged by the Council. For a church that thinks in centuries, we have moved forward rather rapidly in 50 years. The process has not been easy, and being a human organisation, the church has experienced setbacks and arguments as well as progress in living out the Council’s vision. To put it mildly, the last 50 years have been very messy. Some long for the tight-knit, well-organised, and unchangeable church of the past. Some think we are moving too fast and leaving our heritage behind. Others think we are dragging our feet. Some feel that controls are being put in place to attempt to slow down the forward motion. Some are so bold as to say that Vatican II was a mistake that has put the church on the wrong track. One thing is for certain: we are a very different church now than we were 50 years ago. We are in the beginning stages of our future. Our faith and our understanding of the impact of a major council tell us that the Holy Spirit is ultimately in charge, and it is up to all of us to listen to that Spirit of God at work in this new era.

Since the Council has defined the church as the people of God, we have been trying to determine just what that means and how to live it in daily life. Certainly the creation of organisations such as diocesan councils, parish councils, and other church committees has been a good beginning in the laity’s becoming “co-responsible for the church’s being and acting,” as Benedict stated. Nevertheless, old habits die hard, and the previous hierarchical system of church and the new vision for co-responsibility are often in conflict. Misinterpretations abound on both sides. If we are to move forward, we need to go back to the documents and refresh our knowledge of what they say and what they do not say. This should be done with an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in and among us.

Note: This month’s column looks at our new understanding of church in preparation for next month’s column, which will address what has happened to our worship since the creation of the liturgy committee.

ML

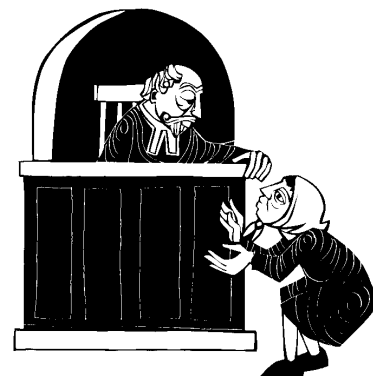
David Fedor holds a master’s degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.




---

Today’s theme is perseverance — Moses keeping his hands upraised throughout the battle, Paul urging Timothy to stay with the task of preaching and teaching, and the widow appealing to the corrupt judge. To be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, we, too, must persevere in the roles to which we are called.

---



# 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.

## 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 Urgent Widow (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

changing God. God is constantly desiring the best for all of creation, including us.

Prayer *is* about changing *us* – and there are two simple rules.

1. 'Come as you are' (title of a hymn)

Don't come to God praying for things simply because you think they are the proper things to pray for. God wants you to pray, not some role you are acting out. Come as you are. Your real concerns are your starting point.

2. But, if you find or suspect that you are praying for superficial things, or when you feel stale, *pray the Our Father* because this starts to put you on the wavelength of Our Lord. The disciples had seen Jesus praying and asked him to instruct them as to how they should go

about it. (Luke 11:1,2)

So, pray the Our Father, and, strangely, we may find the urgent widow lurking there!

What do we find smack in the middle? 'Give us this day our daily bread.' 'Give us', i.e. the human family, especially those with empty stomachs in areas ravaged by famine or war or military occupation, like the widow of our story. To do nothing about it would be blasphemous. Better not to recite it at all.

'Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.' That will not happen unless you and I dispense justice – a just distribution of this world's resources, with a bias toward the poor, the vulnerable, those like the widow.

Let us do it, voluntarily and naturally. Otherwise, could we be surprised if, like the widow, the poor of the world threaten us with a black eye?

© Fr Michael Tate