



The Voice

30th August 2015

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Christen Muto Koyi,
Ruby Doumit, Noel Doumit,
Fr. Liam Horsfall, s.v.d.
Maree Lyndon, Wanda Grima,
Jeanette Pisani.
- **Anniversaries:**
Mary Justic, Esma Moore,
Tom Smith, Wenceslao Balce,
Cornelio Balce, Silvina Balce,
Paulina Menezes, Umiliano
Menezes, James Stark.
- **and the sick:**
Sara Selim, Peter Wellins,
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,
June Ferry, Kate Tinson,
Janelle Darson, Pat Bombell,
Kevin Houghton, Beryl Allen,
Lola Proctor, Rene Glaze,
Jack Moulds, Charles Knowles,
Fr. Brian Rowland,
Carol Cross, Mark Taylor,
Fr. Bill Meacham, Irene Beck,
Arnold Diorio, Bruce Spence,
Mary Dolan, Roy Beveridge,
Grace Williams, James Leary,
Rita and John Webb,
Audrey Winsbury,
Marsha Burzynski,
Peter Harrison, Sandy Sirrell,
Elaine Finlayson, Connor Cole,
Irene Diebold, Alan Harland,
Anne Singleton.

I read a terrific book the other day entitled 'Shadows and the Dark'. It is by Australian Jesuit Fr John Cowburn who is Professor of Philosophy at Jesuit Theological College, Melbourne. This book explores how we can hold to a loving God in the face of evil.

The idea for the book came when Fr John fell from his bicycle, broke his collarbone and was awaiting surgery in hospital. While there, an old religious sister came to his room to give him Holy Communion before going to the operating theatre. Fr John told her about the accident. Sister said, 'Well Father, God must have known you needed a little holiday, so he arranged for your fall'. John replied, 'If that's true Sister I'm pleased God didn't want me to take a sabbatical!' From Jesus' day to ours, when bad things happen to good people it seems easier to blame God or Satan. By his own admission Fr John had an accident because he didn't take enough care on his bike. End of story. That God can bring something good out of such an accident is grace building on nature. What Jesus confronts in today's Gospel is 'The-devil-made-me-do-it' theology. And his response is as challenging now as it was in first century Palestine.

For as long as we blame our most destructive behaviour on evil acting upon us in all its guises, empty promises and powers, then we remain some way from taking the sort of responsibility for the condition of our hearts that might see them fully converted by Christ's saving

love. This is not to say that evil does not exist or that it cannot have a powerful effect upon us, quite the opposite. Just as grace builds on love and goodness, evil grows out of estrangement and hatred. As Christians we hold that God has given us free will, and evil's hold on our hearts is often the result of the poor choices and smaller compromises we have made along the way.

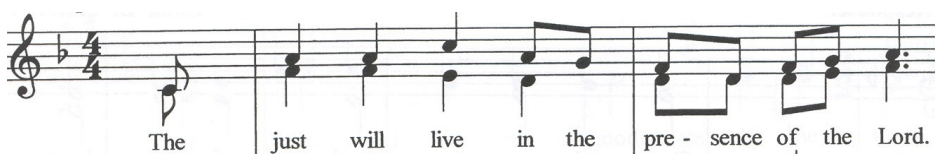
The way we look at the evil in our lives and the world also affects our compassion. For if we're not in touch with the greed that leads to theft, the anger that leads to murder, the desire for power that leads to rape, or the alienation that leads to terrorism, then it's hard for us to be compassionate toward the perpetrators of these evil acts. The degree to which we know what our hearts are capable of leads us to be grateful for the graces we receive and cultivate, and to be compassionate toward those who have missed out on this good news and who, by nurture or free will, have chosen evil as their fundamental option.

May this Eucharist enable us to take in the broken body of Christ because we know we are a broken people in need of its power, and as Christ's blood is poured for us, may we be poured out in love, so that, through us, others might hear His call to a conversion of heart.

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Psalm Response

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Notices and News | 2 |
| Sunday Readings | 3 |
| Directory | 4 |

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

101st World Day of Migrants and Refugees 30/8/15:

The right to be part of a community: The Catholic Church teaches that the most vulnerable people are not simply those who are in a needy situation to whom we kindly offer an act of solidarity, but are members of our family with whom we have a duty to share the resources we have. Solidarity towards migrants and refugees is inscribed in the common membership to the human family.

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 24: 40.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass Friday, 4th September.

Volunteer Church Cleaning 4/9/15: Terry Murphy, Kevin Glacken, Brian Jordan, Veronica Jordan.

National Child Protection Week 6-12 September.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for September are 5th, 12th and 19th. *Please note* from 12th September onwards, the meeting will be held in the Walter Baker Hall until further notice.

Cancer Support Group for those suffering from cancer and those wishing to pray for them meeting next Tuesday, 1st September, 2.30pm in the Leo Mahon room. Enq: Phoebe Glacken 4341 6234.

Bus trip -Blue Mountains 16 September, leaving at 9am. Cost \$15. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Planned Giving Envelopes and Taxation Receipts available for collection. Please note your envelope number may have changed.

The Just Word

Refugee and Migrant Sunday 30.8.15:

A report of the High Commissioner for refugees recently reported that there is a dangerous wave of mass forced displacement worldwide, which involves almost 60 million people, of whom more than half are children. The phenomenon continues to grow rapidly and is at a level never recorded so far by

UNHCR. The report exposes a sharp increase of people forced to flee their homes, leaving families, cities due to wars, conflicts and persecutions. Of these, more than half are children without any hope of a decent future. At the end of 2014 there was a total of almost 60 million displaced persons, compared to 51 million the previous year. The most sudden increase of refugees oc-

curred in early 2011, when the war broke out in Syria, which caused the highest number of displaced people around the world. In 2014, a daily average of 42,500 people became refugees, asylum seekers or internally displaced persons. (AP).

UNHCR. The UN Refugee Agency.

From the Diocese and beyond

St. Vincent de Paul Society – Gosford Regional Council invites all to celebrate our Festival Mass (hosted by Kincumber Holy Cross Conference) Saturday, 12th September, 10am. Holy Spirit Church, Fr. Croke Circuit, Kincumber. (just past Kincumber High School).

Day Retreat: Heart speaks to Heart. Saturday, 5th September. Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St. Andrews Rd. Varroville. Cost: \$20. Reflections on the life of faith in the sermons of Blessed John Henry Newman. Registration 9.30am-10.20am. Ph: 8795 3400. Email: retreats@carmelite.com.au www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Weekend of Discernment on the call to be a Priest: Have you ever considered the call to become a priest? Is there someone you know whom you would invite to consider this call?

This is a two day program of prayer, sacraments, talks, silence and discussion for those seriously considering a call to the priesthood. To be held at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush, Saturday, 12th and Sunday 13th September. You are welcome to attend. Contact Fr.

Paul on 9484 1427 for further details.

Adult Faith Formation – Laudato Si' Encyclical discussion groups. Wednesday, 16th, 23rd & 30th September. 10.30am-12.30pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. (Vehicular access via City View Rd.) Ph: 9847 0448 or 4332 9825 Email: registrations@dbb.org.au by Monday, 14th September.

"In the Footsteps of St. Mary of the Cross". Have you considered participating in the National Pilgrimage? While on the pilgrimage it gives you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St. Mary of the Cross. While on pilgrimage you are invited to reflect on St. Mary of the Cross's life and recognize her relevance in your own life. Dates: 21st October-31st October. Cost ex Sydney: \$2,700 (all inclusive: airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and all meals). Single supplement \$530.00. Further information: Phone 8912 4858. or therese.leydon@sosj.org.au

Spark Camp 2015 – Years 7-10. 21-23 September. Southern Cross

Outdoor Education Centre, Somersby. Cost: \$120 includes accommodation, meals and activities. Book now. TRYBOOKING.COM/IHGY www.dbb.org.au/youth

St. Patrick's Institute of Education Information Session: Enrolments are now open for our 2016 Diplomas in Business, Management and Business Administration. These 40 week courses are ideal for Year 10, 11 and 12 school leavers and provide a viable alternative pathway to career and university success. Our Job Placement Program sees up to 95% of our graduates placed in jobs prior to completion of the course.

Our next information Session focusing on giving students and their parents an insight into the 'St. Patrick's Pathway to Success' will be held Sunday, 13th September at our newly refurbished premises on Level 1, 65 York St. Sydney at 11am.

Taize – Experience the sacred through song and silence in the spirit of Taize. Saturday 5 September at 6.30pm. Holy Spirit Church, 55 Kincumber St, Kincumber. Enquiries Ph: 4369 1211. Light supper will be provided afterwards. No cost.



Readings for today and next Sunday

Bruce Janiga

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, August 30

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8
Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Moses, shortly before his death, exhorts the people to obey God's commandments, "that you may live" (Dt 4:1). This Deuteronomic Principle is a key theme in much of the Old Testament: good is rewarded and evil is punished. God's commandments are not a burden but a way to life. It is by following God's precepts that Israel will become a light to the nations, a nation whose "statutes and decrees" are just (v 8). As other nations see the righteousness of Israel, they will be drawn to follow God's ways as well, and so Israel serves as a light to the nations.

James speaks of how we are called to be the "first fruits" of God's creatures (v 18). This means that we are the first to share in God's life, but there will be others later. In light of this, like biblical Israel, we are called to be an example to others. James tells us to "put away all filth and evil excess" (v 21a) and, as hearers sharing in God's life, "be doers of the word" (v 22).

"Purity" is not a common word in today's world, but it was a very important concept in Jesus' day. To be "unclean" was to be cut off from others, temporarily or permanently. Over the years Jewish scholars developed a set of regulations, based on the laws in the Torah, spelling out what made an individual unclean. Mark explains some of this to his audience in today's text (vv 3-4). Where Jesus and his opponents, and later the apostolic community and the Jewish authorities, differed was in the interpretation of some of these tra-

ditions. For Jesus, what is in the heart determines whether one is unclean or not. His opponents focused on "human tradition" rather than "God's commandment" (v 8). Our relationship with God is based more on who we are than on what we do.

For Reflection: How has following God's way made me a better person? Have I been inspired by the goodness in others to follow God more closely? Am I concerned with developing a heart that is in tune with God?

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 6

Is 35:4-7
Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
Jas 2:1-5
Mk 7:31-37

In the text of Isaiah, the prophet announces good news "to those whose hearts are frightened: / Be strong, fear not!" (v 4). To a people who have experienced God's judgment, the prophet announces words of renewal and redemption. God comes to save his people. When he comes, he will heal the blind, the deaf, the lame, and the mute. And once again the wilderness will be restored, no longer a "thirsty ground" (v 7). For the church, Jesus is the fulfilment of this promise, as we see in today's Gospel. God calls us to allow him to heal our brokenness.

James cautions against showing partiality to the rich. He reminds us that God chose "those who are poor ... to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom" (v 5). In the Gospels, Jesus frequently associates with those who were rejected by the world because he knows they need to hear God's word. God judges what is in the heart, not what is worn on our backs.



"Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit, comes from above," says St. James in the second reading. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves using those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!

SEE JAMES 1:17



(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, MSFS. Fr. Phillip Thottam. MSFS.
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 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: 4341 0884. Fax 042 445 049.

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

CATHOLICCARE Marriage 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 p.m. and finish approx 10.20 p.m. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

Sunday Readings

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

The Decapolis was a region of 10 gentile cities east of the Sea of Galilee. In Mark's text a number of Jesus' miracles are worked in this region, emphasizing that Jesus came not just for the "chosen people" but for all. Mark tells us that a group of people bring a deaf man with a speech impediment to Jesus, begging him to cure the man. Their faith in Jesus' power to heal is obvious. In an unusual detail we hear that Jesus takes the man "away from the crowd" (v 33) before healing him. Using his own saliva, another unusual element, Jesus touches the man's ears and tongue and commands, "Be opened!" and it happens (v 34). A rare feature in today's text is that the Gospel remembers Jesus' ac-

tual word of command in Aramaic, "Ephphatha." Normally we are given his words only in translation.

For Reflection: Are my ears open to hear God's word? My lips loosed to sing God's praises? Do I judge a book by its cover, or do I try to see as God sees?

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.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay