



ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Jim Dwyer, Leonie Astill,
Mary Brennan, Maureen O'Brien.
- **Anniversaries:**
James Casey, Sara Selim, Bill, Mildred & William Lamm, Fr. Noel Carroll, Fr. Terence (Terry) O'Brien, Fr. Philip (Phil) Murphy, Monsignor Vincent (Vince) Marley, John and Dorothy de Beyer, Ronald Dixon, Raymond Astill.
- **Remembrances:**
Anacorita, Ladislao, Nobelo, Romeda, Fabios and Pepito.
- **And the sick:**
Rene Glase, Beryl Allen, Peter John Grima, Jack Moulds, Tracie Passlow, Rosemary Anderson, Bruce Spence Maryanne Diorio, John Allen, Coral Williams, Tony Schumacher, Bryan Moroney, Irene Beck, Alan Harland, Keith Oakes, Heather Joyce, Vince Zappavigna, Don Boland, Albie Curtis, Celeste Boonaerts, Louise Dunn, Jannelle Dawson, Nola Davies, Margaret Thoms, Baby Winter, Ian Wilks, Kaye Purser, Audrey Barsendich, Helen McKeon, Frank Schmidt, Nicola (Nick) Bubici, Lorna Russom, Margaret Jackson, Maureen Cowls, Jason Wellin, Olive O'Brien and grandchild Sharon, Maureen Carlon, Carren Quinn.

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Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

25th September 2016 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C Psalter Week 2

Maybe the reason this Gospel-story has become so famous is its extraordinary attention to detail; the regal colours of Dives' clothes, his exquisite tableware and fine dining. It all conjures up a vivid picture. At the same time Lazarus' world is equally well described. Begging at the gate, Lazarus' only companions are the dogs and his sores. Even giving names to both these characters adds to the power of the parable. These people are not just a rich man and a beggar. They are Dives and Lazarus, well-known to everyone in the village. All these years later they are well known to us too. Not the actual characters, of course, upon whom the story could be based, but all the Lazarus' and Dives' in our own villages. It is an important task for us to decide which one of these characters we think we are.

Recently the United Nations published a paper which creatively described the world as a village of 100 people. Staying consistent with the international statistics the United Nations tells us that our global village looks like this. There are 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 North Americans, 8 Africans, 4 South Americans and an assortment fills up the final four places. There are 52 women and 48 men of whom only 30 are fair-skinned and 70 are dark-skinned. 91 are heterosexual while nine are gay. Only one of us has a University education and yet six people in our village own 64% of our town's wealth and all of them are Americans. 80 people live in substandard housing without electricity, clean water and sewerage. 70 of us cannot read and 50 suffer from malnutrition.

This village analysis sorts out very quickly who Lazarus and Dives are in our world. As hard as life is for some of us and as much as we struggle financially, we are, comparatively, dressed in purple robes and feasting off fine linen.

Psalm Response

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Praise the Lord my soul, O praise the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

The UN report goes on to say that 1.2 billion people live on \$1.50 a day or less. And while we might be personally very generous in assisting the poor in a variety of ways, our Dives-like countries are not. Australia only gives \$98 per person per year to aid third world development. Canada gives \$108, the UK gives \$112 and the USA's third world development budget is just \$67 per person per year. And for all the moral scorn sometimes heaped upon Scandinavia, Denmark is the most generous country in the world, giving \$649 per capita last year.

The point of Jesus' story in today's Gospel is not to remind us that there are poor people at our gate. It is to implore us to listen and learn. Some Catholics want to vigorously uphold dogma and liturgical laws but do not seem to care one iota for the social teaching of the Church which instructs us that our love of God is truly found in deeds not words.

Given the way we keep repeating the sins of the past and we allow the rich to get richer while the poor die before us, it seems we Christians, who have had the benefit of the Law, the Prophets and even a man coming back from the dead, will not change the structures that enshrine global injustice. Why?

There is no way around it. Such a change would involve real sacrifice on our part and we are not prepared to pay the price. Jesus, however, reminds us today of the consequences in both our selective deafness toward Lazarus' cry and our lack of action; our comfortable passivity has implications for this world and the next.

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Around the Parish

Social Justice Sunday 25th September: This year, the Australian Bishop's Social Justice Statement is titled: 'A Place at the Table: Social Justice in an ageing society and emphasises that this contribution should not be valued in mere economic terms. The Statement calls for justice for those who are most vulnerable and warns about a view of older people as burdensome or dispensable.

Prayer cards and 'Ten Steps' leaflets available in gathering area.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Candy Quimby, Hunter Gould, Archie Irwin, Dylan McCunn, Emma McCunn and Ella Munday who were baptised last week.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group
Roster for October meetings are 1st, 8th, 15th October to be held in Walter Baker Hall.

Senior & Junior Servers, Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers new rosters available in Servers Sacristy.

Bus Trip to Mangrove Mountain for a picnic. Wednesday, 12th October, leaving 8.50am. Cost \$25. Morning tea and lunch provided. Contact Susie 0403 417 639 for all enquiries, bookings and payments.

Father's Day Raffle: The 2nd Prize, \$100 Lowes Gift Card was won by 'Violetta'. Violetta, please call the Parish office 4341 1073 as we have been unable to contact you. The phone number written on the ticket is missing a digit!

SAVE Your Treasures SAVE the date—Mary Macs Garage Sale. Saturday 12th November. Drop off your treasures Friday 11th. No electrical or large furniture please.

Rosary Beads Sale: We would like to advise that a SALE of Rosary Beads will be held in the month of October at our Piety Stall. These Rosaries have been reduced to a very low price, so now is the time to purchase the beads whilst the stock is available.

2017 Columban Calendars now available in Piety Stall.

Ministry of the Sick: Please ring the Parish office if you know of a family member, a friend or parishioner who wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Reconciliation or the Blessed Eucharist at home.

More Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to take Holy Communion to these people. Please contact Phoebe Glacken on 4341 6324 if you can help.

Can you drive the bus once a month? Our Parish bus service is in danger of folding as we do not have enough drivers. Can you help once a month for either Saturday or Sunday Masses. If you need to upgrade your license to an LR license, the Parish Council will sponsor the upgrade. For more information Contact Bernard on 4341 6343 or the Parish office on 4341 1037.

The Just Word

25 September Social Justice Sunday:

For the 2016-17 Social Justice Statement, Australia's Bishops have selected the theme:

Ageing and its social justice implications:

People who have reached old age can be among the most vulnerable in any society and are deserving of our care and attention. With the fragmentation of family structures in modern society, the growing numbers of people reaching old age, economic pressures on all aspects of health care, and the demands that social

goods such as aged care facilities be financially self-sufficient, elderly people can be seriously deprived and marginalised. There are also justice issues that affect the families and loved ones of ageing people and the workers who are devoted to their care. The Holy Father has spoken recently of the need for social structures that honour and respect older generations A.C. S. J. C. Just as God asks us to be his means of hearing the cry of the poor, so too he wants us to hear the cry of the elderly. This represents a challenge to families and communities, since 'the Church cannot and does not want

to conform to a mentality of impatience, and much less of indifference and contempt, towards old age. We must reawaken the collective sense of gratitude, of appreciation, of hospitality, which makes the elderly feel like a living part of the community. Our elderly are men and women, fathers and mothers, who came before us on our own road, in our own house, in our daily battle for a worthy life.' Indeed, 'how I would like a Church that challenges the throw-away culture by the overflowing joy of a new embrace between young and old!'

Pope Francis.

From the Diocese and beyond

Mount St. Benedict Centre—Praying with Poetry:

On this day we will share ways in which poetry can lead to prayer by exploring the thoughts, feelings, and experiences in selected poems, as well as their images, rhythms and capacity to surprise. Poems used will come from a wide range of poets including Mary Oliver, R.S. Thomas, Gerard Manly Hopkins, Jessica Powers, Bonnie Thurston and others. There will be time for quiet reflection. Participants are invited to bring along a favourite poem to share. It need not be one that leads to prayer. Saturday 8th October,

10am-3.30pm. Facilitator: Sr. Glenda Bourke, S.G.S. has taught at Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne for many years. She is well respected as a teacher and scholar with qualifications in Arts, Education, Theology, Scripture. Cost: \$25. Morning provided. BYO lunch. Bookings by Monday 3rd October. Phone: 9484 6208.
Email:mtsbenedict@bigpond.com
449D Pennant Hills Rd. Entrance off Hull Rd.

"In the Footsteps of St. Mary of the Cross Mackillop" Have you considered participating in the National Pilgrimage? In this Sesquicentenary Year, the Sisters of

St. Joseph invite you to participate in this pilgrimage, giving 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 to recognise her relevance in your own life. 9th-10th November. Cost: \$2,860. (all inclusive: airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and meals).

Single Supplement: \$590.
Contact Sr. Annie Bond rsj on 02 89124818 or MMP. NationalPilgrimage@sosj.org.au

Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
September 25

Am 6:1, 4–7
Ps 145:6–10 R. v.2
1 Tm 6:11–16
Lk 16:19–31

The prophet Amos provides us with another “woe” this weekend. This one is addressed to “those who are complacent” (v 1). While Zion is the mountain of Jerusalem, the “mount of Samaria” represents the northern kingdom. Thus our text can be read as addressed to citizens of both nations. The prophet speaks of those who are “lying upon beds of ivory” (v 4), a sign of excessive indulgence. Like the rich man in today’s Gospel, they are blinded by their wealth and cannot see the poverty that surrounds them. To them the prophet speaks words of judgment.

The encouragement addressed to Timothy today is also for each of us. Timothy, a fellow missionary with Paul, is a leader of the church at Ephesus. Through baptism, God calls us to “pursue righteousness, / devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness” (v 11). Our lives are meant to witness to life in God.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus reinforces Amos’s message. Purple clothes were a sign of wealth in Jesus’ day. The contrast between the description of the rich man, “who dressed in purple garments and fine linen” (v 19), and Lazarus, who was “covered with sores” (v 20), tells us that they are at opposite ends of the socioeconomic scale. While the rich man “dined sumptuously each day” (v 19), Lazarus did not. The added detail that the dogs “used to come and lick his sores” (v 21) paints his situation as even more dire. Part of the tragedy of this story is that the rich man should have known better than to ignore Lazarus “lying at his door” (v 20); they are both children of Abraham.

For reflection: Where can I find the Lazaruses in society today? What in my life prevents me from seeing them?

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
October 2

Hab 1:2–3; 2:2–4
Ps 94:1–2, 6–9 R. v.8
2 Tm 1:6–8, 13–14
Lk 17:5–10

We rarely hear the voice of the prophet Habakkuk at Mass. Writing during the rise of the Babylonian Empire, he addresses the injustices in his world. His book, like the Book of Job, presents a dialogue between the prophet and God. The prophet laments, “How long, O Lord? I cry for help / but you do not listen!” (1:2). He is surrounded by “violence ... misery ... destruction ... strife, and clamorous discord” (vv 2–3), and he wonders why God is silent. God’s response to him, and to us, is to persevere, for “the just one, because of his faith, shall live” (2:4).

In Second Timothy today, we hear that we should “stir into flame / the gift of God” (v 6). Our faith is not something to hide. We are encouraged, “Do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord” (v 8). Christ suffered shame when he died on the cross for us. We too might suffer shame for the sake of the gospel, but our experience unites us more closely to him. Our union is not with one who was defeated but with one who was ultimately victorious, conquering death. Because the Spirit “dwells within us” (v 14), we can endure whatever comes our way.

Faith can do great things, Luke tells us. Yet, in our weakness, we are limited, and so we pray with the apostles, “Increase our faith” (v 5). Our successes are achieved with God’s help. While Luke’s faith moves a “mulberry tree” (v 6), that of the parallels in Mark and Matthew move a “mountain.” But the point is the same: faith can do great things. The saying about the servant and master reminds us that what we do in service of our faith does not make us deserving of special favors from God; that is our duty as disciples.

For reflection: How can I “stir into flame the gift of God” in my life? In what ways do I need to have my faith strengthened?



The sin of the rich man in today’s parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?





Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

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@woywocatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywocatholic.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.

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 god-parent, 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.

CATHOLIC CARE 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

Housie Marathon - 100 Games
Saturday 1st October 2016 (long weekend)
Peninsula Community Centre
93 McMasters Rd, Woy Woy
6 costs \$48 for each 50 games (all 100 games = \$96)
2:30 p.m. to 10:20 p.m. (selling from 1:30 p.m.)
Free sausage sizzle and catering during half time break
Free tea and coffee all day Enquiries 0427 990 818

**100 Games with \$100 and \$150 prizes
and a chance of winning the \$2000 Jackpots**

(game 50 reverts to \$1000 if not won within calls, game 100 is \$2000 in unlimited calls)

Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy

Enquiries 0427 990 818

Proceeds to Woy Woy Catholic Parish

Is Gambling a problem for you? Call G-Line (NSW) counselling service 1800 633 635. Prizes subject to ticket sales