



# The Voice

28th September 2014 Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Psalter Week 2

ORDINARY  
time

## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Pat Dunn, Giacomo Ghersini.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Fr. Terence O'Brien, Fr. Phillip Murphy, Monsignor Vincent Marley, Stanley Walsh, James and Elizabeth Carr, Thelma King, Jim Palmer, Arthur Andrews, James Casey, Maria de Giorgio, Jack Dunne, Molly Dunne, Emmie Carkeek, John Charles Carkeek, Carley and Melvee Carkeek.
- **and for the sick:**  
Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor, Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen, Mary Harrison, Denis Glacken, Lola Proctor, Grace Williams, Michael Wheeler, Alan Harland, Renee Glase, Margaret Woodward, Brother Michael Knights, Mary McCumstie, Evangeline Cusay, Olive Brittliff, Margaret Friery.

## Sport and Social Justice

Today is Social Justice Sunday. Copies of the Social Justice Statement 2014-2015 are available in the foyer. It is also available for download on the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference ([www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)) and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council ([www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)).

The title of the 2014-2015 Statement is *A Crown for Australia: Striving for the Best in our Sporting Nation*. It refers to the First Letter to the Corinthians (9:24-27), where the St Paul compares the "wreath that will wither", for which athletes of the time competed, with the imperishable crown to which we aspire as followers of Christ.

Australians are passionate about their sport. The nation seems to stop for a grand final or a crucial cricket test. Local sporting clubs can be a nucleus for the formation and flourishing of communities: life-long friendships are forged; young people learn skills and resilience; volunteers grow through devoting time and energy to their organisations. Sport brings together people who otherwise might never come into contact.

As our lifestyles become more and more sedentary, sport makes an essential contribution to our health and wellbeing, physical and mental.

In this Social Justice Statement, Australia's can come from sport to us as individuals and as a community: personal development, friendship and solidarity, contribution to health, and the sheer joy of movement and skill. We also have to acknowledge a darker side: violence on and off the field, abuse of drugs and alcohol, racism, sexism and commercial exploitation.

This Social Justice Statement challenges us to look at the place of sport in our lives. How can we ensure that sport can thrive and in return nourish our society, and how can we confront the influences that undermine or distort its ideals?

Of even greater importance is the challenge to realise the potential of sport to unite communities, overcome differences and be a force for social justice and reconciliation.

The Bishops have supplied the following prayer:

*God of all sports (and none):  
From our small minds,  
How amused you must be  
When our prayers about sport  
Are about our own success or our team's.  
Whose side are you on?  
How do you choose*

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### Psalm Response

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Re - mem - ber you mer - cies, Lord

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Thank You:** Our Parish Mission event is now complete so it's time to thank the people who worked to make it successful. Behind the organization was a group of people who also had a team working with each of them to plan and advertise the event, liaise with the schools and other churches and organise equipment. The event involved welcoming, those managing the surveys and parking, collectors, cleaners, those setting up and taking down and those providing transport. In addition there were groups who took responsibility for the superb suppers and morning teas. This too involved even more people so the representation of the parish was impressive. The generosity of these groups was matched by the people who provided billets and this was very much appreciated by all who attended the event. The event not only enhanced our spirituality but also contributed to our sense of community as everyone involved demonstrated amazing good will and service. To all those involved, the parish thanks you most sincerely.

**From Our Parish Nurse – Parkinson's Disease** is a progressive neurological condition and more than 30 people are diagnosed daily. Information about Parkinson's Disease is

available in the gathering area. If you have any questions or concerns please see the parish nurse or contact your doctor.

**Sacrament of the Sick** will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday, 3rd October.

**Mary Mac's Garage Sale Cake Stall:** Please help us by baking a cake or slice for the stall? Slices should be cut into 6 pieces and glad - wrapped. If gluten free, please mark as such. Take to Mary Mac's Friday, 10th October before midday or Saturday morning before 8am. Call Claudia 0416 072 757 for more info.

**Giant Garage Sale for Mary Mac's Place** 8.00 am Saturday, 11th October. Calling for quality and interesting articles to sell. *No junk please. Costs to dispose of junk means we have fewer funds to continue the work of Mary Mac's.* Items should be dropped off at MMP Friday, October 10 ONLY as MMP has no storage space. You can also help by purchasing books, plants, cakes, clothes, bric-a-brac and household goods all of which will be on sale, or just enjoy a sizzled sausage and a cold drink. More info call : 4341 0584 or Claudia : 0416 072 757.

**Congratulations** to Geraldine Baxter, who will receive a Service Award in recognition of 15 years service as a catechist at the

Regional Mass on 14th October.

**100 Game Marathon** Saturday, 4th October (October long weekend). Games start 2.30pm until 5.30pm, then a break including free BBQ and catering, then 7.30pm – 10.30pm. We operate it as 2x50 game sessions and sell the tickets for each session separately. Pets and pads available. Prizes all \$100 and \$150, game 50 is \$1,000 and game 100 is \$2,000 unlimited.

**St. Vincent de Paul Summer Clothing Appeal** 11/12 October.

**Daylight Saving** begins next Sunday, 5th Oct. Remember to turn your clocks forward.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 3/10/14:** Christina Thorsen, Jo Salter, Kevin Glacken, Gary Martin.

**'El Shaddai' Prayer Group** meetings October 4, 11 & 18th. Enq: Grace Lloyd 4343 1504.

**Living Faith** booklets now available. \$2 ea. in Piety Stall.

**Thank you** to Marie Carr (16yrs), Allan Goddard (15yrs) & Paulene White (3yrs) who have retired from the money coordinating/counting role over the last few months. Their commitment to attending every Monday morning is greatly appreciated & their smiling faces are truly missed.

## The Just Word

### Social Justice Statement 2014/15

The Church recognises sport to be one of the great institutions of our society that helps individuals realise their human potential and builds up the bonds of the community, fostering communal initiative and responsibility. We acknowledge the great contribution over the years made by the Catholic schools and communities. We must continue to recognise that sport is a vital aspect of the society around

us.

### Personal development and the love of sport:

When we first experience sport we begin to learn lessons that can last us a lifetime, whether as a member of a team or pursuing an individual sport. We learn the discipline of playing within the rules of the sport: that you can't handle the ball in soccer, throw it forward in rugby, run with it in basketball or bowl from beyond the crease in cricket. We learn about persistence and as-

piring to our 'personal best'; that skills don't come easily; and that 'a champion team can beat a team of champions'. We learn that others' needs can come before our own. And that others may be our opponents, but they are not our enemies. We learn that we can face pain and disappointment, even humiliation, and still play and win the next day – or even in the next half.

*Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.*

## From the Diocese and beyond

**CCD Regional Mass** will be held on Tuesday, 14th October, 7pm at St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Warnervale. The celebration will include the presentation of Service Awards, 5, 10 and 15 years of service. In addition, Training and Formation Accreditation Awards for Level 1 & 2 will be awarded to SRE teachers who have completed all requirements of the CCD.

**Teachers, Midwives and other required in Timor-Leste, Kiribati and India.** Find out more at Palms Australia Solidarity Awards Dinner 6.30pm. 11th October. Australian Catholic University, Strathfield. It will be a convivial opportunity for you to meet returned Palms Volunteers who will be delighted to share their stories with you. Further enquiries or to purchase a ticket phone 9518 9551.

**Biblical Studies:** Andrew Wood from the St. John Centre for Biblical Studies will present a Course in Christology at St. Patrick's East Gosford, which will run over 6 consecutive Mondays from October 6 to November 10 from 7-9pm. Coast \$120 course. Optional \$20 for text book. Further information call St. Patrick's Parish on 4325 1042 or visit [www.stjohncentre.com](http://www.stjohncentre.com)



# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 28

Ez 18:25-28  
Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5  
Mt 21:28-32

Jesus's parable of the two sons is addressed to the chief priests and elders (see v 23), a group opposed to Jesus in Matthew's text. The contrast between the two sons mirrors the difference between Jesus's opponents and sinners. The first son, who originally refused to work in the vineyard, eventually "changed his mind and went" (v 29). He represents the "tax collectors and prostitutes" (v 31) who originally refuse to follow God's way but then have a change of heart. That the sinners repented in response to the preaching of the Baptist should be enough to convince Jesus's opponents to embrace the message of the gospel, but it is not. Because of their hard-heartedness, they will come under judgment.

In the text from Ezekiel, the prophet reminds us that God holds us accountable for our sins. In order to receive God's grace, we must do "what is right and just" (v 27). Writing as an exile in Babylon, the prophet calls us to reject sin and be faithful to the Lord, who is God of all the earth. For Ezekiel, the Israelites are in exile not because the gods of Babylon are greater than their God; rather, the exile is a demonstration of the Lord's sovereignty over all people.

In today's second reading, a text we encountered two weeks ago on the feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Paul calls the Philippians to live lives worthy of the gospel. As Christians, we are called to lead lives of humility and unity, following the example of Christ, who humbled himself and accepted death on our behalf. The vocation of a Christian calls us to conform our lives to that of Christ Jesus.

*For reflection:* Am I progressing in my spiritual growth? Do I make a conscious effort to follow the example of Christ?

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

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 5

Is 5:1-7  
Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20  
Phil 4:6-9  
Mt 21:33-43

As he begins to conclude his letter to the Philippians, Paul continues to exhort them to grow in their faith. If we place our trust in God, then "the peace of God ... / will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (v 7). It is this confidence that allows Paul to suffer persecution, imprisonment, and finally death. Paul knows that following the way of Christ ultimately leads to peace, so he encourages them to persevere in their faith.

Today's text from Isaiah serves as a background for Jesus's parable of the vineyard. Isaiah addresses his parable to the people as a word of judgment. God has planted a vineyard with great care in Israel. Even the location, "a fertile hillside" (v 1), is intended to ensure a successful harvest. He "planted the choicest vines" after preparing the soil; yet despite all this, the vineyard only yields "wild grapes" (v 2). Isaiah warns the "inhabitants of Jerusalem" (v 3) that because "the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel" (v 7) and they have produced an undesirable harvest, they are about to face God's judgment.

Jesus speaks of a "landowner who planted a vineyard" and "leased it to tenants" (v 33). This landowner had done everything he could to ensure that the land would produce a good harvest. But in his absence, the tenants refuse to pay the rent, and they abuse the servants sent to "obtain his produce" (v 34). Even his son cannot get them to pay the rent; they "seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him" (v 39). For Matthew's community these wicked tenants represent those who reject Jesus: they will have the kingdom "taken away from you / and given to a people that will produce its fruit" (v 43). Like the parable in Isaiah, Jesus's parable also challenges us to "produce fruit" or face judgment.

*For reflection:* Is my life producing a desirable harvest for God? How has God helped me provide a successful yield?




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The first son in today's Gospel said he would do his father's bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

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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 Ethel Cox Parish Centre  
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.  
54 Victoria 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"

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.

## Sport and Social Justice

(continued)

(Continued from page 1)

*When supporters from both sides  
Implore your divine intervention?*

*Remind us that in prayer  
Our hearts are opened to you  
And our minds lifted beyond ourselves.  
Just as prayer changes us,  
Not you, O God,  
So sport too, can lift us beyond ourselves.  
So we pray:*

*We give thanks for the gift of our bodies,  
For the ability to run, walk, jump,  
Swim, catch and throw.*

*We pray for patience and discipline,  
That we may learn the joy of mastering new  
skills:  
Achieving success, and cheerfully bearing  
failure  
In the company of others.*

*We pray that our relationships be enriched*

*Through the friendships we form.  
May we learn to include others across bor-  
ders  
Of language, colour, gender and religion.*

*We pray that we care for others.  
May we especially look out for those  
Who are differently abled,  
And those often left on the boundaries.*

*Through our vigilance  
May we always play fair,  
And ensure that no one is abused or ex-  
ploited.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.



Diocese of  
Broken Bay