



The Voice

27th September 2015

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2

OF YOUR CHARITY

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Eileen Robinson, Rae Campbell, Peter Joseph Gallagher.
- **Anniversaries:**
Stanley Walsh, George Hague, Ron Dixon, Jim Palmer, Barry Follett, James Casey, Damiana and Pedro Bulual, Pasquale and Giuseppina Sergi, Enrico and Caterina Zappavigna, Norrie & Lou Glacken, Kathleen & Ted Ellison, Elaine Heath, Jack Dunne, Monsignor Vincent Marley.
- **Remembrances:**
Dario, Caterina & Robert Burla, Molly Dunne.
- **And the sick:**
Sara Selim, Peter Wellins, Frances Sara, Neil Cameron, June Ferry, Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen, Lola Proctor, Jack Moulds, Maryanne Diorio, Charles Knowles, Alan Harland, Mary Taylor, Connor Cole, Fr. Brian Rowland, Carol Cross, Fr. Bill Meacham, Arnold Diorio, Bruce Spence, Mary Dolan, Grace Williams, Sandy Sirrell, Rita and John Webb, Marsha Bursynski, Tony O'Neil, Peter Harrison, Anne Singleton.

Today's gospel makes me very pleased I'm a Catholic, and that we don't take the bible literally. Our Christian brothers and sisters who insist on the literal truth of the scriptures must have a tough time trying to avoid cutting off their hands and feet, plucking out their eyes and worrying about how hot hell is! I'm not sure about them, but I know my feet have taken me to places I wish I'd not gone, and when I got there my eyes saw things I wish I'd not seen. Still, in spite of the times I've let myself down, I am glad I'm still in one piece, and not all that worried about the worms and weather in hell!

As Catholics we believe the Scriptures reveal the truth of our salvation – they are not books of fact. Jesus was a skilled and powerful communicator. And like all great teachers he used metaphor and exaggeration to make his point. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus takes evil very seriously. He is always conscious of it around him and is aware that it comes from within us, and without us. Jesus teaches us today to stop doing the destructive things that prevent us from loving God, each other and ourselves.

Sinful behaviour often falls into two categories of human activity: habitual and compulsive. Habits are unusual things. There are good habits, like saying 'please' and 'thank you'. There are habits that can start out well-intentioned enough, but end up being obsessions, like caring for one's physical fitness. And there are habits that bring moments of relief or let us off the hook – like lying, dishonesty and stealing – but always end up being destructive.

Compulsive behaviour, however, is of a very different order. Gambling, drinking, shopping, smoking, violence, work, sex, eating, drugs, pornography, money and the Internet are fairly common modern manifestations of compulsive behaviour. As heart-breaking as these addictions are, they are the presenting problems of deeper issues related to self-esteem, personal history and even genetic

disposition.

One of the comments I've heard people make about their compulsive behaviour is, 'I found myself doing it again and I am not sure how or why'. No doubt there are some people who feel so lonely and get so depressed about their habitual or compulsive behaviour, they contemplate severing an arm, a leg or gouging an eye.

Jesus underlines that we have to stop our destructive behaviour and offers three pieces of practical advice so we can. Firstly, do whatever helps. For some people the most unusual solutions attend to the deeper issues and help us piece our lives back together. It doesn't matter whether others approve of it, or it's related to religious faith, for as long as it doesn't lead to other destructive behaviour then, 'whoever (or whatever) is not against us, is for us'.

Secondly, accept help. None of us can battle through life carrying all our burdens on our own. Steps four to six of Alcoholics Anonymous deal with sharing the exact nature of our burdens as a means to coming to terms with them. Our family and friends are not mind readers and we need to seek out wise counsel and follow it wisely. The help and support we receive could be like the cup of refreshing water Jesus tells us about today.

Finally, habitual and compulsive behaviour always has a pattern. St Ignatius Loyola taught in the sixteenth century that it was only when we regularly examined ourselves to see where, when, how and with whom we are most likely to walk away from God's love, that we can work out why we do it and change the pattern.

And when we really know ourselves as we are, and not as we would like to be, we have the chance to choose life over death more often than not.

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Psalms Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Daylight Saving begins next Sunday 4th October.

When local standard time is **2am** clocks are turned **forward 1 hour to 3am**— yes, we lose an hours sleep. Remember to alter those clocks or you might be late for Mass!

Social Justice Sunday this Sunday. Prayer Cards available .

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Ivy Landow, Hugo McCusker, Juliet Meissner and Matteo Quitadamo who were baptised last Sunday.

Senior and Junior Altar Servers Rosters now available in Servers Sacristy.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 2/10/15: Elena Egan, Jo Salter, Kevin Glacken.

'El Shaddai' Prayer Group meetings for the month of October are 3rd, 10th and 17th in the Walter Baker Hall.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish Family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Rae Campbell buried from our Church last week.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass this Friday, 2nd October.

100 game Bingo Marathon will be held on Saturday, 3rd October. (October long weekend). Games start 2.30pm and go to 5.30pm, then we have a break including a free BBQ and catering, then 7.30pm-10.30pm. We operate it as 2x50 game sessions and sell tickets for each session separately. Pets and pads available. It's a great day out and something not to be missed and of course if you can't make part of the Marathon, you can join in at any stage as we sell books separately. Cost for 6 tickets all day is \$96. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. (Cnr of Ocean Beach Rd) Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit our Parish.

The Just Word

Australian 'contagion' contained, says UNHCR:

The risk that other nations would copy Australia's hardline policies against asylum seekers is limited, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres told a meeting of NGO representatives in Geneva recently.

Mr Guterres noted that the attitude to asylum seekers who arrived by boat contrasted with Australia's overall migration

program and its response to asylum seekers arriving by air.

"Australia has a very important resettlement program and I have to say that I was always amazed with the quality of the integration of refugees in Australia. On the other hand, I believe it is still the case that if you come to the airport in Sydney and ask for asylum you are treated normally, but if a boat floats, then everything gets out of control."

"That kind of ...obsession is for me something very difficult to understand. I hope that this will not last forever."

Across Asia, many refugees are struggling to find food, shelter and the most basic levels of freedom—while Australia is spending \$636,000 per year to lock up each asylum seeker it sends to detention on Nauru. For further information, visit www.refugeecouncil.org.au

From the Diocese and beyond

Ecumenical Service of Prayer and remembrance

for the Christians of the Armenian Genocide and for persecuted Christians of our times. Homily by His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najaian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand.

Bishop Peter invites all to this service to be held Tuesday, 13 October at 7pm. at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church, 94 Archer St. Chatswood. Light supper will be served after the service. RSVP: Thursday 1st October to Lisa Hogarth, Office of the Bishop. lisa.hogarth1@dbb.org.au

Diocese of Broken Bay Annual Charity Race Day: at

The Entertainment Grounds, Central Coast, Racecourse Rd Gosford. Thursday, 29th October 2015.

Through the C.W.F., our Diocese will use the proceeds of this day to provide assistance to families and individuals who are in need

of a helping hand. All are invited to assist in making this 2015 Race Day a great success. Organise a group of colleagues, or friends from our parish. For full details see notice board.

Smart Loving - Because every Marriage Matters: BreakThrough Workshop. Transform your relationship! For couples and spouses in stressed relationships. Private and confidential. No individual counselling. No couple activities. Luddenham. Sunday, October 11, 2-5pm. www.smartloving.org Phone:93196280 or visit info@smartloving.org

Achieving Pregnancy Naturally: The Billings Ovulation Method can assist you in having the baby of your dreams. If you have been trying to have a baby without success, our teachers can provide essential information, which will give you the best chance to achieve your pregnancy naturally. For a free information leaflet, please call Billings LIFE on 1800 335 860.

The War Room Avoca Beach Picture Theatre. Session times: Sunday 27th—7.55pm. Monday 28th—1.40pm. Tuesday 29th-5.35pm . Wednesday.30th 11.45am.

A call to battle on our knees—fighting the good fight for our hearts, our families, our community and the nations. Christians unite and commit to pray to change the world; to return to prayer as one, passionately, actively unifying to fight the real enemy and break down the walls of division. Film Synopsis: With great jobs, a beautiful daughter and a dream house, the Jordan's seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving however, as husband Tony flirts with temptation and wife Elizabeth becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets Miss Clara who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer.



Readings for Today and Next Sunday

Bruce Janiga

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 27

Nm 11:25-29
Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14
Jas 5:1-6
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

The Book of Numbers, narrating Israel's time in the wilderness after receiving the Commandments, tells us that God took some of the "spirit that was on Moses" and "bestowed it on the seventy elders" (v 25). Two of those selected to receive the spirit are not at the Tent of Meeting, yet they too receive the spirit and also prophesy. Joshua becomes upset at this, but Moses corrects him. The fact that they too are prophesying (singing God's praises) is something Moses wishes would happen to all the people. The elders are selected to support Moses in his work, and the spirit will enable them to do it effectively. This story shows us that God is not constrained by human limitations.

In an echo of one of Luke's "woes" (6:24-26, paired with his Beatitudes), James calls the rich to "weep and wail over your impending miseries" (v 1). The things of this world are transitory. These rich persons, who have made their wealth on the backs of others, will face God's judgment. Like Jesus, our author does not condemn all the rich, only those who are greedy and exploit others. Like the rich fool (Lk 12:16-21), they depend on their own wealth, rather than on the gracious mercy of God, to save them. Withholding wages from their workers, they have grown rich in the things of the world, but their wealth "will devour [their] flesh like a fire" (v 3) on the day of judgment.

Like Joshua in the story from Numbers, the apostle John in the Gospel story is upset because someone who is not among their number is "driving out demons in [Jesus'] name" (v 38). Jesus chastises John for not realizing that "whoever is not against us is for us" (v 40). His saying about cutting off one's hand reminds us that admittance to the reign of God is worth whatever sacrifice we are called to make.

For Reflection: We all have different gifts; am I grateful for my own or jealous of the gifts of others? Do I depend more on God's riches or on the things of this world?

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 4

Gn 2:18-24
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6
Heb 2:9-11
Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

In the Book of Genesis, everything God makes is good. The first thing that is "not good" is the fact that the man is alone (v 18). In light of this, God looks to make "a suitable partner for him." After making all the wild animals and birds, there is still no suitable helper. We then read that God put the man into a deep sleep and, removing a rib from his side, formed a woman, whom the man declared to be "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" (v 23). Created from the side of the man, she is his equal partner. For our author, this union of man and woman as husband and wife is rooted in the very first pages of the story of creation; it is part of God's plan.

The writer of Hebrews writes that Jesus acquired a crown of glory through his suffering. Christ lowered himself in order to suffer and die that he might give us a share in God's glory. Our humanity, broken by sin, is restored by Christ's obedience. Sharing in our death, Christ gives us a share in his life. Uniting himself to us in the incarnation, he consecrated us for God and now calls us his brothers and sisters (v 11).

Jesus is apparently unique in forbidding divorce. In his day, some rabbis permitted a man to divorce his wife if she burned dinner, others for something more serious, as adultery. In Mark's story, the Pharisees try to get Jesus involved in the debate about acceptable grounds for divorce, but he challenges them to consider that Genesis tells us, "What God has joined together, no human being must separate" (v 9).

For Reflection: Do I view men and women as equals? How can I work to make my own marriage stronger as a sign of God's plan? Do I support the marriages of others, that they will be strengthened?

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.



Today's second reading warns that a heart consumed with avarice and envy leads to jealousy, strife, conflicts, and disputes. A giving heart, in contrast, can sing instead with the psalmist, "Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness."

SEE PSALM 54



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. MSPS. Fr. Phillip Thottam. MSPS.
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 7.45am, 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 7.15 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): 4324 6403.

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 Robyn 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.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY – for information and events contact Parish Office 4341 1073.

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 0243 445 049

Skipping Confirmation

Paul Turner

Some Catholics never get confirmed. Some have never had the opportunity for preparatory catechesis; others may have never taken that opportunity. Sometimes, when confirmation preparation is offered to adolescents, they refuse it in favour of other, more attractive and time-consuming activities or because they want to show their independence from the wishes of their parents.

People who have never been confirmed are ineligible for religious life or priesthood. A more widespread difficulty is that they cannot serve as godparents at a Catholic baptism. It is strongly suggested that they be confirmed before entering marriage, though in some unusual cases – for example, in regions of the world where bishops are scarce – this cannot be completely enforced.

The greatest loss, however, is the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This point is often missed by those who opt out of confirmation preparation. Sometimes the requirements for confirmation seem so demanding that people see the sacrament as something they

have to earn rather than a gift they receive. The words that accompany confirming are these: "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." That gift will give the Catholic access to stronger faith, greater wisdom, better judgment, helpful advising, and deeper devotion. When thought of this way, it is hard to imagine who would not want these gifts of the Spirit – or who would want to marry a person without them.

If a Catholic is older than the traditional age of confirmation, the sacrament is still available; most parishes and dioceses have a preparation program for those who want to be confirmed at a later age. If a person who has never been confirmed is near death, any priest may administer the sacrament. Still, the gifts of the Holy Spirit do their best work the earlier in life a Catholic receives them.

This bulletin insert originally appeared in *Ministry & Liturgy* magazine, a pastoral planning resource used by the worship leaders in your community as an aid for better liturgy. Copyright © 2012 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St., #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, Mo., holds a doctorate degree in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay