



The Voice

7th September 2014 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A Psalter Week 3

ORDINARY TIME

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Sr. Patricia Davoren, (OLN)
Lilia Pili Mendoza.
- **Anniversaries:**
Ian Jeffrey, George Hague,
Bishop Bill Brennan,
Geoffrey Walker,
Patricia Anne Ryan.
- **Remembrances:**
Francis McLenaghan,
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Anne Singleton, Irene Beck,
Doris Tancred, Sr. Leo Taylor,
Fr. Bill Meacham, Beryl Allen,
Wanda Grima, Mary Harrison,
Denis Glacken, Lola Proctor,
Grace Williams,
Michael Wheeler,
Margaret Woodward,
Brother Michael Knights,
Mary McCumstie.

A church that forgives

Between last Sunday and this, we jump across various incidents and sayings of Jesus that we hear about during the Year of Mark or at particular feasts (such as the Transfiguration), and we come to a collection of sayings about how to handle conflict in the kingdom.

Next Sunday, the Triumph of the Cross, is also Child Protection Sunday. We shall be praying on that day for those who have been sexually abused by priests, religious and other church personnel.

Today's readings teach the importance of forgiveness. There are two sides to this: forgiveness is part of the nature of the church, but another part is the need to acknowledge the need for forgiveness—the acknowledgment of wrong done.

The two aspects come together in many things that Jesus does and says in the gospels. On the cross he prays, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do' (Lk 23:34). After the resurrection he confronts Peter with his threefold denial: he asks him three times whether Peter loves him. Peter needs to know, not only that forgiveness awaits him, but also that he is in need of forgiveness.

Jesus thus gives the leadership of the Church to a forgiven sinner. As we celebrate Mass today, Jesus is among us, still eating with sinners. He is not only eating with individual sinners, but with a

Church that is made up of sinners, and whose sins and crimes have affected the Church itself.

The Church is, from one point of view, the "spotless bride of Christ." From another, it includes people who have done unspeakable things to children, adolescents and adults. If the saints are testimony to the holiness of the Church, then this latter group are an index of sinfulness and cowardliness.

Someone once angrily told me that the Church is a criminal organisation, and that I, as a Catholic priest, was as responsible for sexual abuse as any Nazi was for the Shoah. I don't agree. I do, however, share with you the shame we feel for the crimes themselves and for the cover-up that followed.

Because we love the Church and believe that it is the Body of Christ, we are tempted to defend the Church, when we should be naming the ways in which we and the Church have sinned, acknowledging the sin and seeking forgiveness from those we have hurt. It is the message that we should defend—the messenger.

What is needed is the strategy proposed by Christ and Ezekiel (first reading) today; or, as St Paul says, a strategy of love. That is the only way forward.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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If to - day you hear his voice, har - den not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Happy Father's Day: Our best wishes to all our fathers on their day as we remember them in our prayers.

Parish Mission:

Free Admission! The Parish Mission Event has heartwarming stories, fantastic music, tears and laughter, the most moving scripture readings – everything you could possibly hope for! We're keeping a seat just for you! September 18-22 mornings and evenings. See details on posters and brochures. You'll be happy you came.

Parish Mission Event Billets We urgently need just 1 more place. Thanks to all who have responded to date. Please contact Pat Baxter 4339 1037.

patriciabaxtr@yahoo.com.au

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 12/9/14: Kevin Glacken. Christina Thorsen. Michael French. Maria Wickens.

Children's Liturgy Roster 14/9/14: Alecia Amaral (L) Mary Wood (L) Jenny Fitzgerald (H).

Ecumenical Luncheon: The Annual Ecumenical Progressive Luncheon is to be held Saturday 13th September.

1st Course: Soup etc. will be at St. Andrews, Anglican Church, 360 Ocean Beach Rd. commencing 12 noon.

2nd Course: Main to follow at Umina Uniting Church, Cnr. Ocean Beach Rd. and Neptune St. (opposite the small shopping mall.) Commencing approx. 12.45pm-1pm.

3rd Course: Sweets. St. John the Baptist, Woy Woy. To be held in the Walter Baker Hall. Commencing approx. 2pm. Admission \$5 at the main course and a gold coin donation at the other two venues.

Please advise any dietary requirements. Everyone is welcome! It is only a short walk from St. Andrew's Anglican Church to The Uniting Church. Please put your name on the list

in the gathering area if you wish to attend.

Planned Giving Envelopes and Taxation Receipts: Please collect from the gathering area.

Parish Bus Trip: Rose Farm, Warnervale. Wed. Sept 10th, leaving 9.00am. Cost \$25 includes tour & morning tea. Ph: Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Bus Trip: To Newcastle. Visit the Embroiders Guild Exhibition. \$5 entry or wander around Newcastle. Bus Trip \$15 and morning tea. Contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster 14/9/14 after 9.15am Mass will be our Craft Ladies Group.

Our Lady's Birthday Monday 8 September: Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in the Lady Chapel after conclusion of Benediction 9am.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday 11 September, 11am, Leo Mahon room.



Social Justice

International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

continuing from last week's newsletter. Trafficking is a global phenomenon and nearly every country is a source, transit or destination (or combination of these three) for trafficked persons.

There are many sorts of industry into which people may be trafficked. South Asian and African boys may be trafficked as camel jockeys; many Eastern European women are trafficked into sex work; and Chinese and other women are trafficked into garment factories.

• **Forced labour** is work or service which a person is forced to do under the threat of any menace or penalty, and for which that person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.

• **Labour trafficking** or 'trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation' refer to trafficking in humans which has the end purpose of involving persons in forced labour, for example enslaved workers on fishing vessels, enslavement of migrant domestic workers, bonded labour in an agricultural setting or labour in a sweat shop or restaurant.

• **Domestic Servitude** is a form of slavery that occurs in households, and in many cases affects women and children. Domestic workers are brought into a country or are transported within a country; many suffer abuse by their 'employer' including sexual assault. Domestic workers have been trafficked into private homes as well as embassies and consulates. Visas often require

that a domestic worker remains with the original employer or face deportation, which discourages a worker from reporting any abuse.

• **Forced marriage** occurs where full and free consent by both parties does not exist, often as the result of coercion or deceit.

• **Servile marriage** refers to situations in which a person is considered a chattel that can be sold, transferred or inherited into marriage.

• **Sham (or fraudulent) marriage** occurs where there is no intention on the part of one or both of the spouses to participate in a genuine relationship as husband and wife.

For more information, go to <http://acrath.org.au>

From the Diocese and beyond

Quiet Reflection at the Grail Centre, 22 McHatton St. Nth Sydney, Tuesday, 16th September, 10am – 12 noon. We will be reflecting on some writings of Etty Hillesum, a Dutch Jewish woman who wrote an extraordinary account of her spiritual journey between 1941-1943, and who perished at the age of 29 in Auschwitz. Time for

silent meditation and an opportunity to share thoughts in a group. More information phone Grail Centre 9955 3053 or contact ruthcroweozemail.com.au

The Gospel of Mark: Bishop David Walker will present 4 week program on the Gospel of Mark. With the next

liturgical year (Year B) focusing on readings from Mark. Discover the texts in a new way, gain a deeper appreciation of the person of Jesus, his words and actions. Tuesdays, Oct. 28. Nov.4, 18, 25. 7pm-8.30pm. Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Centre, 239 The Entrance Rd. The Entrance. RSVP 24 October. Ph: 4332 2216.

Food Groups

Ron Raab

I enjoy meeting people in diners, coffee shops, and hangouts. I use coffee shops as places to hear people's complaints about their family members. I listen to a young post-grad describe falling in love during lunch at my favourite diner. These are not just places to sit and eat and drink. Food is not just function. These are places of profound conversation that open people to the truth of their lives.

I have moved 10 times since my ordination, living in places as varied as Southern California, Chicago, Portland, and Colorado Springs. I can often describe my ministry by my hangouts, where I meet people for conversations. Some of the eating establishments have also been onsite confessionals. I hear sins and offenses scrambled together with eggs in the early morning. Some barstools have been places of spiritual direction for me, where I have poured out my heart to other people over drinks or coffee or dinner or ice cream. No matter the city, conversation around food and drink creates a safe place where stories are told and matters of conscience are talked about freely and lovingly. In fact, as I ponder these personal conversations, I believe I have had the most intimate and profound conversations of my adult life in these local dives or hangouts and even in a few elegant dining rooms.

So I am aware that we all need our daily bread. Our hunger for intimacy is real: to be heard or to share our stories with other people. Our hunger is not static or just other-worldly or confined to church pews. We are starving for God's love. I realize with every move around the country that we all need people on earth to receive our stories of doubt, sin, insecurity, anger, and sadness. We need to become food for one another — partaking of the Eucharist in our own lives in order to then receive the hunger of other people.

The Eucharist is lived in the world when a sleepless parent feeds a screaming newborn in the darkness of night among the bonds of family love. I view the Eucharist when an elderly woman spoon-feeds her husband of nearly 60 years who is dying of a brain tumour. This intimacy is unmistakable. This is God feeding us when we are called to feed those we love no matter the circumstances.

The Eucharist also challenges us to become a real presence of love for people we do not know. We may stumble over our excuses not to offer a sandwich to someone who holds a sign for help at a local street intersection. We may cringe when a pastor suggests we take our youth group over to a soup kitchen on Friday nights. The challenge for us is to move beyond our places of feeling satisfied, of feeling full and powerful. We are all called to feed from our need for God, our powerlessness, our human emptiness, in order to really experience other people's starvation and insecurity.

We receive the sacred presence of Christ in bread and wine deep within our human ache for love and intimacy. This presence is then lived in the world in places we least expect. We must realize that our hunger binds us one to another. The Eucharist feeds us no matter our hardship or suffering, no matter our blindness to our neighbour or our sinful past. Food heals when we share it in mutual respect, when we are present to another person's brokenness and pain.

Jesus's real presence is often hidden from the learned and the clever. The gospels continue to open us to the fact that love is given to those who are burdened and lowly. The invitation to Christ's love comes from the holy Eucharist. We live out this love in Christ in all we do and in all we hope to become. This invitation to rest and consolation continues from the heart of Christ to those who are starving for hope, intimacy, and healing.

The holy Eucharist is not about a convenient Mass time on a weekend or something external to our daily lives. This real presence of Christ Jesus is an everyday life of values, a belief system that all of life is holy, and a revealed hope among all people who starve for holiness and the basics of life. The Eucharist challenges us to become a sacred and real presence in the world, whether among strangers we meet at a local diner or among our family members over a home-cooked meal. Sharing our stories in love and faith with food here on earth opens us to the healing of Christ Jesus, our food from heaven.

ML

Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as pastor of the Tri-Community Catholic Parish in Colorado Springs, Colo. He broadcasts a weekly Scripture commentary, *On the Margins*, on radio KBVM.fm. Learn more at www.ronaldraab.com. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.



Am I my brother's keeper?
All three readings today
suggest that for the
Christian steward the
answer is "Yes!"



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

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.

Persons with Disabilities

Paul Turner

The sacraments of the Catholic church are open to persons with disabilities.

A disability is never a reason for deferring baptism. Unbaptised adults or children of catechetical age should receive formation according to their understanding. After initiation, those with disabilities may serve as sponsors.

People baptized as infants may be confirmed in Australia between the age of discretion and age 18, depending on the diocesan policy. Persons who never attain the use of reason because of mental disabilities may receive confirmation at the appropriate time.

To receive communion, a person should be able to distinguish it from ordinary food. If ministers are in doubt, their decision should favour the rights of the baptized. A mental disability does not automatically disqualify a person from holy communion.

The sacrament of reconciliation is open to all those who have a sense of sin, even if they do not have full use of reason. Those who are hearing impaired have a right to confess to a priest who knows sign

language, to use an interpreter who must keep the confession secret, or to write their sins for a priest to read.

A disability is not necessarily an illness. Those with disabilities may receive the anointing of the sick under the same criteria as other Catholics.

A physical disability does not necessarily disqualify a person from holy orders. However, to be ordained – or to be married – does require the use of reason.

Persons who are hearing impaired may be married using sign language or an interpreter. Some persons with disabilities can be effective in preparing others for marriage and other sacraments.

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 © 2014 Resource Publications, Inc., 5369 Camden Ave., #260, San Jose, CA 95124, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner is pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Kansas City, Missouri. A priest of the diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, he holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay