



The Voice

6th September 2015 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Psalter Week 3



OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Margot Madden, Terry Curtis, Joan Milledge, Irene Diebold.
- **Anniversaries:**
Patricia Ryan.
- **Remembrances:**
Arthur, Muriel and John Brown, The Brown Family, Mary and George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Frank McLenaghan,
- **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, Mark Taylor, Irene Beck, Fr. Brian Rowland, Carol Cross, Len Lloyd, Fr. Bill Meacham, 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, Alan Harland, Greg Glanz, Anne Singleton.

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I read the other day a true story about a baby girl who was seriously ill in a Neonatal ICU. The paediatric specialist said there was very little hope. The baby's five-year-old brother, Michael, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. 'I want to sing to her', he kept saying. Children were not allowed in the ICU, but Michael's mother eventually insisted that he be able to see his sister. When he got to the humidicrib he sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey'. The nurse reported that as Michael sang, the baby's pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael', encouraged his mother with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.' The baby recovered and left the hospital three weeks later.

I am not pretending for a moment that Michael's song healed his sister, but we should never underestimate the power of human support and love. It helps us to be healed.

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we

use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important. When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much. The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them. And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them. Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace.

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Psalm Response

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Praise the Lord, my — soul, and bless his ho - ly name!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

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

6 September—We congratulate Fr Jack on the occasion of the anniversary of his ordination.

Sympathy: Roger Diebold has notified the parish of the death of his beloved wife, Irene. Roger is now in Tamworth permanently with family. Roger and Irene were married for 70 years, and he thanks all parishioners for their prayers.

Baptism: We pray for and welcome into our Faith community Lincoln Ashton baptised last Sunday.

Morning Tea Roster 13/9/15 will be 'El Shaddai' Prayer Group.

Children's Liturgy Roster 13/9/15: Anne Marie Tonkin, Leif Spicer, Grace Douglas.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 11/9/15: Michael French, Elena Egan, Maria Wickens.

Morning Tea Roster 13/9/15: 'El Shaddai' Prayer Group.

Planned Giving envelopes. Please check that you've collected your correct box of envelopes. It seems that box **No. 156** has have been accidentally taken. If you find it, please return to the gathering area or drop into the Parish Office.

Our Lady's Birthday Tuesday 8th September, starting 1.15pm,

join us in praying the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

Of Grace and Faith Study Group Thursday 10 September, 11am, Leo Mahon room.

Faith Based conversations: Getting good at talking about your faith to family and friends takes practice and grace. Make a new friend you can talk with about your faith. Leo Mahon room. Saturday 12 September, 10.30am -11.30am. Morning tea included.

Altar Flowers: Anyone wishing to donate towards the ongoing refreshing of flowers is kindly asked to make their donation at the parish office or via the collection at Mass in an envelope clearly marked "Altar Flowers".

The Just Word

8th September. International Literacy Day:

Literacy is a key lever of change and a practical tool of empowerment on each of the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Literacy is a fundamental human right and the foundation for

lifelong learning. It is fully essential to social and human development in its ability to transform lives. For individuals, families and societies alike, it is an instrument of empowerment to improve one's health, one's income and one's relationship with the world.

The uses of literacy for the exchange of knowledge are constantly evolving, along with advances in technology. From the internet to text messaging,

the ever-wider availability of communication makes for greater social and political participation. A literate community is a dynamic community, one that exchanges ideas and engages in debate. Illiteracy, however, is an obstacle to a better quality of life and can even breed exclusion and violence.

www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/literacy

From the Diocese and beyond

CatholicCare men and Family Relationships provide phone support, pre-mediation and Family Law information, counseling and parenting skills training and support, to assist men improve their relationships with their partners and children. Community education activities, including seminars and events are also available. Contact Central Coast family centre for more information on 4356 2600.

Our Lady's Birthday: The Legion of Mary will be celebrating Our Lady's Birthday at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Hall, 165 Serpentine Rd. Terrigal Sunday 13th September. Mass 10am—End 4.15pm with Benediction. Includes Rosary Procession, Hymns and talk on Our Lady. BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Enquiries: Phone Terrigal Parish 4367 4610 or Dawn 4367 6665 or Justine 4381 1255.

Broken Bay Bible Conference 2015: God in Narrative and Poetry: Genesis and Psalms. Presenters: Dr. Mark O'Brien.

o.p. Dr. Mary Reaburn n.d.s. Friday & Saturday, 18th, 19th. Sept. Mass 8.30am (optional) 9am Registration. 9.30am-5pm Friday. 9.30am-4pm Saturday. Enquiries Pina Bernard 9847 0474. pina.bernard@dbb.org.au www.dbb.org.au/bible

Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home—Discussion. With the release of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, there has been much discussion in the Church and the public square about the ecological issues impacting the world, our common home. Pope Francis deftly connects the environment to issues of peace, justice and the common good, indeed to the right to life itself. As such, it is a document that extends beyond the singular issue of climate change and concerns the evangelization and reverence of the whole world as a gift from God. Pope Francis states: "I urgently appeal...for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need conversation which includes everyone..." (§14).

To encourage dialogue and awareness of his striking message of hope, we warmly invite you to join us for a reading and discussion of the encyclical. Copy of the encyclical supplied. Wednesdays, 16, 23 & 30 September. 10.30am-12.30pm. Caroline Chisholm Centre, Building 2, 423 Pennant Hills Rd. Pennant Hills. Vehicular access via City View Rd. RSVP: by Monday 14th Sept. Ph: 9847 0448. Email: registrations@dbb.org.au

Retreat@ St. Patrick's Parish: Join Bishop Emeritus David Walker as he leads a retreat on 'Holiness', as follows: Monday Sept. 14, 9am Mass & Talk on 'Our Faith Journey'. Repeated 7pm. Tuesday Sept. 15. 9am Mass & Talk on 'Prayer'. Repeated at 7pm. Wednesday 16, 9am Mass and Talk on 'Living as Jesus Lived'. Repeat at 7pm. Each day Adoration and Reconciliation will be held between 2.30-3.30pm. 76 York St. East Gosford. Enq: Ph: 4325 1042.



Isaiah 35:4-7

The book of Isaiah is described in the opening verse as a vision that the prophet saw about Judah and Jerusalem in 'the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.' In those days, the tiny southern kingdom of Judah witnessed the destruction of its big sister, northern Israel, at the hands of the Assyrian superpower. One can imagine the anxiety this would have caused and the prophet Isaiah may have begun his preaching mission around this time. But the Hebrew word for 'vision' (*khazon*) points to something in the future and this prophet's vision, as expressed in the words of the book, is deeply disturbing and amazingly promising. A good way to appreciate the impact of our reading is to see it in conjunction with the commission the prophet receives in chapter 6 of the book, in a vision that he has in the temple. Here he is told to preach a message to 'this people' that will make their minds dull, 'stop their ears and shut their eyes' so that they do not accept God's word and change. The prophet asks 'how long O Lord?' and is told that this must be until the land and its people are completely removed, like a clear-felled forest, and the only thing left is 'the holy seed'. In short, this shocking text claims that God is the only one who decides who ('the holy seed' or remnant) is worthy of participating in the salvation that will come for Judah and Jerusalem, and when this will come (when the land and people have been cleansed of all evil).

Our reading from a much later chapter in the book (35) provides a balance to this gloomy scene by assuring the 'faint of heart' that God's salvation will come and is indeed coming. It seeks to fuel flagging faith and hope with its proclamation that 'Look, your God is coming' and that salvation will involve retribution, presumably against evildoers whose identity is left unspecified. But more importantly, God's salvation will involve opening the eyes of the blind and unsealing the ears of the deaf so that they see and hear the message of God and accept it. The promise is that when God's salvation comes the holy seed or faithful remnant will finally know the score and it will bring about a transformation: causing the lame to dance and the dumb to sing. The final part of the poem reverses the picture of the devastated land in chapter 6; on the day or time of the Lord's salvation it will be like a desert wilderness transformed into a well-watered paradise. As noted, the book is a

vision, the meaning of which will unfold in the future. Hence readers and listeners are not to assume that 'this people' condemned in chapter 6 is a past generation in the days of the kings listed, nor that they themselves are the 'holy seed', the ones whose eyes are opened and ears unstopped and who thereby think they know who the wicked are (God is the one who knows). The challenge and the promise in Isaiah's vision are as disturbing and exciting as they were to those who first heard his preaching.

Psalm 145:7-10

The responsorial psalm belongs to a collection of 'alleluia' or psalms of praise that concludes the Psalter or five books of 150 psalms. They are designed to assure the faithful that God is good and just, no matter what awful experiences they may encounter and no matter how bad their sins may be (cf. many of the preceding lament and psalms of penitence), and to invite them to praise their God. After all, according to the Bible, the greatest thing that the human being can do and is meant to do is to give praise to God. The selection that is our responsorial psalm can be read as follows. The opening line makes the general claim: God is forever faithful/reliable. The following three parallel lines then provide examples of the ways in which God's enduring fidelity is manifested, in what we can call the social arena: justice for the oppressed (who get no justice from human beings), bread for the hungry (who get no bread from their neighbours); and freedom for prisoners (unjustly imprisoned by their fellows). The next two parallel lines move from the social arena to personal afflictions such as blindness and infirmity.

The move from the general to the particular is then repeated in the next but smaller series of parallelisms. As with the preceding it commences with a general statement, 'the Lord loves the just' and then illustrates this via two examples; protection of the stranger (who can be abused by the locals) and care for the widow and orphan (who were not specifically protected by law, having no husband and no parents). The series concludes with a contrasting parallel statement that God 'thwarts the path of the wicked'. This magnificent series of faith claims, which of course cannot be proved in every instance, is followed by a profession of God as the universal and everlasting king, to be appropriately followed by the acclamation of praise 'alleluia'.



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 M.S.F.S. Fr. Philip Thottam
M.S.F.S. *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. p 024341 0884 f 0243 445049.

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

CATHOLICCARE Counselling & 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.

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.

100 game Bingo Marathon

will be held on Saturday 3rd October 2015
(October long weekend).

Games start 2.30pm and go to 5.30pm,
then we have a break including
free BBQ and catering,
then 7.30pm - 10.30pm.

We operate it as 2 x 50 game sessions and sell
the tickets for each session separately.

PETS and pads available.

Its a great day out and something not to be
missed and of course if you cant 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 Woy Woy.

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay