



# The Voice

11th March 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

Psalter Week 3

## LENT

### OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**

Fr. Peter McGrath. C.P.

- **Anniversaries:**

Cardinal James Freeman,  
Archbishop Guildford Young,  
Bishop Patrick Murphy,  
Alan French, Josie Mair, Paul Hogan,  
Ken Faye, Mark Reginald Church,  
Sonny Madden, Marie Dixon,  
Lucy Laura de Souza,  
Kenneth McDonnell.

- **Remembrances:**

Pat and Regan Hogan,  
Alfred Bugeja.

- **And the sick:**

Val Simpson, Janet Dean,  
Helen Tilkins, Laura Krauss,  
Patricia Dwyer, Nellie Brown,  
Donna Vella, Oscar James Morreti,  
Donna Briemer, Joy Ball,  
Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido,  
Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga,  
Beryl Reynolds, Rene Glase,  
Pamela Power, Mary Scarf,  
Teresita and Jorge Villansati,  
Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff,  
Kevin Houghton, Fr Jack Robson,  
Darcy Green, Frank McLenaghan,  
Leon de Pradines, Margaret Davin,  
Helen Taylor, Amanda Sheridan,  
Vince Ryan.

As Christians in the world we cannot help but be influenced by the developments that happen around us. Indeed, we believe that many of these advances are gifts from God, given to us to enjoy. But not all developments in thinking and practices are for the better.

One recent and alarming development is the false thinking that we cannot judge other people, or that we should not be judged. The wider community regularly maintains that no one is in a position to judge another's behaviour or statements. This approach holds that everyone's words and actions are of equal value. This position is many things, but it's certainly not Christian, but this hasn't stopped it from finding a home amongst us. We regularly hear statements from Christian men and women like, 'We're not in a position to judge' or 'You can't judge them' and 'If it's fine for them, then it's fine'. This thinking has a name. It's called moral relativism and it tries to claim that the morality of behaviour is only determined by the person who does the act, or the context within which the action is taken.

Our Catholic tradition teaches us that a context is very important in trying to work out if someone is to blame for what they say and do, but that a person's particular circumstances never change the fact that the words or actions are in themselves wrong. We hold that while all human beings have equal value and dignity, we do not believe that everyone's opinion and actions are of equal worth. We believe that 'right judgment' is a gift of the Holy Spirit and that it's best exercised with humility and compassion.

When I hear people say I should not

judge others, I assume they are telling me that I should not condemn other people. There is a world of difference between judging and condemning. To judge is to make an assessment. To condemn is to damn. As Christians we judge because we have to keep discerning how the things of the world can be reconciled with the things we hold to be true. Condemnation is the prerogative of God alone, who sees all, knows all and loves all. In today's Gospel, however, John tells us that even God has forfeited the right to condemn the world, but has sent Jesus to be the world's light, life, truth and saviour.

The Gospel reminds us that if we feel condemned for what we have done and said, then it's because we have condemned ourselves, not because God condemns us. John tells us that even when we find ourselves lost in the darkness of our most destructive behaviour, the saving love of Christ is always available to us, inviting us to come out of the darkness into his light.

What a great metaphor the light and dark is for making the best judgments in our own lives. Alarm bells should always ring when we find ourselves not wanting anyone else to know what we have said or done. Secrecy is often the ally of sin and the more open and transparent we are, the more confident we can be that we are walking as children of the light.

May this Lenten Eucharist enable us to let go of the desire to condemn others and ourselves, and to receive again the compassionate, just and humble gift of right judgment that helps us to see the darkness for what it is, and keeps us walking in the light of Christ.

Richard Leonard SJ

### Psalm Response

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Let my tongue be si - lenced, if e - ver I for - get you!

### Gospel Acclamation

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!* God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

## Around the Parish

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation:** to be held on Monday, 19th March at 7pm.

**Church Garden Rejuvenation!** On Saturday, 24th March, 10am (after 9am Mass), there will be a massive clean up and replanting of the Church's garden front and lane way and the church prayer garden. Volunteers needed!!! Please come even if for a short period so that we can repair this long neglected area. A light lunch will be served to all our helpers in the Leo Mahon room.

### **The Light is On for you:**

All churches in the Diocese will be open during Lent for quiet time and prayer with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday evenings, 7pm-8pm. March 16 and 23. There will also be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church on these nights.

**Stations of the Cross** will be followed every Friday 6.15pm before "The Light is on for You" and every Wednesday 4pm during Lent.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due Monday, 19th March.

**Chrism Mass:** will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 27 March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The parish bus will be available. Please call the parish office on 4341 1073 to book a seat.

**Live, Pray, Love Project:** "Healing in the Family" by Sr. Margaret Scully RSC. Leo Mahon Room, Sunday 18th March, 10.30 - 12:30pm. Call Gladys Leger 0421 312 362 if you have any questions. More details on the back page.

### **Senior Servers and Junior Servers Needed!!!**

If you would like to assist at our Sunday Masses, we would like you to join our team of Junior and Senior Servers. Please leave your name and details with our Parish office. TRAINING will be provided.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 16/3/18:** Kathleen Cullen, Bill Cantley, Jo McMillan, Christina Thorson.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 18/3/18:** Celeste Boonaerts, Lisa Hutchinson, Emma Baker.

**Lectio Divina and Bible Study Group:** Monday, 12 March, 2.30pm-4pm, Leo Mahon room.

**Catechists:** Our meeting will be held as usual in the Leo Mahon Room on Thursday 9:00am, March 22 to discuss the Easter Assemblies. Everyone who can should attend - we need lots of helpers. And we ask THE PARISH COMMUNITY to keep our new Catechists in their prayers, Colleen, Bridie, Emma, Olga and Angela - they're doing such fine work in the classrooms, it's inspirational. Your support will help them carry on.

**Easter Bingo Marathon 100 Games:** Easter Saturday - 31st March 2018. 100 Games, \$100, \$150, \$180 Prizes and a chance of winning \$2,000 jackpot (game 50 reverts to \$1,000 if not won in certain calls, game 100 unlimited). \$48 for 6 tickets in 50 games (\$96 for 100 games). 2.30pm to 10.30pm at Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy. Free Catering during half time break 5.30pm. Free Tea and Coffee all day. Operated by Woy Woy Catholic Parish Housie, Enquiries: Rob 04 27 990 818 or [wvcphousie@hotmail.com](mailto:wvcphousie@hotmail.com) FACEBOOK/Woy Woy Bingo.

## The Just Word

**15 March: Close the Gap Day:** National Close the Gap Day is a national day of action to pledge support for achieving Indigenous Health equality by 2030.

Last year, more than 160,000 people took part in 1,640 separate National Close the Gap Day events across the country. This day aims to bring people together, to share information and, most importantly, to take meaningful action in support of achieving Indigenous health equality by 2030.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can expect to live 10 to 17 years less than other Australians. Babies born to Aboriginal mothers die at more than twice the rate of other

Australian babies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait people experience higher rates of preventable illness such as heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes.

Organising and running a National Close the Gap Day activity is both easy and fun. To learn more about National Close the Gap Day and register to hold your own visit:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/What-we-do/indigenous-australia/national-close-the-gap-day>

### **21 March National Harmony Day:**

Australia is a vibrant and multicultural country – from the oldest continuous culture of our

first Australians to the cultures of our newest arrivals from around the world. Harmony Day is a celebration of that cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

The Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs'. It aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster a sense of belonging for everyone.

For more information:

<http://www.harmony.gov.au>

## From the Diocese and beyond

**World Youth Day 2018 on Palm Sunday:** Every year since 1983, the Pope has called local Bishops to gather with their young people on Palm Sunday to celebrate World Youth Day and

2018 is no exception. Bishop Peter invites the young and the wise of the Diocese to join him to celebrate World Youth Day 2018 at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, 23 Yardley Ave.,

Waitara. Mass 6pm, Sunday 25th March. Young people are encouraged to join us for some food and fun from 4.30pm. RSVP: [youth@dbb.org.au](mailto:youth@dbb.org.au)





# ENCOUNTER

## BBQ FOR YOUNG ADULTS

18-30 | FELLOWSHIP | PRAISE & WORSHIP | BBQ | BEERS  
7PM 16TH MARCH | WOY WOY OLD CHURCH | 100 BLACKWALL RD

### Scripture Commentary by Dianne Bergant CSS

The first reading describes how, despite the sinfulness of the people, God was moved to compassion. The people's callous contempt for prophetic warnings unleashed the avenging anger of God on them. God's fiery wrath purified what had been desecrated through their wickedness. The reading ends on a note of hope. A foreign king, who seems to have known the salvific role that he was playing on the international stage, is inspired by the God of Israel to release the people. The final words of the reading, of the entire biblical book, and of the Jewish canon (this is the last book) exhort them to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The political implications of this directive continue to be profound.

The psalm describes inconsolable despondency, fierce resentment, and heartfelt commitment. The background of these sentiments is clearly identified; the people had been snatched from their beloved Zion and were held captive in Babylon. To compound the despair that engulfed them as a consequence of this disaster, they were taunted by their captors: Sing for us. They cannot sing their religious songs, because it would be incongruous to extol God's mighty deeds while the nation sat in defeat. Furthermore, since Babylon was considered an

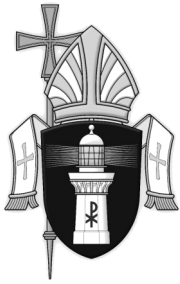
unclean land, it was unseemly to pray to the holy God of Israel in such a profane place. Nonetheless, Jerusalem is not forgotten. Loyalty to it is shown in silence and remembering.

The second reading characterises God as one who is rich in mercy; has great love for us; has brought us to life, raised us up, and seated us with Christ in glory. This portrait of God is followed by a glimpse into the meaning of our salvation. Unable to save ourselves, we receive salvation as a pure gift from God. This theme is really the heart of Paul's theology. Salvation is a grace that we receive 'in Christ' and because of Christ. Grace and faith are essential components of salvation; God bestows the grace and we accept it in faith. Good works are important, but only as a result of having been saved, not as a condition for it.

Those were saved who looked upon the bronze serpent that Moses raised up in the wilderness (Num 21:8-9). In like manner, life eternal comes to those who believe in Jesus, one raised up in both ignominy and exaltation. 'Son of Man (Humanity)' refers to a symbolic figure who will inaugurate the last days (cf. Dan 7:13-14). God's love for the world is so deep and magnanimous that nothing is spared for its salvation, not even God's only Son. Those who believe are saved; those who do not believe call down judgment upon themselves. Light expresses the same idea. Christ is the true light, and those who accept him live in that light; those who do not believe are in darkness.



# 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,

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

**Parish Office** Ethel Cox Parish Centre  
**P.O. Box 264** 100 Blackwall Road.  
**54 Victoria Road**  
**WOYWOY N.S.W. 2256**

**Phone:** (02) 4341 1073  
**Fax:** (02) 4341 0214  
**Email:** parish@woywoycatholic.org.au  
**Website:** www.woywoycatholic.org.au  
Out of hours **medical emergency**  
0438 631 327.

**"He must increase, I must decrease"**

**Administrator:** Fr. Timothy Raj, M.S.F.S.

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Philip Thottam, M.S.F.S.

**Office Staff:** Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.

**Office Hours:**

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

**Deadline for The Voice:**

Midday 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 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only). 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 9.30am.

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am). Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

## MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

**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. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP** Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. . For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

**CATECHISTS** conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

**CATHOLIC CARE** 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.

**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 Peter 0425 358 376 or Joan 0422 272 339.

**CASH HOUSIE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre,

Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes.

Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob: 0427 990 818.

## "Healing in the Family" by Sister Margaret Scully RSC

The Live Pray Love project ministry extends a warm invitation to you and invites you to come along and hear a talk by Sr Margaret Scully on "Healing in the Family".

*"When a person seeks healing because of a particular need - be it physical, spiritual, mental or emotional - one tends to focus on **that** particular need. Healing, however, has to do with the **whole person**, not just one area. To be cured of something does not mean one is healed. The question is, "What is the **root cause** of the problem?" And with help, learn how to deal with it, not only for the 'now', but also for the 'future'. Because Jesus **is the Healer**, he is the one who sets us free".*

**Venue:** Leo Mahon Room, **Date:** Sunday 18 March 2018 **Time:** 10.30 - 12:30pm

10.30am -11.30am What do I understand "Healing" ..... "Inner Healing" to mean?

What within me, within my life, needs to be **healed**? (short 15 min break – tea/coffee provided)

11.45am – 12.30pm "Ancestral Healing" or "The Healing of the Family Tree"

What does this mean for me in the 'now'? General Prayer for Healing.

Please contact Gladys Leger 0421 312 362 if you have any questions.