

# The Voice

11th February 2018

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 2



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

### • Recently deceased:

James Sheil (Br. Cecil F.M.S.),  
Colleen Hood.

### • Anniversaries:

Fr. Denis Ryan, Fr. Warren Wade,  
Monsignor Ian Burns,  
Fr. John Wakeling, Trevor Mair,  
Catherine MacDonald.

### • Remembrances:

Doris Pickering, Jack McIntyre,  
Patricia Cameron.

### ♦ And the sick:

Mary Drinan, Val Simpson  
Helen Tilkins, Margaret Davin,  
Helen Taylor, Patricia Dwyer,  
Laura Krauss, Mick Nino,  
Nellie Brown, Janet Dean,  
Donna Vella, Bobby Sutherland,  
Dianne Briemer, Grace Wellis,  
Courtney Wellins, Betty Fraser,  
Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga,  
Beryl Reynolds, Terry Wilkinson,  
Rene Glaze, Pamela Power,  
Teresita and Jorge Villansati,  
Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff,  
Oscar James Morreti, Mary Scarf,  
Darcy Green, Frank McLenaghan

Sometimes translators of the Bible get it wrong for all the best reasons. We are used to hearing in today's Gospel that Jesus was 'filled with pity' when he encountered the leper, but the Greek word Mark uses is more accurately translated 'anger', not 'pity'. With the exception of the cleansing of the temple in John's Gospel, generations of translators found it hard to imagine Jesus angry. Jesus' anger, however, provides a wonderful insight into him, and a strong challenge to us.

Anger tells us that something is wrong. It is an important and valuable emotion. Anger is value-neutral. It's what we do with it that defines its effect in our lives. Some of us sit on it and stew. Others gain energy from their anger to right the wrong.

People who had any type of skin disease in first century Palestine were called lepers. They were treated shamefully. They had to live outside the villages and towns, call out 'unclean, unclean' when they came near others, could never attend the temple and were considered cursed by God and so excluded from the Chosen People. No wonder Jesus was angry when he encountered a man with leprosy. Here he also confronts a social class system that robbed this man of his human dignity and religious laws that robbed him of hope.

There are two details in this story that are especially important. The man with leprosy feels comfortable enough to go straight up to Jesus, to put his case, and ask for healing. We are told that Jesus

touched him. Social and religious laws were being broken in this encounter. But Jesus' healing of the man isn't just about challenging social laws and taboos. Jesus tells the man to fulfil his religious obligations so that he can attend the temple again and rejoin the community. Jesus was interested in converting all those he met to the higher laws of love and compassion.

We are challenged this Sunday to trust our anger. This is not only about fighting for our rights when we have been wronged, but more so, it's fighting for the dignity and rights of others. It can take many forms: taking the life of those yet to be born, or who are near natural death, fighting for future generations by calling for a just care of the earth. And it can be about standing up for those people in our home, parish, workplace, neighbourhood, country and world who are treated shamefully, excluded, derided, or declared unclean.

Why should we bother? Because this Sunday Christ comes to us, again, and declares that despite what we might think about ourselves, or what we have been told, there is nothing in us which cannot be healed or is beyond hope.

May this Eucharist give us the love and compassion of Christ to fight for others' dignity because of the dignity we have received from Him. May we trust our anger and pray that it be like that of Jesus, and so turn us into agents of change for a more just church and for a more just world.

Richard Leonard SJ

## Psalm Response

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## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



### **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. February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 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 commencing Friday 16th February.

**Lent Begins—Ash Wednesday**, 14th February. Masses will be at 7.45am and 7.30pm. A school Mass will be held at SJB school, 21a Dulkara Rd., South Woy Woy at 12 midday—All welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available after Wednesday morning Mass throughout Lent.

**Fast and Abstinence:** There are two days on which we are obliged to fast and abstain: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Project Compassion:** Your donations to Project Compassion give expression to the Gospel imperative to pursue justice and help those vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Please take home a Project Compassion box (available in the gathering area) or a set of envelopes in the church and give generously this Lent.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Harper Lees, Summer Lees, Bentley Stuart, Knox Stuart and Mason Sturt who were baptised last Sunday.

**Bible Study Group** Monday 12 February, 2.30pm-4pm, Leo Mahon room. "Taste and Decide" which bible study option we will be using on the Monday afternoons of Lent.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due Monday, 19th February, 11.30am-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**Volunteers Needed:** to join the Baptism Preparation team. You would be rostered on 4 times a year & full training will be provided. Please call the Parish Office if you can assist this special ministry. Call 4341 1073

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 16/2/18:** Jo Salter, Warren Sparrow, Tom French, Michael French.

**Lifted Up—Lectio Divina, Praying the Scriptures in Lent:** Copies available in the gathering area.

**Lenten Prayer group:** Wendy Whiteman is running a group in her home using "Lifted Up" material. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested in joining her group. Call 4341 1073.

**Children's Liturgy Roster 18/2/18:** Frances Giunta, Rose Giunta, Jenny Fitzgerald.

**Live Pray Love Project:** Save the date, Sunday, 18 March 2018, 10.30am—12nn in the Leo Mahon room. Guest Speaker, Sr Margaret Scully.

## The Just Word

### **14 February Ash Wednesday:**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time during which we are invited to prepare for Easter and the coming of the risen Jesus into our life and our world. It is a time for personal conversion. Traditionally, there are three ways we can participate in this season of preparation and conversion: through prayer, fasting and giving alms. One way we can do this is by going without some activity or thing (fasting), and giving the money we save (alms giving) to

Project Compassion.

**Project Compassion** is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Each year it brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This appeal is extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic congregation and caring supporter throughout Australia, all in the name of justice

and peace.

In 2018 Caritas is sharing stories of people in Nepal, Cambodia, Australia, Mozambique and the Philippines to explore the theme 'A Just Future'. They highlight how Caritas Australia is working together with vulnerable people, helping them to develop their strengths and create change in their own communities.

<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

## From the Diocese and beyond

**Parenting for Love:** An opportunity no parent will want to miss! Embracing their greatness! Giving the parents the tools to help their children discover God's unique plan for their lives! Guest Speaker from the United States—Christina King. Saturday 24 February, 12.30-2.30pm. St. Agatha's Catholic Church School Hall, 20

Boundary Rd. Pennant Hills.

**Healing Mass with Alan Ames** @ St. Patrick's Gosford. Tuesday 13th February, 7pm.

Alan Ames has been speaking and praying for healing around the world since 1994, and has spoken in more than 40 countries. His books are

available in 18 languages.

Alan shares the unique conversion experiences that caused a dramatic change in his life from a violent alcoholic to a man of the Sacraments and prayer and will be at St. Patrick's Gosford for this special Mass and talks. This is an opportunity not to be missed. Please come along.

# Scripture Readings

Bruce Janiga

## 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 11

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46  
Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11  
1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1  
Mk 1:40-45

Leprosy was a serious concern in the biblical world. To be declared a leper was to be condemned to a life apart from the community, living “outside the camp” in Moss’s day (v 46), later outside the towns and villages. It was the task of the priest to declare someone unclean as a leper and, in the case of remission, to declare them clean and allow them to rejoin the community. The description of leprosy, detailed in Leviticus 13, makes it clear that biblical leprosy was not the same thing as what we call leprosy today. It could be contracted not only by people but also by cloth and even building materials and was something to be avoided because it was thought to be contagious.

Paul calls the Corinthians to “do everything for the glory of God” (v 31). Our task as disciples is to witness with our lives to God’s goodness and mercy. We are called to work not just for our own salvation but “that they [all/the many] may be saved” (v 33). Finally, in words uncharacteristic of Paul, we are encouraged, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” (11:1).

The leper in today’s Gospel begs Jesus for help, “If you wish, you can make me clean” (v 40). Though Jesus risks contracting leprosy and ritual uncleanness, “moved with pity, he stretched out his hand [and] touched him” (v 41). Mark tells us “the leprosy left him immediately” (v 42), again emphasizing Jesus’s power. Jesus then commands the man to fulfil the law of Moses by showing himself “to the priest” (v 44), but instead the man “began to publicize the whole matter,” making it “impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly” (v 45).

*For reflection:* Who are the lepers today, and how do I view them? Why are some good deeds better left unannounced?

## Ash Wednesday, February 14

Jl 2:12-18  
Ps 50:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17  
2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

In her book *The Liturgical Year*, Joan Chittister writes that “Lent is our salvation from the depths of nothingness ... our guide to the more of life” (122). The prophet Joel is thought to have lived in the second half of the fifth century BC (450-400). In his day the nation is facing drought and locust infestations. In the face of such crisis, the prophet calls the people to return to the Lord “with your whole heart” (v 12), words appropriate for the beginning of this penitential season. God, who is “gracious and merciful” (v 13), calls us to change our hearts and our lives.

Paul exhorts the Corinthians “not to receive the grace of God in vain” (6:1), for this grace has the power to save us. With a new season of Lent, we are in “an acceptable time” – in fact, “now is a very acceptable time” (v 2). Today is a day of opportunity to share in God’s graces. Let us not pass up the opportunity but embrace it and strive to be, like Paul, “ambassadors for Christ” (5:20).

Today’s Gospel calls us to engage in works of piety for the right reason, not “in order that people may see them” (v 1). The stark beginning of Lent – with fasting, abstinence, and marking ourselves with ashes – serves as a reminder that we are sinners who stand in need of God’s mercy. We are called to root out evil from our lives and strive to follow the way of Christ. As Thomas Merton said, “the liturgy of Ash Wednesday is not focused on the sinfulness of the penitent but the mercy of God.”

*For Reflection:* How can I make this Lent different? When and where have I experienced God’s mercy in my life?

Fr Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216



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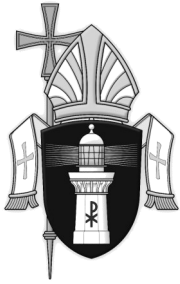
In today’s second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to “do all for the glory of God.” If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards!

*See 1 Corinthians 10:31*

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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,

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.

## PIANO: PAST AND PRESENT

10.15AM SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH WOY WOY

MUSIC BY BEETHOVEN, CHOPIN, RACHMANINOFF,  
YOSHIMATSU, AND AIDAN CHARLES ROSA

On Sunday the 25th February, the Woy Woy Youth Group will be hosting an event for the whole parish at St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Woy Woy. Gerard Nicholls will perform, in the acoustically beautiful church, a concert of solo piano music by Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Yoshimatsu, and a new piece by Sydney-based composer Aidan Charles Rosa.

Gerard is an exceptionally talented musician and composer. Despite being only 23 years of age, he is an Honours student at the Newcastle Conservatorium, teaches piano at Intuition Music School, and has achieved many great accomplishments in his music career. In 2017, Gerard was accepted as the Associate Artist Repetiteur with Pacific Opera, and the accompanist for Tuggerah Lakes Choral Society, with other performances including Carnival of the Animals with the University of Newcastle Orchestra, and repetiteur for Menotti's opera The Old Maid and the Thief. As a composer, Gerard's music has been performed by the Vancouver Chamber Choir, and featured on BBC Radio 3's In Tune program for the 15 Second Harp Project. In August 2016 Gerard co-wrote the music for a multidisciplinary performance at the United Nations Winter Youth Assembly in New York. St John the Baptist Woy Woy is honoured to welcome Gerard to our parish, and we invite all parishioners to attend what will be a real spectacle. The event will be free and open to the public, although donations for the Youth Group would be appreciated. All are welcome to attend Mass at 9.15am prior to the concert.