



CHRISTMAS
TIME

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

1st January, 2012

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Psalter Week 1

OF YOUR CHARITY, PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- ◆ **Recently deceased:**
Patrick Hagarty, Sr. Catherine Ryan, r.s.j.
- ◆ **Anniversaries:**
Fr Walter Baker, Fr Kevin McGovern.
- ◆ **And the Sick:**
Lawrence Scully, Brian Woodward, Fr. Geoff Bugden, Rita Flower, Alisha Harwood, Mary Gourlay, Hanna El-Khatib, David Wood, Catherine McMahon, Sue Morrirt, Wanda Grima.

“Educating Young People in Justice and Peace”

Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the following theme for the celebration of the 45th World Day of Peace of January 1, 2012: “Educating Young People in Justice and Peace”. The theme engages an urgent need in the world today: to listen to and enhance the important role of new generations in the realization of the common good, and in the affirmation of a just and peaceful social order where fundamental human rights can be fully expressed and realized.

In fact, there is a duty incumbent upon the present generation to prepare future ones, and creating for them the conditions that will allow these future generations to express freely and responsibly the urgency for a “new world.” The Church welcomes young people and sees them as the sign of an ever promising springtime, and holds out Jesus to them as the model of love who “makes all things new” (Ap. 21,5).

Those responsible for public policy are called to work for the creation of institutions, laws and environments of life that are permeated by a transcendent humanism that offers new generations opportunities to fully realize themselves (e.g. decent job, education etc.) and to build a civilization of fraternal love directed toward a more profound awareness of truth, freedom, of love and of justice for all persons.

This, then, is the prophetic dimension of the theme chosen by the Holy Father in the path of the “pedagogy of peace” indicated by John Paul II in 1985 (“Peace and Youth Go Forward Together”), in 1979 (“To Reach Peace, Teach Peace”), and in 2004 (“An Ever Timely Commitment: Teaching Peace”).

Young persons must labour for justice and peace in a complex and globalised world. It is therefore necessary to establish a new “pedagogical alliance” among all those responsible for the education and formation of young people. The theme indicates an important area of concern in the teaching of Benedict XVI in his Messages for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace, beginning with the need for the truth (2006: “In Truth, Peace”), followed with the reflections on human dignity (2007: “The Human Person, the Heart of Peace”), on the human family (2008: “The Human Family, a Community of Peace”), on poverty (2009: “Fighting Poverty to Build Peace”), on the care for creation (2010: “If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation”), on religious freedom (2011: “Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace”), and now talking to the minds and beating hearts of young people: “Educating Young People in Justice and Peace.”

(Vatican Radio)

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Happy and peaceful New Year to all!

Public Holiday Monday 2nd January, morning Mass 9.00 am, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Parish office closed Monday and will reopen Tuesday 9.30am.

Planned Giving Envelopes: For those parishioners wishing to commence contributions in 2012 through planned giving envelopes or monthly credit card donations, please complete a census form available on the table in gathering area and place in the box provided. Many thanks to all those parish-

ioners for their ongoing generosity to our collections.

Leaving Collection for Mary Mac's and the Christians in the Holy Land amounted to \$2,790. Many thanks for your generosity.

Parish Family Christmas Luncheon: 30 parishioners who live alone attended an enjoyable 3 course lunch and were able to take home a 'doggy bag' for tea time. Special thanks to our parish supporters especially, Rae Busby, Maureen Gleeson, Dorothy and David Fulton, Pat and Colleen Toohey and the French family for their time and effort in making this day enjoyable for our guests.

Thank you to all parishioners who contributed over \$1,000 to make this luncheon possible.

Mass Times: If you were at Mass on Christmas morning, what did you think of the experimental starting times? 7.30 and 9.30 were tried because of the crowds at Christmas - to see if these times would help to empty the parking area after the first Mass and allow easier parking to those coming to the second. It has been suggested that it would be good to use those times every Sunday. What do you think? If you have an opinion, phone it in to the parish office.

The Just Word

January 1—World Day of Peace—Youth for Global Peace:

The World Day of Peace is observed on 1 January each year. A papal message on the theme is sent in December to heads of state around the world. For 2012, Pope Benedict XVI has chosen the theme 'Educating young people in justice and peace'.

In building a world of peace and justice, the Catholic Church must listen to the ideas and hopes of young people and offer them educational opportuni-

ties that will strengthen their ability to work for the common good.

In choosing this theme, the Pope wanted to highlight an urgent need in the work today: to listen to and enhance the important role of new generations in the realization of the common good, and in the affirmation of a just and peaceful social order where fundamental human rights can be fully expressed and realized.

The duty to prepare future generations also includes a government obligation to

ensure that young people have appropriate opportunities for personal growth particularly through education and employment.

Young people must labour for justice and peace in a complex and globalised world. Preparing them for the future will require a real alliance among all those responsible for educating and forming the world's future leaders.

The ACSJC produces a discussion guide each year for the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace.

Your Prayer is important to us...

Imagine if you phoned heaven and you reached an automated voice message. It might say something like this: Thank you for calling heaven. For English, press 1. For Spanish, press 2. For all other languages, press 0.

Please select one of the following options:

- Press 1 for Requests.
- Press 2 for Thanksgiving.
- Press 3 for Complaints.
- Press 4 for all other enquiries.

I am sorry; all our angels and saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is impor-

tant to us, and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line. If you would like to speak to:

- God the Father, press 1.
- Jesus, press 2.
- The Holy Spirit, press 3.
- If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while holding, press 4.

To find a loved one who has been assigned to heaven, press 5, then enter his or her social security number, followed by the "hash" sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and try area code 666.

For reservations at heaven, please enter J-O-H-N, fol-

lowed by numbers 3-1-6. For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, the age of the Earth, life on other planets, and where Noah's Ark is, please wait until you arrive.

Our records show that you have already prayed today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Please pray again on Monday after 9.30am.

If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.

Thank you, and have a heavenly day.



The Pope on Adult Stem Cell Research

1st January, 2012

An address, 12th November 2011, to participants in an international conference on 'Adult Stem Cells: Science and the Future of Man and Culture'

I wish to thank Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, for his kind words and for promoting this International Conference on *Adult Stem Cells: Science and the Future of Man and Culture*. I would also like to thank Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, President of the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Care of Health Workers, and Bishop Ignacio Carrasco de Paula, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life for their contribution to this particular endeavour. A special word of gratitude goes to the many benefactors whose support has made this event possible. In this regard, I would like to express the Holy See's appreciation of all the work that is done, by various institutions, to promote cultural and formative initiatives aimed at supporting top-level scientific research on adult stem cells and exploring the cultural, ethical and anthropological implications of their use.

Scientific research provides a unique opportunity to explore the wonder of the universe, the complexity of nature and the distinctive beauty of life, including human life. But since human beings are endowed with immortal souls and are created in the image and likeness of God, there are dimensions of human existence that lie beyond the limits of what the natural sciences are competent to determine. If these limits are transgressed, there is a serious risk that the unique dignity and inviolability of human life could be subordinated to purely utilitarian considerations. But if instead these limits are duly respected, science can make a truly remarkable contribution to promoting and safeguarding the dignity of man: indeed herein lies its true utility. Man, the agent of scientific research, will sometimes, in his biological nature, form the object of that research. Nevertheless, his transcendent dignity entitles him always to remain the ultimate beneficiary of scientific research and never to be reduced to its instrument.

In this sense, the potential benefits of adult stem cell research are very considerable, since it opens up possibilities for healing chronic degenerative illnesses by repairing damaged tissue and restoring its capacity

for regeneration. The improvement that such therapies promise would constitute a significant step forward in medical science, bringing fresh hope to sufferers and their families alike. For this reason, the Church naturally offers her encouragement to those who are engaged in conducting and supporting research of this kind, always with the proviso that it be carried out with due regard for the integral good of the human person and the common good of society.

This proviso is most important. The pragmatic mentality that so often influences decision-making in the world today is all too ready to sanction whatever means are available in order to attain the desired end, despite ample evidence of the disastrous consequences of such thinking. When the end in view is one so eminently desirable as the discovery of a cure for degenerative illnesses, it is tempting for scientists and policy-makers to brush aside ethical objections and to press ahead with whatever research seems to offer the prospect of a breakthrough. Those who advocate research on embryonic stem cells in the hope of achieving such a result make the grave mistake of denying the inalienable right to life of all human beings from the moment of conception to natural death. The destruction of even one human life can never be justified in terms of the benefit that it might conceivably bring to another. Yet, in general, no such ethical problems arise when stem cells are taken from the tissues of an adult organism, from the blood of the umbilical cord at the moment of birth, or from foetuses who have died of natural causes (cf. Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction *Dignitas Personae*, 32).

It follows that dialogue between science and ethics is of the greatest importance in order to ensure that medical advances are never made at unacceptable human cost. The Church contributes to this dialogue by helping to form consciences in accordance with right reason and in the light of revealed truth. In so doing she seeks, not to impede scientific progress, but on the contrary to guide it in a direction that is truly fruitful and beneficial to humanity. Indeed,



The first reading today recalls God's special blessing upon the Israelites. The Lord has been gracious to us as well, pouring into our hearts that spirit which knows Him as Father and makes us His children. May we, like Mary, treasure these things in our hearts and live gratefully!



Memorial Monday

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 Black-
wall & Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office
P.O. Box 264
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 Hume, *Assistant Priest*

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Pamela Burton &
Raelene McLenaghan

Parish Office Hours: 9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Mon-
day 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).

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.

CENTACARE Marriage & Family Counselling, Pregnancy help—20 Watt St, Gosford.
Phone: 4324 6403.

MARY MAC'S PLACE Volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cooked meals and informa-
tion 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 St Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd, Ettalong (opposite
Palm Beach Ferry Wharf). Games start at 7.30 p.m. and finish approx 10.15 p.m., cash
prizes. Ticket sales from 6.00 p.m. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries 43690626.

The Pope on Adult Stem Cell Research

(continued)

it is her conviction that everything human, including scientific research, "is not only received and respected by faith, but is also purified, elevated and perfected" (*ibid.*, 7). In this way science can be helped to serve the common good of all mankind, with a particular regard for the weakest and most vulnerable.

In drawing attention to the needs of the defenceless, the Church thinks not only of the unborn but also of those without easy access to expensive medical treatment. Illness is no respecter of persons, and justice demands that every effort be made to place the fruits of scientific research at the disposal of all who stand to benefit from them, irrespective of their means. In addition to purely ethical considerations, then, there are issues of a social, economic and political nature that need to be addressed in order to ensure that advances in medical science go hand in hand with

just and equitable provision of health-care services. Here the Church is able to offer concrete assistance through her extensive health-care apostolate, active in so many countries across the globe and directed with particular solicitude to the needs of the world's poor.

Dear friends, as I conclude my remarks, I want to assure you of a special remembrance in prayer and I commend to the intercession of *Mary, Salus Infirmorum*, all of you who work so hard to bring healing and hope to those who suffer. I pray that your commitment to adult stem cell research will bring great blessings for the future of man and genuine enrichment to his culture. To you, your families and your collaborators, as well as to all the patients who stand to benefit from your generous expertise and the results of your work, I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing. Thank you very much!

We're on the Web!

www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of Broken
Bay