Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

The Voice

15th January 2012 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Psalter Week 2

Call and Response

The readings of today's Mass, near the beginning of Ordinary Time, remind us that our following of Christ is a response to a call.

Our Christian life is not a result of our initiative, but of God's - just as Samuel took on the role of a prophet/judge, and Peter and Andrew became apostles of the Lord, not because this was their idea, but because God loved and called them first.

'Here am I Lord; I come to do your will' - this is the response, as in today's responsorial psalm, to the call of God.

It is a call that finds a ready response in someone who is looking for God. When John the Baptist points out Jesus to Peter and Andrew, they follow him immediately because they are looking for the Messiah. When Samuel is called by God, he responds because he is waiting for a call - from Eli, he thinks, the first three times, but eventually, he learns, from God. So his answer, as instructed by Eli, is the answer we should all give: 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Why hear all this on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time? Because the year in front of us is yet another occasion for our being called by God and, if we are not looking for him and on the lookout for his call, we shall not hear it.

Sunday by Sunday that call is spelt out in Word and Sacrament and our response finds expression in our fervent participation in Mass and in our life during the week. We need to learn to listen for that call; our response was not and could not be one-off; it needs to be renewed in our prayer, in our actions, in our fidelity during temptation.

Today we also begin reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians. This long letter of Paul is broken into sections for Sunday reading, so that part of it begins the selection from his letters every year. The excerpts in Year B come from chapters 6-11, and it mainly consists of replies from Paul to questions referred to him by the Corinthians.

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You might recall that, in preparation for the Diocesan Synod at present under way, a survey was taken late last year. A summary of the responses to the survey from this parish is available for your collection on the table in the gathering area. The full report on the survey may be inspected in the Parish Office.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
  Maxwell Moore.
- **Anniversaries:**
  Nora Houghton, Patrick Wedesweiler, Edward Forrest, Lily Lloyd, William Archer, Catherina Esposito.
- **Remembrances:**
  Eli & Paul Houghton.
- **And for the sick**
  Brian Woodward, Fr. Geoff Bugden, Rita Flower, Alisha Harwood, Mary Gourlay, David Wood, Catherine McMahon, Sue Morritt, Wanda Grima, Anne Liddle, Hilda Hedevang.

Psalm Response

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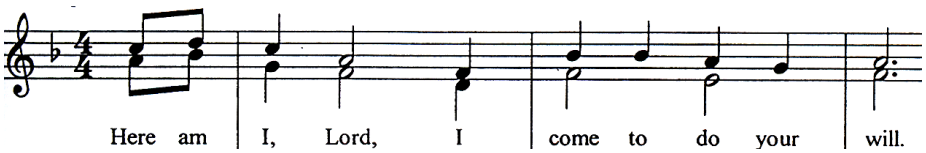

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. *Alleluia!*

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Around the Parish

Lenten Discussion Groups: Each year, groups meet within the Parish to pray, discuss, and reflect on the significance of this period during the church year. To date, there is material relative to the season, available from three sources, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra. Parishioners who are interested in organizing a group or would like more information should contact Don Anderson on 4342 3357 before 24 January. When groups, times and locations are established, full information will be provided to parishioners who would like to participate.

New Rosters: Children's Liturgy and Church cleaners all available for collection in the Leo Mahon room.

On the Bus: Drivers of the bus for weekend 21/22 January: Vigil 5pm: Jenny Dempsey. 7.45am & 9.15am: Ivan Dempsey.

Catechists: Last year, the support given to the Parish Catechists was overwhelming; we are most grateful. This Ministry has begun planning for the upcoming school year, with the formation of their Resource Library taking shape. Your prayers are again asked to sustain the work of these volunteers. While the number of children to be instructed in the faith increases, our numbers are stretched. In turn, we will keep all of our generous community in our prayers.

The Just Word

The Australian Social Justice Council has signed two statements calling for radical change in Australia's approach to asylum seekers.

One statement, signed by over 200 organisations, urges both sides of politics to see the recent High Court ruling on the so-called "Malaysian solution" as "a watershed to reform Australia's stance on asylum seekers in line with our international obligations".

Australia should abandon offshore processing and establish a "just and humane approach" to people seeking asylum says the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) which organised the statement.

The statement calls on the government and the opposition to respect the High Court ruling. Neither indefinite detention nor sending asylum seekers overseas "can be presented as a just or credible response to the needs of people seeking refuge in Australia", it says.

The organisations call on the government to show leadership, abandon offshore processing and mandatory detention, and process all asylum seekers onshore.

Australia should keep working towards a regional solution for asylum seekers, building on the success of the Bali process to bring about a fundamental change in the way refugees and asylum seekers are treated in our region, the statement said.

'It can be done again'

Another open statement, coordinated by the Edmund Rice Centre, recalled how the Fraser Government in the 1970's and 80's worked with regional partners to devise "an efficient and effective system which, over 20 years, dealt with the needs of more than 2.5 million Indochinese refugees", including some 250,000 Vietnamese refugees and immigrants who were accepted by Australia.

One of Australia's first Vietnamese refugees went on to become Lieutenant Governor of South Australia and thousands of others have become magnificent Australian citizens, the statement says.

The Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Vincent Long van Nguyen, who fled Vietnam by boat in 1980, became the first Australian Bishop of Vietnamese birth when appointed to the position last year.

The Edmund Rice Centre Statement calls for a system for "effective and efficient onshore processing", increasing Australia's intake of refugees to 25,000, ending the competition between onshore and offshore asylum applicants, and leadership by Australian politicians.

The statement says we need "an orderly migration and integration system for refugees, while realising the reality and gravity of international obligations and domestic law. It was done before when the numbers where much, much larger. It can be done again.

Small sign of hope

The Government has announced a framework for community placement of asylum seekers, or "irregular maritime arrivals" (IMS'a), now in detention.

Immigration Minister Chris Bowen announced on November 25 the first bridging visas for 27 asylum seekers who are long-term detainees accommodated at a range of detention facilities across Australia and at various stages of their asylum claims. Mainly Afghans and Sri Lankans who have been in long-term detention, "they will live in the community on bridging visas while their asylum claims are completed and their status is resolved," Mr. Bowen said.

Asylum seekers will have reporting conditions and be afforded the right to work and support themselves, and have access to necessary health services. "We would expect to see at least 100 IMAs eventually being released every month," he said.

From the Diocese and beyond

Catholic Adult Education 2012: 'Christian Traditions' designed for Parish Catechists and teachers of RE in Catholic Schools. This topic will cover material pertinent to NSW RE curriculum.

A new series of topics exploring Koine Greek. Students will learn the original language in which the New Testament was written enabling them to enhance their understanding of the inspired Word of God.

Enrolments forms on CAEC website. More info contact Centre at *study@caec.com.au*

A detailed description Term 1 topics at *http://www.caec.com.au/courses/indexT12012.html.* or Ph: Matthew Leslie 9646 9010.

Latin Mass advertised for 22nd January has been cancelled.

There will now be a Latin Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael Rowe (from Perth) on Sunday 12th February at 3pm, St. Cecilia's Church Wyong.

Everybody needs a job: Liturgy with children

David E. Fedor

It's an all-too-familiar scenario. A Mass has been scheduled for the children of the parish. It could be a school liturgy, a Mass for first communicants, or a holy day celebration. The children are led into church, where many of their parents and grandparents have already assembled (with cameras, of course). The task of preparing the special Mass has been given to a select group or grade. One goal is to get as many children as possible involved. Everybody needs a job.

The liturgy begins with a greeting by one the students. After telling the reason and theme for the Mass, the child concludes by saying: "Now let us stand and greet our celebrant by singing 'Come Holy Ghost.'" The Liturgy of the Word follows. The first reading is proclaimed by a clearly nervous child. Five children have been assigned to read the responsorial psalm, which has an antiphon and four psalm verses. One leads the response, while the others each read a verse of the psalm. The general intercessions follow the same basic formula, with a different child reading each of the nine petitions.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the presentation of the gifts. This procession involves quite a few children. In addition to the bread and wine, objects that hold significance to the children are placed on the floor in front of the altar: a book, a globe of the world, a soccer ball, and so on.

After the reception of communion, a prayer composed by several children is read. Two of the three read very well, but the third loses her place when her parent snaps a picture and distracts her. The priest thanks all who prepared the liturgy and encourages a round of applause. The blessing is pronounced and the liturgy concludes.

What's wrong with this picture? Did the liturgy draw children into the mystery of faith we are called to celebrate at each Eucharist? Were the children drawn into the mystery of the workings of God among us? Did they pray? Did they encounter Christ? What will they remember about this Mass?

This Mass serves as an example of how the goal of "getting kids involved" can produce a disjunctive collection of events that focuses on children rather than prayer. For example, what was the focus of the psalm? Did the message come across clearly, or did it get lost because of the number of children involved and the need for each to take his or her place at the microphone? Gifts of bread and wine were brought forth in procession. Each of these gifts was to be transformed: the bread and wine become the sacramental presence of the Body and Blood of Christ. But what happens to the book, soccer ball, and globe? They are not transformed: they are merely retrieved and put away after Mass. They were never really gifts; they were only props, and they have no place in such a deeply meaningful action as the presentation of the gifts by the assembly.

Since the publication of the *Directory for Masses with Children* by the Congregation for Divine Worship in 1973, the flexibility in the liturgy allowed in this document has been often misinterpreted and taken out of context. Like all other documents that have been promulgated since the Second Vatican Council, the DMC assumes a knowledge of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* and other liturgical documents, including the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. We need to realize that the DMC does not allow us to replace or alter the theology of the CSL. A basic fact essential to preparing any liturgy is this: you have to have a working knowledge of what liturgy is. Without this awareness, our efforts to involve children in the liturgy of the church can degenerate into a kind of separate rite for them that distorts the Mass and misses the point.

For example, let's return to the question about the focus of the psalm: did the message come across clearly, or did it get lost because of the number of children in-

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In today's first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, "Here I am!" each time the Lord calls him. May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

SEE 1 SAMUEL 3:4; PSALM 40

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
P.O. Box 264
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
Walter Baker Hall
100 Blackwall Road

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., Monday 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 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 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.

Everybody needs a job

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volved and the need for each to take his or her place at the microphone? Was each child who read Scripture adequately prepared to proclaim the word of God? When any reader (adult or child) lacks in preparation or ability, the assembly often remembers the person's difficulty and embarrassment rather than the Scripture's message. Those who assume a liturgical ministry need to be able to exercise it with a degree of competence.

Our children deserve the best we can give them as we help them grow in their faith. All of the directives for Masses with children are aimed at preparing them to actively participate in the regular Sunday celebrations. The DMC tells us: "It is always necessary to keep in mind that these eucharistic celebrations must lead children toward the celebration of Mass with adults, especially the Masses at which the Christian community must come together on Sundays. Thus, apart from adaptations that are necessary because of the children's age, the result should not be entirely special rites, markedly different from the Order of Mass" (21).

We should evaluate our celebrations of liturgies with children. The full, conscious, and active participation called for in the CSL goes much deeper than giving everyone a job. **ML**

David Fedor holds a master's degree in music and liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. In 1986 he was appointed director of music and organist for the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, N.J., and since 1998 has been the parish musician for St. Cassian Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 115216.

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

Diocese of Broken Bay