



The Voice

5th February 2012

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Psalter Week 1



Jesus the Healer

Last Sunday and today, we hear from Mark about a typical day in the public life of Jesus. He attends the synagogue on the sabbath (where he exorcises a possessed man), heals Simon's mother-in-law, heals the sick and prays. The last few words today summarise his Galilean ministry: 'preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.'

He sees his role as preaching and healing. Many diseases in those days were attributed to possession, and so the healing was achieved by exorcism. As the Holy Spirit operated in him, so he was opposed by "unclean spirits" and "devils" - 'they knew who he was.' We are watching the beginnings of a fight to the finish.

As we saw last Sunday, he preached "with authority" because he had the power to expel demons. People listened to him because of the miracles.

He still heals today: not only in places like Lourdes, but also through the lives of his faithful followers, whereby the unclean spirits who oppose the kingdom of God in so many ways - undermining the family, promoting pornography and drugs, abridging the human rights of freedom of religion (to mention a few) - are weakened and defeated. At the same time, those who give so much of their time to the service of their brothers and sisters prepare many people of good will to hear the gospel.

But human illness and misery persist on the individual level. Job, in the first reading, is witness to that today. And, as we hear in the responsorial psalm, God still offers comfort to those who suffer. Comfort and healing are available through the sacraments of the Church, especially through Penance, Anointing and the Eucharist.

Blessed John Paul II was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1991, and in 1992 he instituted the **World Day of the Sick**, to be celebrated on the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, beginning on 11th February 1993. This year it falls next Saturday.

How can we celebrate it here? We need make only some slight adjustments to our usual Saturday programme. During the 9 a.m. Mass we shall anoint the sick who are present and bless their carers and, after Mass, we shall, as is usual here on Saturdays and is an important part of the proceedings at Lourdes, we shall have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Since it is Saturday, it may be easier than on other days for family members to bring their sick relatives to church. The parish bus will be available: for a seat, contact the parish office before Thursday.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**
Father Frank Bergan, Tony Brimaud, Thelma Day, Frank Matthews, Eileen Tierney.
- **Anniversaries:**
John (Jack) Booth, Patrick Dolan.
- **Remembrances:**
Kevin Garnett.
- **And the sick:**
Rita Flower, Alisha Harwood, Mary Gourlay, David Wood, Catherine McMahon, Sue Morrill, Wanda Grima, Anne Liddle, Hilda Hedevang, Anne Hume.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Please note: We have received complaints from residents whose properties back onto the lane way alongside the Church. Our parishioners for the Sunday Masses are parking their cars, hence blocking their driveways. This is causing a great deal of stress for our neighbours and only makes us look very inconsiderate.

Looking for a Car space? Room for 6-8 cars at the back of Mary Mac's. Entrance from the lane.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish family would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Thelma Day and Frank Matthews who were buried from our Church during the week.

Bus Trips: The wheels of the bus are rolling again with two trips coming up!

Mary MacKillop Tuesday, 14th February, leaving 8.30am. Mass 11am. Cost \$15.

Palm Beach Wednesday 22nd, leaving 8.30am. Morning tea at St. Ives. Cost \$15.

Contact Susie Casey 4342 3893.

Lenten Programs: During Lent there will be opportunities for parishioners to meet in groups where they can deepen their spiritual life, hear the Word of God, and in doing so, enhance their preparation for Easter. There is a social aspect as well, in that participants have the chance to meet and get to know other members of the parish. Usually, but not in every instance groups follow specially prepared programs. In order for group leaders to be adequately prepared, contact should be made with them before, 8 February.

Social Justice

Nelson Mandela released from Prison: Nelson Mandela was released from Victor Verster Prison in Paarl, South Africa, on 11 February 1990. He was 71 years old. The event was broadcast live over all the world. Mandela, a lawyer from Transkei homeland, was convicted of treason and sabotage in June

The following groups are planned and intending participants should contact the group leaders directly for further information.

- Mondays at 9.30am. Terri Hall. Ph 4341 2739. (Program from Archdiocese of Sydney).
- Mondays at 2pm. Good Samaritan Sisters Ph 4341 7256 (The Sisters will advise interested participants about program details).
- Tuesdays at 9.30am. Marie and Don Anderson. Ph 4342 3357. (Program from Archdiocese of Sydney).
- Thursdays at 10am. Lectio Divina. Carol Bradford. Ph 4341 5885.
- Thursdays at 1.15pm Leo Mahon room. Cathy Cavanagh. Ph 4341 0157.

Adult Faith Formation: The initial Faith Formation Team meeting for 2012 will be held in the Riley Room next to the old Church, Wednesday 8th February, 7.30pm. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. David Patterson who has been newly appointed as the Broken Bay Diocese Adult Faith Formation Coordinator and who has some interesting ideas which he would like to discuss. All interested parishioners are encouraged to attend this get-together.

First Holy Communion Programme: The Parish is about to start a programme to prepare children, in Yr 3 or above, who have been Confirmed and have made their First Reconciliation to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. A Parent Information night will be held Thursday 16th February 7.30pm, in the Walter Baker Hall, 100

Blackwall Rd. Woy Woy. Further information contact Parish Office 4341 1073.

Morning Tea/Coffee after 9.15am Mass commencing next Sunday 12th February—Youth Group rostered. *Please Note: Venue for our cuppa has been transferred from the gathering area to the Leo Mahon room.* Take the opportunity to come after Mass, have a cuppa and meet other parishioners.

Altar Servers: New Rosters available in Servers Sacristy.

Children's Liturgy re-commencing next Sunday 12th February: Anne Marie Tonkin (OL). Patricia Hickey (YL). Carol Yates (H).

Grand-Parents Carers meeting this Monday, 6th February, 9.30am. Riley room (Ethel Cox Centre). Enq: Mary Surman 4342 9995.

Catechists: The school year has begun and while your Parish Catechists will not begin their classes for another couple of weeks, we ask your prayers for these wonderful volunteers and for the children of our State schools whose religious education is entrusted to their care.

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop Josephites starting back from holidays will be meeting Wednesday, 8th February, 10am in the Leo Mahon room. New members welcome! Phone Betty 4341 8849.

Baptisms: We welcome into our faith community and pray for Emily and Audrey Bilsborough who were baptized during Mass last weekend.

apartheid movement gathered strength. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom...After his release, he plunged himself wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier.

The website of the Nobel Prize (www.nobelprize.org)

Bow down for the Blessing

Paul Turner

You may bow to receive a blessing at the end of Mass. The words asking you to do so have been slightly revised. In the past, the deacon or priest has said words such as these: "Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing." Now, however, you hear this formula: "Bow down for the blessing."

The final blessing does not always include this invitation. You hear it only when the blessing is extended in one of two ways. In a "solemn blessing," the priest offers a three-fold formula addressed to the people, who answer "Amen" to each part. In a "prayer over the people," the priest addresses God, concluding with the phrase "Through Christ our Lord," which prompts the people to answer "Amen." If either extension is made, you are invited to bow before it, and you receive the usual blessing after it: "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

The deacon issues this invitation because he instructs the people concerning their actions, whether to share the sign of peace or to be dismissed from the gathering. He may also

assign postures such as kneeling, standing, and bowing. In the deacon's absence, the priest performs this function. The revised English translation of the Mass has changed the words to reflect the invitation in Latin, which makes no mention of the head, and instead implies a low bow of the upper part of the body. The third edition of the missal has removed the permission for the priest or deacon to use other expressions, thus restricting him to one formula: "Bow down for the blessing."

Ironically, the rubrics of the Mass never instruct the people to carry out this posture, but the implication, of course, is that they do.

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Paul Turner, pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO, holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. Comment online at ML Current Issue Discussion.



Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of sharing in its blessings."

See 1 Corinthians 9:23

Capital Letters

Paul Turner

People will never hear one of the revisions to the words of the Mass. In the revised translation, new rules for capitalisation have been applied. These sometimes look puzzling on the page, but the style should be more consistent.

For example, wherever capital letters appear in Latin, they also appear in English. This is why such words as "Angels" and "Saints" have changed their appearance. However, other words have been capitalised in English, even though they retain a lower case in Latin, such as "Bishop," "Priest," and "Deacon." The word "cross" is capitalised when it refers to the instrument of the death of Jesus, but is kept lower case otherwise. The same is true of the word "resurrection." For example, the third memorial acclamation, addressing our Saviour, says, "by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free." However, the rubrics refer to the "cross" that is carried in procession at the beginning of Mass.

Some people are surprised that pronouns referring to the divinity are not capitalised. Some publications use capitals for words such as "He," "His," and "Him" when refer-

ring to God. The missal does not. It has, for example, "Through him, and with him, and in him," when alluding to Christ at the end of every eucharistic prayer. This remains the case in the present translation. The capitalisation of so many pronouns would have made the editing and reading of the book more difficult.

The rules for capitalisation in English are established not by the translators or by the conferences of bishops. The Vatican established these in its rulebook for translators. Sometimes the reason for a capital letter is hard to discern; other times it seems obvious. Capitals are meant to illumine the text, not to distract people, who won't hear them anyway.

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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"

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.

Reading and Praying

Paul Turner

We Catholics are sometimes criticised for our poor abilities at spontaneous prayer. We can read prayers from a book, but we do not always sound as though we mean what we say. In truth, even spontaneous prayer can fall into patterns of insincerity. Any time we give voice to prayer, we could always do better.

As English-speaking Catholics switch from one translation to another at Mass, the change will cause some difficulties. Many of the texts people knew well have been altered. Although the revised translation brings a fresh meaning to the words on the page, it comes at the cost of familiarity. When we repeat words and phrases, we feel comfortable in our prayer. When we have new words to say, when the responses no longer fall naturally off the tongue, and when everyone seems somewhat confused, it is hard to pray.

Getting used to new words – both those we speak and those we hear – has brought

the church into a grey area of prayer. When words are unfamiliar, we think about them a lot. We analyse the structure of the prayer. We compare the words with the ones we used to know. We go through mental exercises that take us away from the spiritual exercise we should be doing: praying the Mass.

Prayer is something deeper than the words we say. It is setting our hearts in the presence of God. Sometimes unfamiliar words can inhibit that practice. For a while, we may be reading words more than praying words. But as we become more familiar with them, the words become a part of us, and they will lead us into deep prayer.

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