



The Voice

1st June 2008

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Psalter Week 1

ORDINARY TIME

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Marge Burns, George King, Norma Scully, Una Higham, Colm Casey, Patrick Dante.
- **Anniversaries:**
Vincenzo Zappavigna, Toni Townsend, Jesse Geronimo, Alfred Johnston, Juliet Hutton, Renato & Constancio Soriano, David Cang, Snr., Kai Tee & Sook Ber Cang, Frederick Fitzhenry, Eve Rae.
- **Sick:**
Rev. John Hill, John Ward, Val Ide, Mgr. John Grannall, Robin Sorrenson, Dominique Johnston, Ross Vanderveen, Rev. Denis Callahan.

Jesus' Recipe for Happiness

A few weeks ago, a quick look at the Sunday paper revealed the following: 'According to the authors of two new books, being nice can ruin your life. Their advice? Get nasty—you'll be surprised how much you achieve.'

You may reply that there's nothing new in that—we all know a lot of people who live by that credo. The odd thing for me, on that occasion, was that I was listening to the radio (a broadcast on forgiveness and mercy) at the same time, and I heard someone say that this slick advice is the prescription that turns so many people to drugs—the world that ensues is so unbearable that they will do anything to escape it.

Now today we rejoin the Matthew gospels of Ordinary Time at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Because of the placing of Lent/Easter this year, we have missed most of the Sermon, but we (I hope) have a rough idea of what it's all about—we may not know all the details, but we do know that Jesus' recipe for happiness does not line up with "not giving a damn" and "the art of saying No."

There are two incompatible approaches to life here. They are summed up by Moses in the first reading today as a blessing and a curse: the blessing is to obey the commandments; the curse, to disobey those commandments and go 'after other gods

you have not known.'

This puts us in a difficult position. On the one hand, we are committed to professing Jesus' teaching; on the other, to survive in this cruel world (we think) we have to be as tough and as rude as the next man (or woman).

The trouble is that this amounts to saying, "Lord, Lord;" Jesus tells us today that this will not get us into the kingdom of heaven. Only the person 'who does the will of my Father in heaven,' he says, will enter the kingdom. Now the person who is not interested in doing the Father's will ("doesn't give a damn") will not care if he enters the kingdom or not. It is the one who says one thing and does another who is in trouble: according to Jesus, he won't make it.

Maybe that explains the earlier remark on drugs. Jesus offers an alternative: *'everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock.'* This involves rejecting—in deed as well as word—the unhealthy prescriptions of modern secularism. We have to act as well as listen. Otherwise we are like the people who build their houses on sand: *'Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!'*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Sacrament of Confirmation: Please continue to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament on June 22nd.

Morning Tea Roster for Sunday, June 8th—Senior Altar Servers.

Grand-parents Parenting Support Group meeting Tuesday 3rd June, 9.30am in Ethel Cox Centre. Enquiries Mary Surman 4342 9995.

Baptism Preparation: Please note instruction talks are now held at 9.30am at Ethel Cox Centre every 2nd and 4th Sunday.

Congratulations and many thanks to the ladies for their time, expertise and effort in making our new banners for Ordinary Time and to Greg Lalor for devising the means of displaying the banners to best advantage.

Social Justice

June 5—World Environment Day: *Kick the habit:* Fostering Low-Carbon Economies: The focus will be on solutions and the opportunities for countries, companies and communities to 'kick the habit' and decarbonise their economies and life-styles.

Caritas Australia—The Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development is appealing for financial aid to meet essential needs (i.e. food, water, shelter, medicines) and for ongoing rehabilitation and rebuilding in the disaster areas of Burma and China. Envelopes are available on table in the gathering space. All donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive this weekend. Please return your bags or if unable phone 4342 3907 for pick up. Thank You.

Winter Appeal: St. Vincent de Paul annual Winter Appeal will be held the weekend of 14th/15th June. We thank you for the generous support of our clothing drive and trust you will be equally

generous with your financial contributions. The need is great. Many thanks and God Bless.

Josephite Associates meeting next Wednesday, 4th June 10am, in the Walter Baker Hall. New members welcome. Enquiries Betty 4341 8849.

Mass Intentions: If you would like a Mass said, please enclose all details, *printing names clearly* on envelopes provided in the gathering area and place on the second collection at Mass or hand into the Parish office during office hours.

Listing of the Sick in the Parish Newsletter: Permission must be given to publish names of the sick and asking for prayers, so as not to contravene the Government's Privacy Act.

Measures include greater energy efficiency in buildings and appliances, including light bulbs, and a switch towards cleaner and renewable forms of electricity generation and transport systems. The role of forests in countering rises in green-

house gases will be emphasised. An estimated 20% of emissions contributing to climate change globally are a result of deforestation.

United Nations Environmental Program: www.unep.org

From the Diocese and beyond

Catholic Engaged Encounter Got your wedding plans under control? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life, We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. Further information phone 9990 3212 or

www.engagedencounter.org.au
engaged@engagedencounter.org.au
Coming weekends June 14-15
August 23-24, October 18-19,

December 6-7.
Spirituality in the Pub Tues 3 May, 7.30pm-9pm at Kincumber Pub, Avoca Dr. Kincumber. Speakers Sr. Annie Laurie, r.s.j. and Jim Mein. Details on notice board. Bistro opens 6pm Info: Carmen 4367 2743.

Centacare Broken Bay are looking for people who care about children to offer some of our kids who are in full time foster care a respite break one weekend a month. You may be

single, you may have children of your own or a couple without children. Respite carers support the children in their recreational hobbies and engage them in activities such as fishing, craft, the beach, art, movies, cooking, sporting activities. You will receive training, a respite carer allowance, 24 hour on-call support, and satisfaction knowing you are making a difference. Further information 4350 1700.

The civilisation of love

Pope Paul VI

From his message for the tenth World Day of Peace, 1977:

Brethren, this is not enough. The concept of Peace as the ideal that gives direction to the concrete activity of human society seems destined to succumb to an inevitable victory of the world's incapacity to govern itself in and through Peace. Peace does not generate itself, even though the deepest impulses of human nature tend towards Peace. Peace is order, and order is what everything, every reality, aspires to as its destiny and the justification for its existence. Order is a pre-established destiny and justification for existence, but it is brought about together with and in collaboration with many factors. Thus Peace is a pinnacle that presupposes a complex inner supporting framework. Peace is like a flexible body that needs a stout skeleton to give it strength. The stability and beauty of the structure of Peace depend on the support of various causes and conditions. These are often absent. Even when they exist, they are not always strong enough for their function of ensuring that the pyramid of Peace should have a solid base and a lofty summit.

In this analysis of Peace we have seen again its beauty and its necessity, but we have also noted its instability and fragility. We conclude it by reaffirming our conviction that Peace is a duty, Peace is possible. This is the message we keep repeating, a message that makes its own the ideal of civilisation, echoes the aspirations of peoples, strengthens the hope of the lowly and weak, and ennobles with justice the security of the strong.

It is a message of optimism, a presage of the future. Peace is no dream, no utopia, no illusion. Nor is it a labour of Sisy-

phus. No, Peace can be prolonged and strengthened. Peace can write the finest pages of history, inscribing them not only with the magnificence of power and glory but also with the greater magnificence of human virtue, people's goodness, collective prosperity, and true civilisation: *the civilisation of love*.

Is Peace possible? Yes, it is. It must be. But let us be sincere: Peace, as we have already said, is a duty and is possible, but it is so only with the concurrence of many and not easy conditions. We are aware that to discuss the conditions for Peace is a very long and very difficult task. We shall not make bold to undertake it here. We leave it to the experts. But we will not be silent on one aspect, one which is clearly of basic importance. We shall merely remind you of it and recommend it to the reflection of good and intelligent people. This aspect is the relationship between Peace and the concept that the world has of human life.

Peace and Life. They are supreme values in the civil order. They are also values that are interdependent. Do we want Peace? Then let us defend Life!

The phrase "Peace and Life" may seem almost tautological, a rhetorical slogan. It is not so. The combination of the two terms in the phrase represents a hard-won conquest in the onward march of human progress - a march still short of its final goal. How many times in the drama of human history the phrase "Peace and Life" has involved a fierce struggle of the two terms, not a fraternal embrace. Peace is sought and won through conflict, like a sad doom necessary for self-defence.



Today's readings call us to active discipleship. It is not enough to know the commandments; we must actively obey them. It is not enough to hear the words of Jesus; we must act on them. Good stewards demonstrate their gratitude for the gift of faith by putting it into action.



Devotions

'El Shaddai' Charismatic Prayer Group meetings for June—7th, 14th and 21st. 1pm-4pm. *Please note for the months of June, July and August*, the venue has been changed back to Pt. Clare Community Hall. Enquiries: Grace Lloyd 4343 1504.
Prayers for Conversions Monday 2nd

June, 2pm-3pm Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Special intention WYD pilgrims.
Prayers for WYD Tuesday 3rd June, 2.30pm-3.05pm in the Chapel. Please consider a visit to the Chapel each week to pray for WYD. Booklets available for use in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

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 264 100 Blackwall Road.
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 Barry Nobbs, *Assistant Priest*

Parish Secretary: Libby McManus

Parish Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4 pm

Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice: 4 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).

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 Robyn 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.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY – For information and events contact Robyn on 0432 619 182.

PARISH CHOIR – Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7 p.m. Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21a Dul-kara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 f 0243 445049

Pipe Organ

Paul Turner

"The pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument that adds a wonderful splendor to the church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up the spirit to God and to higher things" (120). That short statement from the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* still wins applause from those who love the organ. The council permitted the use of other musical instruments as well, enhancing our liturgy with guitar, piano, flute and bongo. But the pipe organ still remains the jewel of instruments used for worship.

The pipe organ sound is what electronic organs try to imitate. However, traditional acoustical instruments possess a quality that electronic ones have not replaced. Strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments use a variety of natural products in concert with live human touch to bring vitality and sincerity to music. By comparison, electronically produced sound is artificial. Acoustical instruments in live performance create an experience that captures the presence

of the musician, the instrument, the listener and even the weather.

The pipe organ, an acoustical instrument, uses natural products - wood, metal, leather and wind, to produce a sound that the player changes from placid to piercing, from penitent to playful. It can support an assembly, a choir or a soloist, and it can play music on its own. The pipe organ is a versatile instrument of uncommon beauty. By its kinship with nature, it fits neatly with Catholic prayer, which relies on natural products like bread, wine, water, oil, wax and ashes to transport us to the divine.

Pipe organs bring challenges. They are costly, and the organist shortage is worse than the priest shortage. But a commitment to pipe organs will make possible a transcendental experience of God through the use of elements of creation.

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www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of
Broken Bay