

The Voice

18th May 2008

Trinity Sunday, Year A

Psalter Week 3



ORDINARY TIME

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Eve Stanislas, Marjorie Burns, Clarice Maclean.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary & George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills and the Mills family, Bernie Hanna, Stanley and Leis families.
- **Sick:**
Rev. John Hill, John Ward, Val Ide, Robin Sorrenson, Mgr. John Grannall.

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A Feast of Hope

Today's feast had a strange and difficult start. When people pressed for a solemnity of the Holy Trinity, the popes responded that the Trinity was honoured in every Mass, and having a separate feast of the Trinity struck them (especially Alexander II [†1073] and III [†1181]) as a bad idea. It was only in 1334 that John XXII gave way, and fixed it on the Sunday after Pentecost.

We forget that it is only since Vatican II that we have had readings for weekday Masses; before that, one simply repeated the readings of the Sunday before. The solution to the problem of boredom, since around 800, was to say votive Masses – and Monday was the day for Masses of the Holy Trinity. It was out of that that the idea of a feast emerged, first of all in the Cluniac (1030) and Cistercian (1271) abbeys, and then in the universal church.

The votive Mass, and then the feast, were very popular. Given the attention we give to the Trinity in this century, can you imagine the Trinity as a popular devotion? Yet it was. There is a Trinity College at each of the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin; there are many churches dedicated to the Trinity, especially in England; the Sundays (now in ordinary time) that we used to count "after Pentecost" were numbered in a number of places (and still by Anglicans)

"after Trinity."

Of course, the solemnity was fixed on today because it is the Sunday after the end of Lent/Easter; it allows us to reflect on the creating, redeeming and sanctifying God who is at work in the events that we have just commemorated. Surely that is a ground and source of devotion.

Do not today's readings sum that up? Look at the "name of the Lord" as expounded in the first reading: 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' Look at the wonderful words of the fourth evangelist in the gospel: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.' Finally there is St Paul's summary in the second reading, used also as a greeting at the beginning of Mass: 'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'

Indeed, Paul leaves us with the lesson that, if human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, then devotion to the Trinity expresses itself in our Christian lives: 'Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.'

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: to God who is, who was, and who is to come. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Confirmation Candidates: We welcome and pray for the children who are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be conferred Sunday 22 June at 11.30am and 1pm.

Biggest Morning Tea for Breast Cancer: The Craft Group are hosting morning tea in the Walter Baker Hall at 10am followed by entertainment, Thursday 22nd May. Cost: \$5. Please come along and help to make this the biggest morning tea ever.

St. Vincent de Paul: We will be conducting a clothing drive during the week-end of 31st May-1st June and request your generous re-

sponse. Bags are available at the Church and we would appreciate their return—full of course—.If unable to return the full bags please phone 4342 3907 and pick up will be organized. Many thanks.

Morning Tea Roster for 25th May will be the Parents and Friends Group.

Bus Trip to the Hunter Valley surrounds Wed. 28th May. Contact Susie Casey 4342 3893 or 0403 4117 639.

Bus Fund Meeting Sunday 25th May, 2pm, 1/115 The Esplanade, Ettalong. New members welcome. Enq: Mary Scarf 4344 2288.

Family Ministry meeting

Thursday, 22nd May at 1pm in the Ethel Cox Centre. All welcome.

Knitters wanted to make 10 inch squares in 8 ply wool 50 stitches in plain knitting. Squares are made into blankets and distributed by St. Vincent de Paul. A large quantity of wool has been donated and available at the Piety Stall. Please return the completed squares there. Enquiries: Margaret Coster 4341 2455.

Liturgy Team meeting Thursday, 22nd May, 7.30pm in the Parish office

Catechists Meeting Thursday 22nd May, 9.30am, 70 Priestman Ave. Umina.

Social Justice

International Day of Families May 15: Poverty puts families at risk. Poverty not only means that families do not have enough income to purchase certain goods and services, but also causes families:

- To have inadequate access to resources and services
- To be unable to do certain tasks that are essential for fulfilling one's human potential and carrying out one's social responsibilities
- To be shunned, denigrated, blamed, patronised and os-

tracised by others

- To have little opportunity to participate in decisions affecting one's life
- To be and feel powerless, excluded and marginalised.

The right to private ownership makes it illegal for a poor person to steal a loaf of bread but perfectly legal for a rich man to hoard more food and other resources than he or she can ever make use of. Albert Nolan, Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom.

Family Prayer

God made us a family. We need one another. We love one another. We forgive one another. We work together. We play together. We worship together. Together we use God's word. Together we grow in Christ. Together we love all men. Together we serve our God. Together we hope for Heaven. These are our hopes and ideals. Help us to attain them, O God, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the Diocese and beyond

Postponement of Episcopal Dialogue: Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Episcopal Dialogue between Bishop David Walker and Bishop Graeme Rutherford scheduled for Wednesday 21st May has had to be *postponed*. A new date will be advertised shortly.

Exposition and Vigil: There will be an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during an all-night Vigil at Holy Cross Church, South Kincumber, from 6.30pm Friday 30 May

(Feast of the Sacred Heart) ending 6.30am 31st May (Visitation of the Blessed Virgin). The Vigil will begin with Mass 6.30pm and during the night there will be prayers, Rosary, hymns and silent reflection. Toilet facilities available and tea/coffee provided during the night. Enq; Paul Salmon 4381 1335.

Do you long to give your life to something meaningful? What questions is World Youth Day stirring for you?

The Daughters of St. Paul are a community of religious sisters focused on Christ. Engaging with the world through modern media and technology, we proclaim Christ in new ways to the people of each new generation. We invite you to share our mission and explore the gifts that religious life can offer. Enquiries Sr. Joanna 0403 175 251 or www.daughtersofstpaul.org.au or vocations@pauline.com.au or meet us at WYD.

Weaving wounds

Ron Haab



I never take the sign of the cross for granted. As I mark my mortal body with the sign of salvation as the eucharistic celebration begins, I don't feel so alone. I stand more securely on the earth. My flesh releases tension and my heart opens a bit as the grace of the Trinity reassures me that my life is among the forgiven and the redeemed.

The solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity names the reality of this daily ritual gesture. I see the action of the Trinity beyond myself as I witness the wounded believers in the assembly. I see our recovering heroin addicts remind themselves of their choices—either believe in God in order to live, or die from addiction. I notice the arthritic hand of an elderly widow crossing her body as she remembers this gesture from her husband's funeral.

Tracing the sign of the cross to begin the Eucharist is not an casual gesture. It helps us mark time as we pray through pain, sorrow and longing. Under the cross we die to our shame. The gesture gives us courage to stand with one another and weave our weariness into lasting joy in Christ's real presence. This gesture reminds me that heaven is near, even as my feet are grounded on earth in the real needs of people's lives.

Our liturgical celebrations now move past Pentecost. The feast of the Trinity confirms in us one more time that God's action is strongest when we are most fragile. We celebrate the birth of the church because the Holy Spirit releases us from toxic fear. The Trinity helps us observe what is most true in our lives: that we all belong to God.

The liturgical gospels of Ordinary Time now challenge me to take the cross on my body seriously. When I do, the word comes alive and I may withstand storms of every kind. Building any community on rock is not about clinging to rigid, static truths, but rests on our willingness to let go of our insecurity, and accept becoming shelter for real people.

These gospels tell us what it means to live the cross that we mark on our bodies. They challenge us not to be foolish but wise when life is tough. I hear the middle-aged single woman struggling to remain in the church through all the inconsistencies, power struggles and questions. When I see her mark her body with the cross, I know I am called to

live my life with greater sincerity and authenticity. The word provides shelter for all of us in times of discouragement, illness and resistance.

We all need to know that God continues to call us no matter what. The disciples heard Jesus' request to follow him, and they did immediately. For us under the banner of the cross, we may become deaf to Jesus' call. I hear the young man unwilling to forgive his father for years of abuse and hatred. Yet his heart feels a tug to believe that something needs to change. I listen to a widow who cannot forgive herself for the torment she caused her adult daughter. This mother faces being alone for the rest of her years, yet she refuses to reach out to her child. God calls us in ordinary life. Sometimes we follow Christ, or sometimes we run to what we think will save us.

Even when we sign our bodies with salvation's mark, we do not always understand people's suffering and anguish. There is a Shepherd who challenges us to live out God's mercy. Sometimes as pastoral ministers in the church we find ourselves in pastures of jealousy or meadows of anger. We get caught in the snares of our insecurity rather than realising we act on the Shepherd's behalf. I see this when people are hurt and confused by our decision making, by our inability to listen to the cares of those who depend on us. We must move beyond our desire to count the cost of our care and concern

The sign of the cross on our bodies reveals hope even among those of us holding on to life by a thread. In the midst of the Trinity's love, we name our hurts, confront our pride and acknowledge our reluctance. Signing the cross on our bodies reminds us that we remain the Body of Christ. I witness in the bodily postures of even those among the most wounded in our assembly the desire to be woven into communion with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as associate pastor at the Downtown Chapel of St Vincent de Paul Parish in Old Town, Portland, Ore. He hosts *On the Margins*, a weekly Scripture commentary on radio KBVM.com. His e-mail address is raab@downtownchapel.org. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.



The three young men in the fiery furnace (Responsorial Psalm)

Devotions

Prayers for WYD Tuesday 20th May 2.30pm-3.05pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please consider making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel each week to pray for WYD. Prayer booklets available for use in the Chapel.

Our Lady Help of Christians Prayers in

honour of the Patroness of Australia, Sat. 24th May. 11.15am-11.45am Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Family Rosary Roster: Marie McClean, 5/50 Commonwealth Ave. Woy Woy 4341 7976. Tuesday 20th May at 10am.

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 Receptionists: Pamela Burton & Raelene McLenaghan.

Parish Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice: 4.30 p.m.

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 MINISTRY – For information and events please 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

Evangelist Symbols

Paul Turner

The human, lion, ox and eagle are symbols of the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These symbols adorn many works of art, buildings and objects used in worship. Each may identify one evangelist, or the four may represent the Gospel as a whole. In addition, the four symbols taken together represent the mystery of Christ's life. They recall in turn the birth, sacrifice, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The symbols derive from the opening of the Book of Ezekiel. There the prophet envisions four living creatures in the middle of a glowing fire from a stormy north wind. The faces of the creatures resemble a human being, a lion, an ox and an eagle (1:10). Their mystery and their movement made such an impact on the prophet that Christian generations have seen in their appearance a foreshadowing of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. The figures appear again in Revelation 4:7.

The human being (sometimes rendered as an angel) signifies Matthew, who opens his story with the human origins of Jesus' genealogy. The lion, according to legend, sleeps with eyes open, making it a symbol of resurrection. It depicts Mark, whose Gospel begins with the leonine John the Baptist in the desert. Luke's account of the infancy of Jesus places the child in the temple with Zechariah, a priest who offered sacrifice of animals including oxen. The horns of the beast may represent the old and new covenant, each with its own sacrifice. John, the evangelist whose work intently gazes on the eternal Word who shattered the darkness with his light, recalls the eagle that flies face into the sun. In this way, tradition has assigned each evangelist a proper symbol.

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Diocese of
Broken Bay