



The Voice

23rd November 2008

Christ the King, Year A

Psalter Week 2

ORDINARY TIME

Another Year of Grace

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Damien Thurgood, Josh Astill.
- **Anniversaries:**
Kate & Elanor Ellwood.
- **Remembrances:**
Jean Hanrahan, Wayne Hanrahan.
- **Sick:**
Father John Wakeling, Monsignor John Grannall, Deacon Jim Caulfield, Mary Surman, Anne Der Kinderen, Wanda Grima, Alice Stevenson, John Allen, Mary Ryan, Betty Fraser, Bob Todd, Catherine Hughes, John Robbie.

Every year, the Solemnity of Christ the King involves saying good-bye to the evangelist of that year. This year, Matthew bows out with one of the great eschatological discourses: Jesus' sermon on the last judgment.

We are told that this is how the King sees himself, and how we should see him: he is to be found in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the prisoner. He measures our attitude to him by our treatment of them.

On the last Sunday of the church year, we instinctively think of mission, and in today's reading we hear what our mission is all about.

At the Parish Assembly two weeks ago, we reflected on mission. As we are celebrating the Pauline Year, we went back to Paul's idea of his own mission, and of how, in his mind, it originated in his love of Jesus Christ.

Today, in the second reading, Paul once again gives us a version of his "controlling narrative" of salvation: of how Christ is God's solution to the problem created by human beings; how Christ's death and resurrection brings to all human beings the possibility of membership in his kingdom which, when all is resolved, will once again become the kingdom of his Father.

Today's gospel spells out in what the

kingdom consists. As we saw at the Parish Assembly, there is much going on in this parish which accords with Jesus' vision. The Parish Assembly idea began with the proposal to reflect on social justice, but it quickly expanded into reflecting on our mission. There are two sides to social justice: advocacy and direct action, and these are important parts of our mission. After all, as the Bishops said at the 1971 Synod, social justice is constitutive of preaching the gospel.

There are many parishioners who are doing precisely what Jesus wants—looking after the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the prisoners. There are others who support this work with their prayers and their financial support. As far as the latter is concerned, the St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal is an opportunity for each of us to participate. We can also, at this time of year, take part in the parish hamper project.

Last week we celebrated our solidarity as a parish family, when we remembered the first anniversary of the dedication of our new parish church. As we end the church year, we are called to celebrate—in a practical way—our solidarity with the poor and the marginalised.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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The | Lord is my | Shep - herd, there is | no - thing I shall | want.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish



Many Thanks to all responsible for the organization and work preparing for our celebratory brunch last Sunday. Your generosity will be rewarded!

On behalf of the Family Ministry we would all like to thank Fr Hill for initiating the brunch for our first year anniversary.

WORKSHOP for Catechists, Youth Workers, those involved in Children's Liturgy of the Word (9.15am Sunday Mass). Senior Servers and any other parish volunteers who come in regular contact with children. It will aim at raising awareness on relevant legislation and Bishop's responsibilities. Where? Ethel Cox Centre. When? Sunday 30th November, 10.30am-12 noon.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: We realize you have many calls on your generosity, but there is an ever growing number of families and singles that we assist, particularly at this time the need is great. Please do your best at the appeal due next weekend 29/30 November.

Church Pews: There are a few pews left ranging from \$40 to \$70. They can be viewed at St. Mary's Hall at Ettalong 5.45pm Saturday nights.

D.V.D's of the Dedication of our Church, \$15 ea. Great idea as a Christmas gift! C.D.'s 'Deeper' - original songs composed by our youth for WYD. \$25 ea. Columban calendars, Christmas cribs, etc. available at the Piety stall.

Bus Trip Tuesday 25th November, leaving at 8.45am for Homebush Olympic Park/

Direct Factory Outlet Homebush. Morning Tea at Lane Cove Park. BYO lunch. Cost \$15. Contact Susie 4342 3893.

Catholic Mission Appeal: Our Parish raised \$7,169.45. To put this into perspective, a donation of \$4,900 can pay for the construction of a basic church structure in rural Brazil. Thank you all for your great generosity.

Christmas Raffle: Tickets will be on sale at all Masses 22/11, 29/11 and 6/12. First Prize: Tapestry. 2nd Prize: remote Car. 3rd Prize: Christmas hamper. 4th Prize: Doll. 5th Prize: Picnic set. 6th Prize: Bear. Drawn 13th Dec. after the Christmas Fete

Bus Fund will be holding a Fete on Sat.13th Dec. at the Ethel Cox Centre. Anyone able to help in the way of donations of books, plants, Christmas gifts, craft, etc., for our stalls? Enq: Mary 4344 2288, Phoebe 4341 6324. Mobile 0416 056 324 or Susie 4342 3893. Mobile 0403 417 639 for pick up of goods. *Cut off time for pick ups will be 30th November.* Goods can be delivered to 1/115 The Esplanade, Ettalong. Please *no electrical goods*, as we cannot sell them.

Christmas Hampers: Lists of various hampers needed are on display for you to choose. Each hamper has a code. Suggestions on which to include in your hamper on leaflets provided. Individual items may be left in box provided. This is a separate collection from St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas collection. Hampers will be collected at all Masses on 13/14 December.

Update on Fr Wakeling: Fr Wakeling would like to thank parishioners for their prayers and to say that he is nearly finished chemotherapy and the tumour is almost gone. Please remember him in your prayers.

Family Ministry Group meeting Thurs. 27th Nov. 1.00pm in the Ethel Cox Centre. All ministries welcome.

Liturgy Team meeting Thurs. 28th Nov. 7.30pm - Parish Office.

Catechists meeting Thurs. 27th Nov. 9.30am at 25 Fleet St., Umina.

Attention Readers - 'Break Open the Word' books (with readers' name on front cover) available for collection in the Altar Servers room.

New Rosters for all Altar Servers now available.

MBA Awards: Our Church won the National Award for Master Builders Assoc. Public Building under \$10m..

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Please pray for our children preparing to receive this Sacrament on 2nd and 4th December.

Housie Prizes are now \$80, \$120 and \$150 with a chance of winning the \$2000 jackpot - reverts to \$1000 if not won in the predetermined number of calls. You can play from as little as \$7 through to \$42 depending on how much you want to spend. This is our own and original Parish fundraiser every Saturday night 7.30pm-10.10pm. St. Mary's Hall, Ocean View Rd., Ettalong. All welcome. Enq: Rob 0420 712 873.

From the Diocese and beyond

Gloria Te Deum - Vivaldi, Charpentier - A Christmas Concert presented by Central Coast Chorale & Chamber Orchestra. Sunday 30th November, 2.30pm St. Patrick's Church, York St. East Gosford. Flyers with full details on table in gathering area.

Disciples of Jesus Summer School of Evangelisation for young Catholics aged 16-35 yrs. Tocal College, Paterson Rd., Paterson. 11-18 January 2009. Flyers with full details on table in gathering area. Further info.

Phone Bruce 0412 885 958. or Sulyn 0408 966 632. Email: dojsse@dojsydneynorth.com.

Ecumenical Celebration for Advent: Bishop David is inviting all members of the Diocese to join together with all other Christian Churches in northern Sydney for an Advent Ecumenical Celebration Thursday 27th November at 8.00pm at St. Patrick's Church, 76 York St., East Gosford. Please be a part of this opportunity to gather with fellow Christians as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's

birth.

Do you long to give your life to something meaningful? We 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 what religious life has to offer you. Enq: Sr. Joanna 0403 175 251 or vocations@pauline.com.au. Check www.daughtersofstpaul.org.au

“God sent his Son, born of a woman”

Bruce Janiga

The infancy narratives are considered to be the last part of the Gospels to have been formed. The focus of the early church's gospel proclamation was the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mark's Gospel, considered the oldest, begins with the baptism of Jesus, giving us no stories about his birth or early life. The later synoptic Gospels, Matthew and Luke, both provide stories surrounding Jesus' birth and early years in order to fill in the gap that was found missing in Mark. This interest in Jesus' origin developed as the decades passed and believers sought to learn more about Jesus, including information about his birth and early life. Theologically they also substantiate the early church's belief in Jesus as being not only son of Mary but also “Son of God” as they tell of the miraculous events surrounding Jesus' birth.

Since Paul's letters are the earliest extant Christian documents it is not surprising that there is very little about Jesus' birth in his writings. Paul's focus is Christ crucified and raised from the dead, since it is through his death and resurrection that we have achieved salvation. His letters deal more with the “Christ of faith” and his importance to the life of the believer than they do with the “Jesus of history.”

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, thought to have been written from Ephesus somewhere around the year AD 54, the apostle writes to a community of believers that has been led astray from the gospel they heard from him by others who were preaching a “different gospel” (1:6). This alternative form of the gospel called for

gentile Christians to submit to the law of Moses, including circumcision. This dependence on the law is contrary to the gospel Paul has been living and preaching. Paul's gospel message speaks not of the importance of the law but of faith, “a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ” (2:16). This is a theme Paul will also develop in his letter to the Romans.

In the only genuine Pauline letter that does not contain a thanksgiving, Paul writes, “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?” (3:1), so great is his distress at their straying from the gospel. For Paul, the law, given centuries after God's promise to Abraham, was in effect only until the coming of Jesus. The law, given through Moses, did not supersede the covenant with Abraham, which promised blessing to him and through him to all believers.

Galatians is Paul's most autobiographical letter. In it, in order to defend his office as an apostle, he tells us that his commission came not through human means but “through a revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:12). Paul reminds the Galatians how, before his call to be an apostle, he was “violently persecuting the church of God ... trying to destroy it” (v 13). Even after his call, Paul says, he “did not confer with any human being” (v 16) but rather preached the word he had received without a connection to the other apostles. Paul's autobiographical sketch is intended to remind the Galatians that the gospel they heard from

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When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom.

Devotions

Lectio Divina Prayer next Thursday, 27th November at 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We spend 20 mins. in quiet prayer reflecting on a passage of scripture. All welcome.

Hour of Grace Monday, 8th December, 12 noon-1pm. More details next week.

Advent has a twofold character — as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation. (GNLYC 39)



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 Barry Nobbs, *Assistant Priest*
Parish Staff: Libby McManus, Pamela Burton & Raelene McLenaghan
Parish Office Hours: 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday
Deadline for The Voice: 4.30 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).

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

"God sent his Son, born of a woman"

(continued)

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him is reliable because it is based in a revelation given to Paul by Christ; it is not of human origin. He even reminds them that he has suffered for the sake of the gospel to the point of carrying "the marks of Jesus branded on my body" (6:17). This is probably a reference to scars he received from the multiple beatings he was subjected to while under arrest.

On January 1 we read, "When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children" (4:4-5). Christ came among us as a man in order to die under the law to "redeem" us from the power of the law. For Paul, Christ's

death ransomed us from sin and death. But freedom from sin does not lead to unconditional freedom; rather, Paul says, we should be "slaves to one another" (5:13). This is based on the teaching in Deuteronomy that was key in Jesus' teaching, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (5:14, quoting Lv 19:18). May we, in this new year, inspired by Paul's words and example, find in the gift of Jesus freedom from sin and death and freedom to serve each other in love. **ML**

Bruce Janiga, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., teaches Scripture studies at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, N.J. He is the Sunday assistant at St. Cassian's Church in Upper Montclair, N.J. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.

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Diocese of
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