



# The Voice

7th December 2008

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

Psalter Week 2

## ADVENT

### The stained glass

#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**  
Dorothy Finn, Colin Sparke, Betty Cahill.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Beverley McMahon, Joyce Ragen, Linda O'Connor.
- **Remembrances:**  
Joseph Hanrahan, Joan Hanrahan.
- **Sick:**  
Father John Wakeling, Mgr. John Grannall, Fr. John McCulloch, Jim Caulfield, Mary Surman, Anne Der Kinderen, Wanda Grima, Alice Stevenson, John Allen, Mary Ryan, Bob Todd, Catherine Hughes, John Robbie, Marie Brown, Maria Cavanagh, Sue Smithers.

The installation of the stained glass in the new church is almost complete. The clerestory windows on the west side of the church will be filled, as soon as the panels that were damaged in transit some months ago are repaired.

I have already explained the design of the glass in the doors at either end of the worship space. The words from the psalm, in big letters on the entry doors and in smaller letters on the funerary doors, are a blessing on the pilgrim who arrives each week or each day to worship God, and on the pilgrim who has reached the end of life's journey. The colours are those of the desert, and call John the Baptist to mind.

The colours in the clerestory windows also remind us of John the Baptist. They are the colours of the desert and of the waters of baptism.

The new windows that face the meditation garden form part of a larger series that will fill the wooden panels around the church (when and if the money ever comes in). If you look carefully at them, you will see faces, to remind us of the communion of saints, and feathers (in the green panels), to remind us of the angels, in whose presence we also worship. The water that seems to flow down the centre reminds us of our baptism.

I think you will agree with me that it

would be inadvisable from now on to sit in the areas where the new windows are. To lean on them could cause damage.

The doors that lead out to the Leo Mahon Room have a connection with the music that proceeds from the choir, organ and piano in front of them. On them you will find the words and music for the Latin hymn that is used in the Divine Office on the Nativity of John the Baptist. The first syllable of each half-line of the first stanza of this hymn (by Paul the Deacon, eighth century) was used by Guido of Arezzo (eleventh century) to provide the names of the tones – names that with, some modification, we still use: *Ut queant laxis resonare fibris mira gestorum famuli tuorum, solve polluti labii reatum ... Ut* has become *do* (sounds better), so we have *do re me fa sol la* (only six tones in the mediaeval scale).

While we are celebrating all this, could I end on a practical but necessary note? The current financial crisis has interfered with our plans to pay off the church. If I could get donors to contribute to the full cost of the organ, bells and baptismal font, a great deal of our debt could be extinguished. Would you give it some thought? (Full details will be published soon.) Finally, please remember the parish in your will: contact (or get your solicitor to contact) the office for the right wording.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

#### Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
The present: an Adventful time – Part II	3
Devotions	3
Directory	4

#### Psalm Response

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#### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: All people shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish



**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary** Monday 8th December. As well as the usual Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction after morning Mass, there will be Exposition, prayers and Benediction at 12 noon-1.10pm. (See notice in Devotions).



**2nd Rite of Reconciliation** will be held on Friday 19th December at 7.30pm.



**Advent Carol Service:** If you love Christmas Carols you are invited to our Advent Carol Service on Thursday 18th December at 7.00pm *in the Church*. Children from our school will be involved with the singing and the readings.

**Christmas Fete** organized by the Bus Committee will be held

*next Saturday* 13th December at the Ethel Cox Centre.

**Need an idea for a Christmas gift?** D.V.D's of the Dedication of our Church, \$15 ea. Last chance to buy C.D. "Deeper" project of WYD featuring original songs composed and performed by young adults within the Diocese. It includes fully down loadable sheet music, also Special Souvenir Edition of W.Y.D. "This is the Mass" Cardinal George Pell. \$45 ea. plus many other items in your Piety Stall.

**Christmas Raffle:** Last chance to get your tickets on sale at all Masses this weekend. 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

**Christmas Hampers:** Individual items may be left in box provided. Deadline next weekend 13/14 December.

**Charitable Works Fund Appeal** held in November raised \$7,600. Many thanks for your generosity especially at this time.

**Morning Tea/ Coffee Roster** for Sunday 14th November after 9.15am Mass—Parents & Friends Group.

**On the Bus:** Drivers for the Masses of the weekend of 13/14 December will be Sat 5.00pm: Bob Williams and Sun 7.45am and 9.15am: Carmen Hopson. Enquiries to the Parish Office please.

## Social Justice



### Affluence and Poverty

"Australia is a society divided along the lines of wealth and opportunity," the Bishops state. "In 2006, the average annual household income was \$102,470. While the top 20 per cent of households had an average annual income of \$225,350, the average income for the bottom 20 per cent was \$22,500. "The differences between the

highest and lowest income earners are growing, and Australia has one of the greatest income disparities among the developed nations.

"According to our estimate, 4.52 million Australians live in households whose gross income is less than \$400 per week." However we define "poverty" or "disadvantage", Australia's care for the less fortunate has not kept pace with

the economic growth we have enjoyed over the last 15 years. In 2006 there were 2,210,000 Australians, or 11.1 per cent of the population, living below the poverty line. This figure included 412,000 children.

The statement points out that even "middle Australia" is not immune to the pressure.

*Australian Bishops Statement 2008.*



## From the Diocese and beyond



**It's Back on Track—Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay Charity Race Day** Tuesday 20 January, 2009. Gosford Race Course. There are many people in our community who do not enjoy the comforts we often take for granted—a loving family environment, stable employment and food on the table. Through the Charitable Works Fund, the Diocese of Broken Bay will use proceeds from the Race Day to continue to provide assistance to those in need.

\$60—Book for yourself or a table of friends NOW with Adrienne Wentzel at the Caroline Chisholm Centre (02) 9847 0220.

**Disciples of Jesus** Summer School of Evangelisation for young Catholics aged 16-35 yrs. Tocal College, Paterson Rd. Patterson. 11-18 January. See notice board. Phone Bruce 0412 885 958 or Sulyn 0408 966 632 [dojsse@dojsydneynorth.com](mailto:dojsse@dojsydneynorth.com)

**Project Rachael**—hope and healing after an abortion experience. For an understanding

ear, call 9440 7980.

**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 generation. We invite you to share our mission and explore what religious life has to offer you. Enquiries Sr. Joanna on 0403 175 251 or

[vocations@pauline.com.au](mailto:vocations@pauline.com.au) and [www.daughtersofstpaul.org.au](http://www.daughtersofstpaul.org.au)



**Race Day Luncheon** Tickets

# The present: an Adventful time: Part II

Thomas B. Iwanowski

We must faithfully live the part assigned us as God's adopted sons and daughters and not fall into the role that society casts us to play during the month of December, that of an unbridled consumer caught up in the stuff of this world. Advent challenges us to review how we are living the part God has given us.

The readings that fall on the Second and Third Sundays of Advent are most associated with the ministry and preaching of John the Baptist. John called people to repentance and to a change of heart so they would be ready for the Messiah. He stirred up the whole region as he proclaimed "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt 3:2). The Messiah was near. The long-awaited day of salvation had come.

We usually see those readings either in terms of the past or the future. From the perspective of the past, these readings are addressed to the people who were living when Jesus was about to begin his ministry. John was calling them to turn from sin, "to produce good fruit as evidence of ... repentance" (Mt 3:8), and to indicate their desire to reform by being washed in water. John was preparing them to welcome the Messiah and be part of the coming kingdom.

In terms of the future, the Scripture readings are addressed to us. We hear the words of John the Baptist as a call to examine our lives to see if we are faithfully living as followers of Christ. Are we ready to welcome the Lord if he should come to bring the kingdom in all its fullness? Are we ready for his coming at the end of our lives, "eager to be found without spot or blemish before him"? (2 Pt 3:14).

## Devotions

**Hour of Grace** Monday 8th Dec. 12 noon-1.10pm. Woy Woy. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, then Psalm 50 (51) recited 3 times, silence for personal prayer until 1pm when Benediction will conclude the time of prayer. *Special Intention:* that the UN does not declare abortion to be a Human Right. 8/12/08 concludes the 150 year celebrations

Those readings for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent can also be seen in terms of the present. The Messiah who came to those who heard John the Baptist, the Messiah whose return in glory we await — that Messiah is present today. He is present in word and sacrament and in the community of the church. He is present in the circumstances and events of daily life and in the people who challenge us live the Gospel.

The readings of Advent call us to recognise the presence of the Lord in our day. They call us to turn from the sin and selfishness that keep us so focused on ourselves that we miss the Lord, the "one among you whom you do not recognise" (Jn 1:26). They call us to walk in the light of Christ and not in the darkness that overshadows our world.

The readings for the First Sunday of Advent focus on the future. They speak of the day when the Son of Man will come with power and glory. Christians are to be vigilant, ready to meet the Lord. "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. ... You also must be prepared" (Mt 24:42,44). Christians are to "be watchful" (Mk 13:33), alert to the "signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars" that will herald "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Lk 21:25,27).

Believers have listened to those readings for more than 1,900 years, and during that time they have considered the signs in the sky and on the earth and have speculated when the Lord will return. Believers continue, as we pray at Mass, to "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour,

(Continued on page 4)

of Lourdes.

At each Mass, in fact, the Holy Spirit descends anew, invoked by the solemn prayer of the Church, not only to transform our gifts of bread and wine into the Lord's body and blood, but also to transform our lives, to make us, in his power, *one body, one spirit in Christ.* *Benedict XVI, WYD08*




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John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live — the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

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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](mailto: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

## The present—an Adventful time

(continued)

(Continued from page 3)

Jesus Christ." But we also wait knowing that the odds are great that we will not see the coming of the Lord in our lifetime. The readings usually give rise to speculation but not to action.

However, the readings can take on a present urgency if we stop looking at them in terms of what will happen in the near or distant future and instead consider them as reminders that time will come to an end. The Lord will come. When that will happen, no one knows, but the fact that it will happen makes each passing day precious and important. As someone once said, "Something that is yours forever is never precious."

Each day presents us with an opportunity to live the Gospel, to respond to God's love, to assist in building up God's king-

dom, and to be that child of God we have been called to be. Since those opportunities will eventually end at a time that no one knows, each day, each opportunity, must be seized. The readings for the First Sunday of Advent not only highlight the future coming of the Lord but also proclaim the value of the present moment.

Advent, as mentioned at the start, directs our attention to the past and the future. But the Advent readings also give us a way to consider our lives in the present moment and appreciate the present as an "Adventful time"! ML

Father Tom Iwanowski is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, associate director of the Office of Divine Worship, and pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Jersey City, From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.

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Diocese of  
Broken Bay