

The Voice

14th November 2010 Anniversary of Dedication of Parish Church Psalter Week I



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
James Evans, Dorothy Garnett,
Mary Cass, Alan Curtin.
- **Anniversaries:**
Gertrude Lever, Hannah &
John Breen.
- **Sick:**
Fr. John Wakeling, Fr. Ted
Shepherd, Fr. Donald Gunn,
Margaret Hope, Alan Harland,
Merv Bray, Anne der Kin-
deren, Rita Shiel, John Taylor,
James Taylor, Tracie Passlow.

Third Anniversary

From among the various readings that can be chosen for the dedication of a church, we have chosen today texts that refer to those estranged from the true worship of God.

In the first reading, from Isaiah, the prophet (writing during the construction of the second Temple, after the return from exile in Babylon) speaks of welcoming 'foreigners who join themselves to the Lord' and of accepting their holocausts and sacrifices, 'for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples.'

In the second reading, from Ephesians, the author assures his listeners that they are 'no longer strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God.'

The gospel reading recounts an incident that John places at the beginning of Jesus' public life, while the Synoptics connect it with the end, after his entry into Jerusalem—and have Jesus quote from Isaiah about the 'house of prayer for all peoples' (Mark, in full; Matthew and Luke, in part).

As each anniversary of our parish church recurs, we need to think again why it exists in the first place. There are, of course, many reasons, but we cannot forget that it is and must be 'a house of prayer for all peoples.' It must be a place of welcome for those who, despite the conditions of modern life, wish 'to serve him and to love his name and be his servants.'

I am thinking especially of the young people who are part of our parish community. Recent

popes have emphasised how hard it is for young people, despite contrary peer group pressure, to stand against the tide and be seen as Christians. Those who persevere though high school and early adulthood deserve praise for refusing to be 'aliens or foreign visitors' and insisting that they also are 'fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God.'

The strategy which I have adopted here over the last eight years is *intergenerational*: where, instead of separating various age groups into liturgical ghettos, all are conscious that, whether young or old, male or female, rich or poor, they are accepted on equal terms by all parishioners.

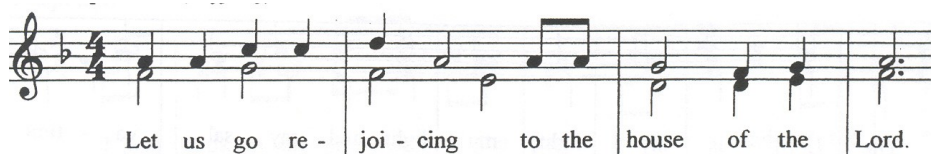
We need to have all these groups represented in as many ministries as possible—including serving Mass and reading at Mass, distributing Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick, and so on. If young people are willing to take part in these ministries despite opposition from their peers, they deserve strong support from all parishioners.

Of course, there will always be negative voices, but we should not allow them to derail the strategy. I have the highest admiration for our young parishioners, and I am sure that you share that with me. With them, we are 'built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone.'

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Psalm Response

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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. *Alleluia!*

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Around the Parish

Celebration of our Third Anniversary: All parishioners are invited to a special morning tea to be held in the Church grounds after the 9.15am Mass.

Catholic Works Fund Appeal will be held next weekend 20/21 November. Envelopes are in the church for your convenience.

Parish Family Ministry—Christmas Hampers: Lists of the various types of hampers are on display for you to choose from. You will need to take note of each hamper's code. A list of suggestions on what to include in the hamper are on leaflets in the gathering area. Hampers will be collected at all Masses on the weekend 11/12 December. More information: Susie Casey 4342 3893 or 0403 417 639. Mary Dolan 4343 1401 or 0407 431 401.

Sacred Moments in Everyday Life: The final session of our Adult Faith formation Program on the Sacraments will be held next Thursday, November 18th. This session will deal with the Sacrament of Confirmation. Even if you've missed the first two sessions you are still welcome to attend this final session. If the experience of the first two sessions is repeated this week you won't be disappointed. The sessions will be held in the Leo Mahon room of the Church, starting at 10am and finishing at 12.00pm. Those wishing to bring their own lunch and stay

for fellowship afterwards are welcome to do so. A cuppa will be available. A donation of a gold coin to help cover costs is invited. Those interested in attending are invited to book in through ringing the Parish office by *this* Monday or completing the enrolment sheet on the table in the gathering area.

Annual Diocesan Catechist Mass: Sunday 31st October was a day of reverent celebration for our Catechists at the annual Diocesan Catechist Mass. A special thank you to Ivan for driving the Parish bus.

The Diocesan Mass was led by Bishop David Walker and the Clergy of the Diocese. Father Barry, who is also a Catechist, joined with a number of the priests within the Diocese to celebrate this momentous occasion and were thanked by Bishop Walker for their devotion to the works of religious education. The Mass included the commissioning of Catechist Graduates and re-commissioning of the Diocesan CCD Team.

Congratulations to: Level 3 Diploma—Pamela Burton, Rae Busby, Dorothy Fulton, Phoebe Glacken and Mary Wood.

25 Years Service Award—Marie Dixon.

Retired Co-ordinator Service Award and Bishop Patrick Murphy Award for 30 years service—Dorothy Fulton.

Catechists Appeal: Next week there will be a personal appeal for people to join the group of catechists from the Parish who share their faith with the children in our State schools. I urge you to consider the invitation and take time after Mass to speak to one of our catechists. Further information Dorothy Fulton 4341 7610.

Baptisms: We welcome into our Faith community and pray for Koa John Young, Jai Theo Adrickem, Luke Douglas Adrickem, Madeline Louise Cameron and Abbey May Cameron, who were baptized last week.

Youth Group will be selling raffle tickets to raise funds for World Youth Day in Spain 2011 next weekend 21/22 November. Full details of prizes in next week's newsletter.

Children's Liturgy Roster for 21/11/10 Feast of Christ the King: Michelle Bell (OL) Marina Mondal (OH) Patricia Hickey (YL)

On the Bus: Drivers of the bus for the weekend 20/21: Vigil 5pm Mass: Jenny Dempsey. 7.45am & 9.15am Masses: Ivan Dempsey.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Alan Curtin who was buried from our Church during the week.

The Just Word

Solidarity highlights in a particular way the intrinsic social nature of the human person, the equality of all in dignity and rights and the common path of individuals and peoples towards an ever more committed unity.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine

of the Church par. 192.

Solidarity

- Acknowledges that our responsibilities to each other cross national, racial, cultural, economic and ideological differences.
- Respects and promotes personal,

social, economic, cultural and political rights.

- Presents a spiritual and material solidarity with all people, especially those who are marginalised, vulnerable or distressed, giving priority to those in greatest need.

From the Diocese and beyond

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Days, St. Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia. Sunday 21st November. Arrival 10am, Mass 10.30am Transport enquiries Ann Bergman 9498 2625 or atlomas@bigpond.com

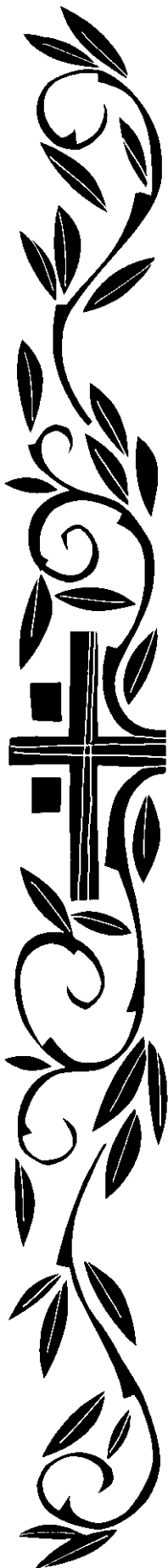
Diocesan Ecumenical Services will be held to celebrate the Holy Season of Advent. Led by Bishop David Walker and commencing 8.00pm there will be two services—Wednesday, 1st December at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara and Thursday, 2nd December at St. Patrick's Church,

East Gosford. Please be part of this opportunity to gather with our fellow Christians as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's Birth. All welcome.

Understanding Grief Seminar:

Hosted by the Salvation Army Counselling Service to assist recently bereaved to make sense of their thoughts and feelings. Tuesday 16th November, 1pm-3pm, Function Centre, Palmdale Lawn Cemetery & Memorial Park. Reservations phone 4324 1533 or susan@palmdalegroup.com.au

Laity Sunday 14 November is an initiative of the Forum for Laity, established by Bishop David Walker to examine, review and make recommendations to him on issues relating to the role of the laity within the Catholic Church in Broken Bay. The aims of the Forum are: 1. To celebrate the role that the laity has in the life of the church. 2. Educate the laity regarding their rights and responsibilities. 3. Provide information regarding opportunities for education and participation that is available to the laity of the Diocese. See details on notice board for contacts and more information.



Stewardship

Adrian McInnes

There's an old naval saying about "nailing one's colours to the mast". This refers, of course, to declaring where you come from. Over the past two years I have written numerous articles about the ministries which flourish in this parish and I've been able to do so with a deal of enthusiasm. But as I come to write about the ministry of "Stewardship" I need to "nail my colours to the mast" and acknowledge the fact that I've been somewhat reluctant to tackle this topic. Why?

I've been a Catholic for many years. I've undertaken a reasonable amount of reading, studying, and listening over that time. I've lived in eleven parishes scattered over six dioceses. But not before moving into this diocese and this parish had I heard of the term "stewardship" as a way of living life as a Catholic.

My initial reaction to the term was one of negativity - that it was just another term for fundraising, another example of "Americanism" creeping into our Church, another piece of jargon! But no matter how hard I tried to ignore the term it just kept coming up - culminating in Chris Field, who co-ordinates Stewardship in our parish, asking me some time ago to write an article about this ministry for the Voice. I must admit that my response to this request was one of procrastination.

Recently Chris was invited to discuss the Stewardship movement at a Parish Council meeting. This discussion gave me a fresh opportunity to get a better handle on the concept. When it was decided that I should finally write this article then it was time for me to do some further digging in an effort to develop my understanding even further.

The remainder of this article is an attempt to share my present understanding of this ministry and how we are responding to its challenges in this parish.

It seems that it all goes back to the parable of the talents - the one in which the three servants, or stewards, were given money by the master to look after while he was away. Two of them invested it wisely and the master's wealth grew. When the master returned these two got a good job review. The third had buried his share for safekeeping and so wasted the opportunity to increase his master's wealth. He wasn't so popular!

We are all used to the term "disciple". We are

all disciples. As Catholics we are disciples of Jesus.

A disciple is one who follows. Stewardship, however, reminds us that being disciples means more than just following along, "keeping safe". Stewardship reminds us that we are expected, like the third steward in the parable, to do something with what our master has gifted us. So "stewardship" is about more than just being disciples. It emphasises how we are to be disciples - by growing the gifts with which we have been endowed, by putting them to use, by allowing them to grow, by sharing them with others.

But before we can do all this we need to be able to recognise our wealth, not only in material terms, but in terms of faith, talents, opportunities, relationships, etc. etc.

The problem is that if we stop and think seriously about this we might realise just how rich we are! And we might remember the conclusion of another parable, the other one about a master and his servants, which concludes with the reminder that the more one is given the more that is expected in response.

God has blessed me with resources; Am I a good steward? All this is OK in theory and not many would argue about it. But

how do we translate it into practical terms? This is where I see the parish stewardship ministry coming in. The role of those involved in leading this ministry is to help parishioners to:

- Recognise the "wealth" that we all have;
- See where that wealth can be shared most beneficially;
- Encourage development of opportunities and strategies for sharing to take place.

And it is for these reasons that the stewardship ministry has been involved in the life of this parish through supporting fundraising activities, and encouraging involvement in any of the great variety of ministries available in the parish.

The ministry team sets out to achieve these ends working in the context of the parish pastoral plan and in co-operation with the Parish Pastors and Parish Pastoral Council.

Chris, its present co-ordinator, feels that the time is ripe for some re-invigoration of the Stewardship team. He would really appreciate some response to the ideas put forward in this article. He would particularly welcome any parishioners who would like to become more involved in this ministry. He can be contacted by telephoning 98470748 or by email at chris.field@dbb.org.au



As we pray today for an increase of spiritual gifts, we are reminded that good stewardship of the Church "means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith."



Another of an occasional series of articles highlighting the various ministry activities and spiritual exercises that are part of our parish community life. Parishioners or representatives of groups wishing to contribute to this series are invited to contact Adrian at 43447507.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Kooilewong, 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*

Office Staff: Libby McManus, Pamela Burton &
Raelene McLenaghan

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).

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 HOUSE 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 Parish Office 4341 1073.

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

Laity Sunday

(from the Diocese)

You are called

You have a "personal vocation" and "unrepeatable life project" to identify, a mission to fulfil, a task to do which has been given to no one else.

And gifted

You have special graces called spiritual gifts or charisms which serve the vocation and that need to be identified for the call to become clear and the Body of Christ to function inter-dependently as God has designed it.

Did you know?

As an organic community, the Body of Christ is "characterised by diversity and a complementarity of vocations and states in life, of ministries, or charisms and responsibilities."

How you are called

"Each member of the faithful should always be aware of being a member of the Church, yet entrusted with a unique task which cannot be

done by another and which is to be fulfilled for the good of all."

"God calls the individual in Jesus Christ, each personally by name. Each personally receives a mission on behalf of the Church and the world."

"This personal vocation and mission defines the dignity and responsibility of each member of the lay faithful."

"The fundamental objective of the formation of the lay faithful is an ever clearer discovery of one's vocation and the ever greater willingness to live it so as to fulfil one's mission."

(John Paul II, *Christifideles laici*)

How you are gifted

"God with his call reaches the heart of each individual and the Spirit ... gives himself to each Christian with different charisms and special signs."

"Each one, therefore, must be helped to embrace the gift entrusted to him or her as a completely unique person."

(John Paul II, *Pastores dabo vobis*)

We're on the Web!

www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of Broken
Bay