

The Voice

21st November 2010

Solemnity of Christ the King, Year C

Psalter Week 2



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Doug Garrett, Evelyn Hunt, Sybil Simons, Norma Driscoll, Dulce Lutze, Maureen Ashby.
- **Anniversaries:**
Charles Gatt, Grant Andrews, Beryl Hancock, Yvonne & Henry Lawlor, John Quinn, Terry Quinn, Joyce Wooden.
- **Sick:**
Fr. John Wakeling, Fr. Ted Shepherd, Fr. Donald Gunn, Margaret Hope, Alan Harland, Merv Bray, Anne der Kinderen, Rita Shiel, John Taylor, James Taylor, Tracie Passlow.

The house of the Lord

By a strange coincidence, we have used the same responsorial psalm (and response) last Sunday and today.

Last Sunday we were thinking of the dedication of our church; we were rejoicing as we entered that "house of the Lord."

We know, of course, that our churches merely anticipate the final house of the Lord; they are where we take part in that Meal that foreshadows the great paschal meal at the end of time.

Today's feast celebrates our Lord's arrival at the true "house of the Lord" and at the consummation of his work on earth.

All this year we have been following him on the journey that began at Lk 9:51 and to which the evangelist has so often called our attention.

It is not as though the journey were of merely historical interest. We have been part of that journey—summoned and challenged by the Saviour to come out of the crowd that is watching and to join the disciples who are following.

Now the Lord has reached his destination—the point of the journey. And so we sing with him, 'I rejoiced when I hear them say: / "Let us go to God's house." / And now our feet are standing / within your gates, O Jerusalem.'

The first reading evokes memories of how David became king of Israel at Hebron. Like all kings of that era, he was seen as "shepherd,"

and Jesus, as the "good shepherd" and fulfilling David, now enters the city of David to take possession of his kingdom: 'For Israel's law it is, / there to praise the Lord's name. / There were set the thrones of judgment / of the house of David.'

And what happens when he enters the City? We know the story from Lent/Easter: he is crucified, and brings about the Kingdom. That is what happens in today's gospel reading. The crowds may not know it, but the "good thief" does—hence his prayer, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

It is his promise that if we follow him faithfully we shall arrive at the same destination. That is the point of Luke's narrative, which is taken up in the second reading, by the author of Ephesians: 'he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves.'

He is "firstborn of all creation" and "firstborn from the dead:" his disciples are recreated with him and with him rise from the dead, because the Father 'has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.'

As we look back on this Year of Grace, we ask ourselves how we have grown in discipleship. We may not be delighted with our progress, but next Sunday we shall begin again, this time with Matthew. *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!*

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

Inside this issue:

Notices and News	2
Advent Alarm	3
Mentoring	3
Directory	4

Psalm Response

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Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

Catechists: In this Parish we have 20 catechists and 5 helpers who teach religious education to 33 classes each week. Hence a number of us teach multiple classes—some in two schools.

We pass on our Catholic faith to over 600 children in our 4 State primary schools—from Kindergarten to year 6. So you can appreciate that we need more help in this important ministry.

Comprehensive training is provided by the Confraternity of Christine Doctrine (CCD) to assist the catechists in their work with plenty of ongoing support.

Please stop after Mass this morning and have a talk with our catechists and peruse the Teachers Manuals and the student books.

Dorothy Fulton - 4341 7610. If High School is of interest to you - we conduct one seminar each term at Umina High and Pat Slattery is the contact person for further information on 0403 612 077.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal: Collections at all Masses this weekend.

Mass of Remembrance for all Holy Souls will be celebrated at Point Clare Cemetery, 9.30am Friday 26th November. Fr. Tadeusz from Terrigal Parish will be the Celebrant.

Adult Faith Formation: Thank you to all those who

attended the recent program on the Sacraments. As promised the sessions were informative and of great interest and we thank Fr. John Frauenfelder for his presentations. This program was organized with the co-operation of the Broken Bay Institute and we also thank them and our Diocesan Support Office, Natalie Acton, for the help given in organizing this program for our Parish, a program which created quite a lot of interest over a wider area. The Parish Adult Faith Formation Team has commenced organizing for the next program to be held in the parish, hopefully around February/March next year. We are investigating the resources available to conduct a quality program around the ethics of "Christian Dying". This is a topical subject at the present time with the ongoing debate about euthanasia and it is one of the areas of interest indicated by parishioners in the survey held earlier in the year. The team will keep you informed as our plans take shape.

Children's Liturgy Roster for 28/11/10 1st Sunday in Advent: Alecia Amaral (OL) Jo Salter (OH) Christine French (YL) Penny Hanna (YH).

Liturgy Team meeting Thursday 25th November, 7.30pm in the Parish office.

Family Ministry meeting

Thursday, 25th November, 1pm in the Ethel Cox Centre.

Youth Group—WYD 2011 Raffle: Tickets are on sale at all Masses this weekend.

Morning Tea/Coffee Roster after 9.15am Mass, 28th November.

On the Bus: Drivers of the bus for 27/28 November: Vigil 5pm Mass: Bob Williams. 7.45am & 9.15am Masses: Vince Wiegold.

Photographic Exhibition: Our Parish is privileged to host a special Photographic Exhibition showing inspirational women, including one of our own parishioners, who have made valuable contributions in various areas in the Catholic Church from dioceses all over Australia. The exhibition will be in the Leo Mahon Room from 3rd-9th December.

Lectio Divina Prayer Group meeting Thursday, 25th November, 10.30am in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Sympathy: St. John the Baptist Parish would like to extend its prayerful sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Norma Driscoll, Dulcie Lutz and Maureen Ashby, who were buried from our Church this week.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: There will be a collection after each Mass next weekend 27/28 November.

The Just Word

God, Our Creator
You have given us the earth, the sky and the seas,
Show us the way to care for the

earth, not just for today but for ages to come.
Let no plan or work of ours damage or destroy the beauty of your

creation.
Send forth your spirit to direct us, to care for the earth and all creation.

From the Diocese and beyond

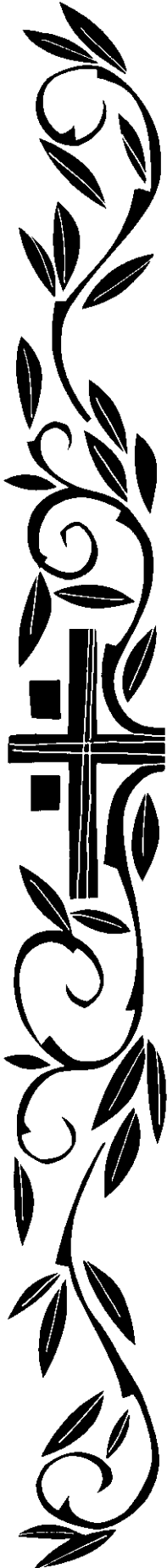
Christmas Concert presented by Central Coast Chorale Sunday, 28th November, 2.30pm at Brentwood Auditorium. Tickets \$15 available at the door. Christmas raffles and afternoon tea Full details on notice board.

Christmas Bonanza/Fair hosted by Holy Cross Parish Kin-

cumber, Saturday 27th November, starting at 2pm with Carols from 8pm at Holy Cross Primary School 37 Kincumber Street. Full details on notice board.

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.



Advent Alarm

Ron Raab

I wake up every morning to the sound of a dozen or more people talking as they line up around our parish building. Some people are still sleeping in the shelter of the inset near our front door. Others pack up quickly to claim a place in line for our morning hospitality centre. Still others will sleep off the cheap booze from the night before.

Waking up to this reality wears me down, especially during the Advent season. Sleeping in heavenly peace seems like such a dream. Reality seems more like a nightmare for people carving out a place to be safe under mounds of damp cardboard. Others go weeks without slumber because of drug overuse. Other people sleep all day long because of deep depression. A few people sleep at our door with no blankets, no possessions, no cardboard box or coat or hat, just the concrete for a pillow.

The issues of sleep and waking up create real problems for our parish community. Every morning members of our staff come to work and nudge people out of sleep who are blocking the entrance to the building's door. During the noon Eucharist, when our offices are closed, other people obstruct the exit trying to catch a quick nap. Some people fall asleep in our pews during the noontime Mass — especially the corporate executives.

Advent is the time for people in every parish community to wake up to the reality that surrounds us all. Stay awake! This command in Matthew's Gospel challenges us to wake up to our timidity toward people's needs. Advent instills in our communities the deep passion for why Jesus came into the world in the first place. We need to get off our couches and *do something* about how people are living in the world.

Advent calls us to claim the dignity of all people. We do this by waking up to the real paradoxes of our day. In this time of year when we overeat, we are called to acknowledge the billion people in the world starving for basic bread. In this time of buying, accumulating, fussing over the correct gifts, Advent Scriptures should claim a new awareness of our possessions, no matter which community we live in.

No believer wears camel hair and feasts on locusts anymore, but the Sunday Gospels should capture our imaginations about whether or not people have decent clothing. We must make the effort now more than ever in a downward economy to rouse new attitudes about how we care for elderly people or the mentally ill person who needs a community in which to rest. As members

Mentoring (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

the ropes from the experienced ones. The young ministers learn by the example and guidance of the older ones. The community gets to experience the young ministers, and they in turn have the sense of ministering to the entire community, not just at the youth Mass.

of any worshipping community, we need to find new ways to welcome our homosexual children back from college, our cousin who lost everything gambling on the internet, and our uncle who walked out of his marriage. We all need to come to grips with our real possessions: our relatives and friends.

The Advent Gospels proclaimed in every parish shake us up to see that the lame walk, lepers become cleansed, the deaf hear, and the poor have good news proclaimed to them. This is the time to rouse communities from the sleep of apathy and complacency. We need to preach about the needs of people living in poverty even though other people do not want to hear about it. We need now to invite our children into real and dedicated service so that they can witness the parish community doing something worthwhile. We need to invest not only in people who cannot make ends meet but also in our children who are walking away from our worshipping communities.

Waking up is never easy, but the issue of our sleepy attitudes is the core of the Advent season. We open ourselves to real people because Christ became flesh and invested himself humbly in our human world. He took on the humility of flesh so that we could see all people as divinely loved.

A couple of Christmases ago, a strong-willed homeless woman, Bonnie, blocked our only doorway during Christmas Eve Mass. She piled up blankets and carts by our red doors in a matter of minutes. She opened containers of food and invited street people to join her. She smoked a few cigarettes and spoke loudly to passers-by. She prepared a place to sleep while members of the parish sang carols and broke bread and shared the cup and proclaimed that Christ is born for people.

I walked out into the lobby as Mass ended and could not believe my eyes. No one could exit the chapel. I scurried to persuade her to move her belongings. Some parishioners helped her move her camp to the side of the building. Knowing Bonnie and seeing her bright eyes, I am convinced she held us captive in the chapel so we could wake up to the meaning of the incarnation, the Body of Christ in our real world. **ML**

Rev. Ronald Patrick Raab, CSC, serves as an associate pastor at the Downtown Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Portland, Ore. He hosts the radio program On the Margins, a weekly Gospel reflection that can be heard online at KBVM.com. His email address is raab@downtownchapel.org. From Ministry & Liturgy, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.



Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of my life?



Hospitality ministry is one in which entire families can minister together, preparing the church building, greeting people, handing out bulletins, even taking up the collection and seating people, if they are old enough to do so. Music groups are another good ministry for family groups to participate in. The family that prays ministers together

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.

Church: St John the Baptist, corner of
Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Parish Office
P.O. Box 264.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
Walter Baker Hall
100 Blackwall Road

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

Mentoring

I'd never thought of it this way before, but mentoring is a Christian tradition. We just haven't used that word. In the catechumenate, there has always been a sponsor for the catechumens, someone to journey with them and mentor them in their practice of the faith. In many ways, the entire community serves as mentors, examples of Christian living who pray for those seeking to enter their community. Children being baptised have godparents to guide them, and confirmation candidates have sponsors to speak for them and stand with them.

This mentoring tradition is important for bringing new members into ministry. A seasoned catechist can bring a new one under wing to advise and guide, building up their confidence and experience until they are ready to "fly solo."

This is also a sound concept in liturgical ministry. Much-practiced ministers: musicians, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, altar servers, lectors, or even planning team members can share their experience and expertise with the new people in that ministry. Usually whoever does the scheduling puts the new folks with the experienced ones for quite a while so that they can answer questions and help to ground the

new minister and allay their fears.

Even with the altar servers, new servers are paired with older, more experienced ones and are mentored by them. So even though all are youth, there is reassurance for the new server in the fact that they have an "expert" to help them. It's always a bit intimidating to be doing a new ministry in front of the entire assembly.

Parishes frequently complain about the same people doing everything. One solution is to involve the youth to do more ministry. While it is a long-standing tradition to have a children's choir, very often this choir is limited to the "family Mass," or the youth choir is limited to the "youth Mass." I believe that any of these groups benefit from ministering to the entire community, and the community benefits from experiencing their ministry. Using the concept of mentoring, many parishes include the young people in the regular choirs, ministering to the entire community. The youth learn from the adults by ministering alongside them. Each benefits from the other. This is true of lectors, extraordinary ministers of holy communion, and hospitality ministers. The new ministers learn

(Continued on page 3)

We're on the Web!
www.woywoycatholic.org.au



Diocese of Broken
Bay