



THE VOICE

12th December, 2010

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

Psalter Week 3

ADVENT

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- **Recently deceased:**
Sybil Simon, George Droulers, Dennis Cashman, Marcia Hammond, Terry McGannon.
- **Anniversaries:**
Frank Ryan, Fr. Dom Furlong, Fr. Neil Collins, Patricia Hogan, William McDevitt, Margaret Beston, Kathleen Burdon, Anne Gajdik.
- **Remembrances:**
Irene Moroney.
- **Sick:**
Fr. John Wakeling, Fr. Ted Shepherd, Alan Harland, Merv Bray, Anne der Kinderen, Tracie Passlow, Laurence Scully, Iris Quanchie, Ted Luxford.

Hope and Patience

In the course of Job's replies to his "comforters," he says, 'For a tree there is hope, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again and that its tender shoots will not cease. Even though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the dust, yet at the first whiff of water it may flourish again and put forth branches like a young plant.' (14:7-9)

For Job, the conclusion is gloomy: this may be true of trees, but not of human beings—when you're dead, you're dead. At this point at least, he does not seem to believe in resurrection.

As we have seen over the past couple of weeks, Isaiah is more sanguine: the dead stump of Jesse will, he is convinced, sprout again in the Messiah who is to come. This is the hope of Advent.

Yet this is more than a hope that the Lord will come at the end of time. It is also the hope that he will come to each of us; that he will become real for each of us; that, despite the disappointments and temptations of daily life, his will will triumph in each of us. This is the coming of the Kingdom for which we pray every time we say the Lord's Prayer.

In other words, the desire for holiness is part of Advent hope. We may not

see it quite in those theological terms; in fact, we might be embarrassed to think of it in that way. That does not particularly matter; what does matter is that, in spite of everything, we continue to hope in God and his promises.

As today's readings remind us, for that we need patience. Patience is commonly conceived nowadays as bearing with the nastiness or abrasiveness of others; in New Testament times it was rather exemplified in the Roman soldier who doggedly persisted in his task until the enemy was conquered. An example of this is what can be still seen of the fortifications erected after the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. around Massadah in the desert of Judaea, to starve out the last resisters to Roman conquest.

We are reminded of this today: in Isaiah's call to courage; in James's insistence that we be patient and not lose heart; in Jesus' answer to the Baptist's messengers. We have to be patient with ourselves and our failings. God can use them to bring us to himself; holiness is not something that we achieve, but that God achieves in us—he is the one who opens the eyes of the blind, unseals the ears of the deaf, makes the lame walk, cleanses lepers and raises the dead to life.

FR JOHN HILL, P.P.

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Psalm Response

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Come O Lord, Come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. *Alleluia!*

Around the Parish

THERE WILL BE NO 5 P.M. MASS HERE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
There will be a 5 p.m. Mass at Kincumber and a 6 p.m. Mass at Gosford.



Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve: Vigil 5pm, 8.00pm and Midnight. **Christmas Day:** 7.45am and 9.15am.

Holy Family Day – Boxing Day Sunday Masses: 7.45am, 9.15am and 6pm.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation Thursday 16th December, 7.00pm. Please note new time of commencement.

Christmas Carols will be performed by our choir at 11.30pm prior to midnight Mass.

Update on Father Wakeling: Fr. John Wakeling has been moved to Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew. His brain tumours have grown and he is not able to have any more radiation. There has also been some swelling around the brain but this has decreased with the use of medication and he is now less confused. He will not be able to drive again and it is unlikely that he will be able to return home or continue to live independently. Please keep up your prayers for Father.

Parish Christmas Day Luncheon: There will be a gold coin leaving collection of at all Masses this weekend for those who wish to contribute to this special luncheon to be held for members of our Parish family who are alone on Christmas Day.

On the Bus: Drivers of the bus for next weekend 18/19 December: Vigil 5pm: Bernard Edwards. 7.45am & 9.15am: Bob Williams.

Children's Liturgy Roster: 19/12/10: Pola Genoway (OL) Danielle Howard (OH) Julie Erickson (YL) Fiona Fabian (YL). 2011 rosters available in the Leo Mahon room.

Altar Servers Christmas rosters and Church cleaning rosters available in Sacristy.

Baptisms: We welcome into our faith community Sophie Erikssen-Hjelm and Ebony Richardson who were baptized last weekend.

Prayers for Peace Monday, 13 December, 2pm-3pm, Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Thank you: Our Parish would like to acknowledge and thank Dorothy Fulton for her invaluable contribution and dedicated service as Catechist Co-ordinator for the Parish. We welcome Susan Simmons who is taking over this role commencing 2011.

St. John the Baptist Primary School would like to invite parish families and friends to our end of the year Twilight Carols. The carols will commence 5pm Wednesday, 15th Dec. It will be held on the oval (weather permitting) so bring a picnic rug or chairs. Sausage sandwiches, kebabs and drinks are available for purchase or byo picnic. Christmas raffle will also be drawn.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal: An amount of \$5,459.00 was raised through your generous collection. It will allow the members of the Society to provide Christmas and school holiday support for many of our less well off companions on the Peninsula by way of hampers, food and toys. Your generosity is inspiring and the Society extends its thanks and wishes all parishioners a happy and holy Christmas.

Social Justice

Imagine a better world and bring this vision to fruition.

Jesus was vitally concerned with what divided society and caused human impoverish-

ment. His ministry to establish the Kingdom of God was certainly concerned with personal conversion but also with liberating people from unjust structures. We can use our

creativity and imagination to develop new thinking, ideas, structures and institutions.

Australian Catholic Social Justice.

From the Diocese and beyond

Summer School of Evangelisation provides a week of lectures, seminars, prayer, music and drama, community and recreation for young Catholics 16-35 yrs. Tocal Agricultural College, Patterson Rd. Patterson from 9-16 January. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Covenant Community. Brochures with details and application forms in the gathering area for your information.

Christmas Carol Service at St. David's Presbyterian Church, Blackwall Rd. Tuesday 14th

December, Morning Tea 10am. Service 11am. RSVP Jeannette Stephenson 4344 7220.

St. Aloysius' College 47 Upper Pitt Street, Milsons Point. 2061. St. Aloysius is an independent Catholic School for boys in Yrs. 3-12 conducted by the Society of Jesus (Jesuit priest, Brothers and Scholastics) Applications—2012 and 2013: Parents who have not yet made application for their sons for Years 3, 5 and 8 to 11 and for Year 7 in 2013 are invited to do so now. A number of Bursaries (Means-

tested scholarships) will be offered to boys entering the College in 2012. The College's Bursary Scheme has been established to offer students an opportunity to avail themselves of a Jesuit education in circumstances when such enrolment is not affordable or sustainable. All applicants sit an entrance examination to be held in February. Closing date for application is Friday 28 January 2011. Further information Anne-Maree McCarthy Ph: 9936 5535 or registrar@staloyus.nsw.edu.au

Same Sex Marriage

Adrian McInnes

As a result of a motion passed in the House of Representatives on November 18th, Members of Parliament have been asked to ascertain the views of their electorates concerning same sex marriage. Much media attention has been given to this issue over recent times and the message that is being conveyed quite strongly is that most people would not be opposed to changes in the Marriage Act - changes which would recognise same sex marriage. The view being put forward by the supporters of this change is that it would be simply another step in removing discrimination against same sex couples.

This matter was addressed at the last meeting of our Parish Pastoral Council. The view of the Council is that any action to legitimise same sex marriage is not a matter of removing discrimination but is a matter of drastically altering society's understanding of and attitude towards what is a core element of our culture, of our society, and of our religion.

The council sees the decision of parliament to ascertain the actual views of the electorate as an opportunity to allow our voice to be heard as well as the voices that are so often predominate through the media. We can, however, achieve this only by taking some action and communicating with our local member, not only as a body, but, most importantly, as individuals.

The Pastoral Council therefore is encouraging all parishioners to get in touch with our local member as soon as possible. This can be through any media – twitter, email, fax, telephone, or letter. In order to assist parishioners contact information for our Member is included below.

Essentially, all that is necessary is a brief message indicating support for the status quo – indicating that you do not want the Marriage Act to be changed in a way which will allow same sex marriages. If, however, people wish to go into the matter further, giving reasons, so much the better. And the more personal the objections are the more impressive they might be.

Some may wish to use the ideas contained in the prepared letter, copies of which are available today, or simply to take a copy of that letter, sign it and forward it.

If we do not respond to this opportunity to make our views felt then we cannot complain when changes occur. The Pastoral Council believes this opportunity must be taken so that a more balanced view can be achieved and urges all parishioners to take some action without delay.

Contact details for Ms O'Neill are:

PO Box 577
Gosford NSW 2250



Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Copyright and what we can sing (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

ship (STL) takes some time to once again tap our consciences on this issue (105–106). We live in a time when the publishers and copyright holders make it so much easier for us to get permission; online programs such as OneLicense.net and LicenSing.com help those of us in pastoral music to do the right thing. The annual fees that they exact are more than reason-

able as they are trying very hard to serve parishes well. But abuses still abound in many places, and it is good that STL challenges pastors and pastoral musicians to “act with a sense of justice” (106).

David Haas is director of The Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry and campus minister and artist in residence at Benilde-St. Margaret's High School in St. Louis Park, Minn. As a composer, he has published and recorded more than 35 collections of liturgical music. He is an active author, workshop and retreat leader, pastoral musician and recording artist. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.



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

Ethel Cox Parish Centre
Walter Baker Hall.
100 Blackwall Rd

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, Raelene McLenaghan & Pamela Burton

Parish 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; 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 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am).

PARISH CHOIR: Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7 p.m. Enquiries: 4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP. For information and events contact Parish Office 4341 1073.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, 21a Dul-kara Rd, South Woy Woy. 4341 0884.

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.

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.

CENTACARE Marriage & Family Counselling, Pregnancy help—20 Watt St, Gosford. Phone: 4324 6403.

Copyright and what we can sing

David Haas

Doing the right thing in terms of obtaining proper permission before reproducing music and texts for worship aids has been a hot topic for many years. This country's history of illegal copying and recording in our churches would make a good thriller. Some will recall the highly charged lawsuit between FEL Publications (remember them?) and the Archdiocese of Chicago that took place many years ago over illegal reproduction of music. I remember a number of times in my early days as a workshop presenter when I would visit a parish and find myself sitting in the music ministry office, amidst piles and piles of unauthorized copies of my own music. In one instance, I remember challenging the music director about what I saw, and her response to me was: "You people, you are just too hotheaded and arrogant around this.

It is too hard and too expensive for me to buy the music, so you just mind your own business. You have to be willing to not be so nit-picky about all of this — doing it this way makes things so much easier." Well, that might be true, but the fact remains that she was breaking the law, however nit-picky it might be. I remember responding to her, "Well, I am sorry about that. If you don't like it, call your representative in congress." She was not amused. I was never invited back, and some other composer's music is probably now being mass-produced right there in her office. She had her own little publishing house going on.

Believe it or not, illegal reproduction still goes on after all these years, so *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Wor-*

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



Diocese of
Broken Bay