

# The Voice

10th April 2016

Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

Psalter Week 3



## OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Recently deceased:**  
Brian Hodgins, Bernie Koen.
- **Anniversaries:**  
Dorn Schumacher,  
Andrew Flanagan,  
Iris, Pat and Darrel McNeil,  
Pedro and Damiana Bulual,  
Susana Alejaga, Mary Gatt,  
John Easton.
- **Remembrances:**  
Sergei de Souza., Nidia Altez.
- **And the sick:**  
Craig Sharman, Loretta Holt,  
Frances Sara, Neil Cameron,  
Bill Hunt, Fr. Bill Meacham,  
Lindsay Hardy, Natalie Rankin,  
Kate Tinson, Beryl Allen  
Pat Fitzgerald, Rene Glase,  
Irene Beck, Frank Schmidt,  
Maryanne Diorio, May Leger,  
Tracey Passlow, June Ferry,  
Jack Moulds, Bruce Spence,  
Dian Balce, Keith Maiden,  
Brian Moloney, Carren Quinn,  
Mary Ann Gormly,  
Lorna Russom.

*The Shawshank Redemption* was the hit film of 1994. In it we follow the incarceration and escape plans of Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Robbins is condemned to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife and her lover. Freeman says he is the 'only guilty man in Shawshank Prison'. Based on Stephen King's novella, this uplifting film is a surprise package from a writer whose fame comes from the horror genre. The longer we watch the film, the more we realise that Stephen King has modelled his story on the Gospel of John. It is, in many respects a more modern parable about John's portrait of Jesus. Tim Robbins' character, Andy, like Jesus, is an innocent man, treated harshly by the authorities of his day. He has to endure the condemnation and cruelty of the leading religious zealots who are keepers of law and order, while he inspires others to think of a world free of subjection and oppression where they can be free to live the life of which they dream. Like John's Jesus, Andy has big dreams and often talks in riddles, but he leaves clues for others to follow him in their quest for freedom. In the last part of the film, after Andy has successfully escaped and the governor of the prison has been exposed for the hypocrite he is, Freeman is paroled after serving 35 years hard labour. He decides to go where Andy has gone and, just as Andy promised when they were together in prison, he finds that Andy has prepared the way for him to follow. The moving climax of the film comes as Robbins and Freeman meet on a beach, embrace each other and share food and drink to

celebrate the new life both of them have discovered.

Stephen King understands John's portrait of Jesus very well. For all of Jesus' assuredness and composure throughout the Gospel, the sense of care and intimacy in the encounters with his friends is deeply moving. In the Easter Gospel to which we have just listened, Jesus returns to where his friends have fled from Jerusalem. In a parable about the growing numbers of the early Church, the Eucharist and the suffering they are enduring, John reaffirms that Jesus is intimately present in their following of him and their suffering for the Kingdom. The only sense John can make of Jesus' death, the martyrdom of the apostles or the persecution of the early church is to see them all as acts of love. 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

Those of us who have been caught up in the net of God's love are heirs to the same promises of Jesus' fidelity. Christ is intimately present to us in every act of loving sacrifice we undertake for him. He continues to send us out to tell people of the place that has been prepared for them at the banquet of life and he gives us strength to gird our loins for the times when life takes us to places we would rather not go. In this Eucharist let's be grateful for this Easter season when we celebrate again that we have been set free from the prison of our fears and shown the way to live a life of sacrificial love and undeserved redemption.

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## Psalm Response

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## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia!* Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation; he has shown pity on all people. *Alleluia!*

## Around the Parish

**Bishop Peter** will be visiting the Parish next weekend Saturday, 16th and Sunday 17th April. On Saturday from 10.30am-12.30pm, Bishop Peter is keen to engage with you all in hearing your vision for the Parish as well as share in his own for our Parish and the Diocese. Please write your name on the list in the gathering area if you will be attending.. A sausage sizzle is being proposed for Saturday, 16th after 5pm Mass. Please call the Parish Office if you are able to assist on the night.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room due next Monday 18th April, 1.30pm-3pm. If you would like to join us, phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 15/4/16:** Judy French, Philomena Curtis, Lisa Ann Rae, Christina Thorson,

**Children's Liturgy Roster 17/4/16:** Therese Carroll, Brenda Sweet, Marina Mondal.

**Baptisms:** We welcome into our faith community and pray for Tate Matthews, Toby Smith and Estelle Spiteri who were baptised last Sunday.

**First Holy Communion:** Please pray for our children making their First Holy Communion during Eastertide.

**Josephite Associates Meeting** will be held Thursday, 14th April, 4pm. St. Joseph's Spirituality Centre, 8 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South. All are welcome to join for an hour of prayer, friendship and service. Further enquiries contact Sr. Ellen or Kath Evans on 4368 2805.

**Congratulations** to the Catholic students who attend Scripture classes at the four primary State schools on the Peninsula. They performed and sang in 6 performances of this year's Easter School Assemblies. From Palm Sunday to Easter morning, they told the story of Jesus' Passion with respect, enthusiasm and joy. We can be very proud of the Year Six Scripture Classes—well done kids!

**Sympathy:** St. John the Baptist Parish Family would like to extend sympathy to family, relatives and friends of Bernie Koen and Brian Hodgins who were buried from our church the past week. May they experience the fullness of Christ's peace.

**Cash Housie/Cash Bingo night:** Come along and try your luck and enjoy the friendly atmosphere every Saturday night. Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Rd. Woy Woy. Games 7.30pm—10.20pm. Selling commences 6.30pm. Hall opens 5.30pm. Prizes: \$100, \$150 and a chance of winning the \$2,000 Jackpot \* Reverts to a guaranteed \$1,000 if not won within the specified number of calls. Prizes subject to sales. Enquiries: Ph: Rob 0427 990 818. [www.cashhousiehotmail.com](mailto:www.cashhousiehotmail.com)

**Rosary Group:** All welcome! Come and join us Tuesdays from 9am-12md to make rosary beads and scapulars for the Missions.

## The Just Word

**Mercy in Relationships:**  
Mercy, like charity, begins at home.

Playwrights and screenwriters say that the best dramatic tension is created between characters who know each other very well—the deeper and more long-lasting the relationship, the greater the potential for conflict. Two of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies, *Hamlet* and *King Lear*, are stories of family breakdown. The most popular and enduring sit-coms are about people who feel they have known each other for too long: think of

*Seinfeld* or *The Big Bang Theory*.

People in close relationships can spark forest fires of animosity because the fuel has been building up for some time—in an imperfect world where we are all flawed, our weaknesses are most irritating to those who must put up with them every day.

But if the greatest conflicts can arise in the closest relationships, so too can the most wondrous experiences of mercy. For these to occur, we need always to remember each other's humanity, and to ponder that humanity with

compassion. She's our annoying workmate? She's also a human being struggling with her regrets from the past and her fears for the future. He's our aggravating neighbour? Ditto—what are the troubles that he faces, hidden from our shallow, judgemental view? Compassion, then, can lead to mercy; mercy is compassion in action; and mercy, not just charity, begins at home.

Peter Fleming.  
[australiancatholics.com.au](mailto:australiancatholics.com.au)

## From the Diocese and beyond

**"Still minding what matters"**  
Across 2016, St. Joseph's Education and Spirituality Centre, 9 Humphreys Rd. Kincumber South will continue to host a number of faith enrichment days within the Centre's picturesque setting by the Brisbane Water. Focusing on matters of significance across the Christian year, presentations will be reflective and prayerful about ordinary life in faith. Sessions will be conducted in user-friendly language and in an atmosphere that welcomes questions and invites the sharing of wisdom from life experience.

Sr. Virginia Burke rsj is a graduate theologian from Sydney College of

Divinity. Having ministered for years in Secondary teaching, over the last 20 years she has been working in adult faith formation, guided retreats and general spirituality.

**Program Delivery:** This year there will be 4 sessions. Three on Tuesdays, but Wednesday in November. You are invited to all or some of the sessions.

**Program for April and July:**  
Tuesday, April 26th. Feast of St. Mark: "Reflecting on the 'athletic pace' of Mark's Jesus"  
Tuesday, 19th July: "The 'will of God?': We're 'in it!'"

Sessions begin 10am and conclude 2.30pm, with breaks for morning

tea/lunch. Morning tea and sandwich lunch provided. Cost: \$25 or donation.

**Booking:** If you would like to attend book on 02 4368 2805 or [bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au](mailto:bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au)

**Staying Home Leaving Violence:** CatholicCare Staying Home Leaving Violence program assists women and children on the Central Coast to remain in their homes and be protected from family violence. The program support ranges from new security measures, personal and financial problems and legal support. If someone you know is experiencing family violence please contact CatholicCare on 4356 2600.

# Going Fishing by Fr Michael Tate

'I am going fishing' – truly remarkable words from Peter.

Consider the situation. He, and a number of other disciples, men and women, had been granted an appearance of the Risen Lord.

Yet Peter and six of the other male disciples decided that that was quarantined history – over and done with. They go back to their trade, go back to their old way of life. They lack the courage to transform their lives in the light of the resurrection: 'We're going fishing.' It was back to business as usual.

It is a reminder of how easy it is for us, after the elation and faithful celebration of Easter, to revert to the way of life we are accustomed to, treating the Risen Lord as absent. Are we very different to Peter? Do we quarantine the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives to an hour at Mass? And then: 'We're going fishing.'

Our Lord is not against our 'fishing', whatever it may be: work, study, sport, good relations with someone. But, he wants to be involved.

Our Lord simply wants to be with us to ensure that, at the end of the day, we don't find things rather empty. He wants us to be full of good things to the point of bursting.

He gives us two helps along the way.

First, as with Peter and the other six disciples, he invites us to a sacred meal at which his presence is particularly real.

Second, and this is what I want to focus on, Our Lord establishes a community with Peter to shepherd it.

The threefold response of Peter: 'Yes, you know I love you', undoubtedly balances his threefold denial of any association with Our Lord: 'I do not know the man.' That denial was just at the point when Jesus began his final journey as *the victim*.

It is very clear that some of the clergy and some bishops have effectively denied Christ either by their abuse of vulnerable people, or by cover-up afterwards.

There has not been enough love of Our Lord who is present in, even present as, the suffering victims whose lives have been

blighted. 'Whatever you did to these least you did to me!'

In the light of this fact, the Pope, successor of St Peter, cannot simply 'go fishing'. It cannot be back to 'business as usual'.

Pope Francis has ordered the relevant Holy See authorities to vigorously deal with the phenomenon of sexual abuse. He has insisted on due proceedings against the guilty. He requires the Church to provide pastoral assistance to those who have suffered abuse.

On the national level, the Australian Church has promised full cooperation with the Royal Commission, and yet, on the part of some, there are still instances of lack of compassion and justice in response to survivors of abuse and their families.

The Church's only hope of being well-shepherded through this crisis lies in Pope Francis being able to answer the challenge of the Risen Lord using the same words as St Peter, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love You.'

'I love You', more than the institution, more than prestige, more than pain for the Church which is nothing compared with the pain suffered by the victims of abuse.

Pope Francis needs to be surrounded by our prayers. Let us pray that he will always act as a shepherd who knows how to love, who knows who to love.

Who to love? The *victims* of sexual abuse embodied in Christ the *Victim*.

Christ the Victim. Yes, Jesus Christ is the Risen Lord, as we have just celebrated this Easter. But he is the Risen Lord too evidently still bearing wounds in His Body.




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In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Peter again and again, "If you love Me, feed my sheep." He says the same to each of us, "If you love Me, use the gifts I have given you to serve your brothers and sisters."

See John 21:15f

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## Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy, Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Koolewong, Blackwall, Booker Bay, St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point, Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

**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 Road

Phone: (02) 4341 1073

Fax: (02) 4341 0214

Email: [parish@woywoycatholic.org.au](mailto:parish@woywoycatholic.org.au)

### "He must increase, I must decrease"

Fr. Jack Robson. *Parish Priest*

Fr. Timothy Raj. MSFS. Fr. Philip Thottam. MSFS.  
*Assistant Priests.*

*Office Staff:* Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill, Margaret Cooper.

*Office Hours:* 9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

*Deadline for The Voice:* 3.30 p.m. Wednesday

### Prayer for Reconciliation

In the midst of conflict and division,

We know it is you

Who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.

Your spirit changes our hearts:

Enemies begin to speak to one another,

Those who were estranged join hands in friendship,

And nations seek the way of peace together.

Let your spirit be at work in us.

Give us understanding, and put an end to strife,

Fill us with mercy and overcome our denial,

Grant us wisdom and teach us to learn

From the people of the land.

Call us to justice.

Adapted from the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses of Reconciliation ||

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 5pm; Sunday 7.30am, 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, 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am; & 4.30pm; Sunday 7am.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; 5th Sunday, during 9.15am 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, 7pm.

Enquiries: 4341 3367.

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. ph: 4341 0884 fax: 4344 5049.

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST YOUTH GROUP

For information and events contact Parish office 4341 1073.

### CATHOLICCARE Marriage & Family Relationships.

Phone:4356 2600

**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.

**ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY** on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with Volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference. Please ring Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

**CASH HOUSIE** every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish approx 10.20pm. Cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries: Rob 0427 990 818.

