

**OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
0438 631 327

"He must increase, I must decrease"

**Administrator**

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

**Office Staff**

Raelene Spithill, Johnson Mani, Triona Meagher.

**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.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK** First Friday  
4pm Mass

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** Friday  
after morning Mass; First Friday  
3.30pm; Saturday 9:30am (after  
morning Mass) & 4.30pm; Sunday  
7.00am.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Baptism  
Preparation - 9.30am second and  
fourth Sunday of the month  
Sacrament of Baptism - 11.00am first  
and third Sunday of the month . Please  
contact the parish office for more  
information.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED  
SACRAMENT** Saturday after 9am Mass  
until 10am Monday until 9am (Public  
Holidays 10.15am) Thursday 7.30pm-  
8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

**PARISH CHOIR** Enquiries: 4341 3367  
Practice Wednesday nights in the  
church @ 7pm.

**Christian Meditation** Thursday  
afternoons from 2-3pm and Monday  
evenings 6-7pm, in the Leo Mahon  
room. All welcome!

**St John the Baptist Church**  
Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy  
**Ethel Cox Parish Centre**  
100 Blackwall Road Woy Woy  
**Parish Office:** Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.00pm  
54 Victoria Road / P.O. Box 264 WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256  
Phone: (02) 4341 1073 Fax: (02) 4341 0214  
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au  
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au  
**St John the Baptist Primary School:**  
Principal: Nicole Cumming, 21a Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy 2256.  
P: 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.dbb.org.au

Psalm Response © Colin D. Smith cfc



**Gospel Acclamation**  
*Alleluia, alleluia!* Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Ex 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Tim 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

**Keep Us In Your Prayers** OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:

**Recently Deceased:** Colleen Smith.  
**Anniversaries:** Patricia Anne Ryan, Colin O'Reilly, Pasquale & Giuseppina Sergei, Enrico & Caterina Zappavigna & Vincenzo Zappavigna.  
**Rembrances:** Yolanda & Amando Canete, Pablita Yting, Pedrita Yting.  
**Sick:** Irene Beck, Kerry Baldwin, Brian Smith, Jason Simon, Vicki Pirie, Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morreti, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido, Pam Player, Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Louis Aloisio, Amanda Sheridan, Audey Barsenbach, Marta Panczyna, Sue James, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczewska, Ian Wilks, Michael Hourigan, John Horrigan, Ed Hyland, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Tim Parker, Lorraine Smith, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Alison Richmond, June Townsend, Josie Weate, Andrew Muggs, Sheila Houghton, Chrissy Toms, Frank Levy, Dorothy Fulton, Roger Mitchell.

Quotes from *Amoris Laetitia*... "The Joy of Love"  
Pope Francis

Indeed, in many countries where the number of marriages are decreasing, more and more people are choosing to live alone or simply to spend time together without cohabiting



**WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH**  
**St John the Baptist Catholic Church**

**Mission and Vision**  
**Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL, through:**  
Worship and Liturgy  
Outreach  
Our Parish School  
Hospitality  
Adult & Child Faith Formation



**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**8<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 3)**  
**Gospel Reflection - © Fr Michael Tate**



Eighteen years ago my father died: a good man, a very good man, a wonderful husband to my mother and a great father to "the boys". The following Sunday I had to read this gospel: "if anyone comes to me without hating his father ...he cannot be my disciple".

I could hardly speak the words because, to our ears attuned to the English language and way of speaking, it sounds so dreadful, so extreme, so full of ill will.

Fortunately, I got through because I was able to put this passage in context.

First, the way of speaking in the Middle East. In most languages of that region, there is no word for "prefer". If someone prefers X over Y, he will say I love X and hate Y. Why this extreme? It is said to have something to do with the climate. Scorching heat and

unrelenting glare during the day, changing quickly to the cold and darkness of the night, led to a vocabulary of extremes: one thing or the other.

Can anyone imagine for one moment Jesus hating either Mary or Joseph. No. Never any ill will towards them, but if it came to a choice he did prefer following his calling. And sometimes that caused great anguish to both Mary and Joseph.

One only has to think of his staying behind at the temple on his twelfth birthday rather than returning with the group of pilgrims to Galilee. Mary and Joseph were filled with aching concern, rushed back to Jerusalem, and Mary says: "My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you." Jesus replied "Why were you looking for me? Do you now know that I must be busy about my Father's business?"

This is the sort of preference which Jesus is speaking of. It may well cause confusion and heartache in families. [I rather hope Joseph expressed that by giving Jesus a clip under the ear and setting him firmly on the road back to Nazareth!]

Secondly, I recognised that Jesus was speaking in the context of imminent persecution of Himself and just as certainly of his followers.

He brought them face to face with the reality of what it meant to follow him. The symbol of torture and execution – the Cross – loomed into view. But, before that, he predicted the real-life situation of families turning against a follower of Jesus, of denouncing a son or daughter, of turning them in to the authorities.

Where does this passage find relevance today?

In China, many good things are happening as hundreds of millions of people are lifted out of dire poverty. But the fact remains that China is ruled by an authoritarian regime with an ideology of total control of the allegiance of the Chinese people. The underground Catholic Church, despite recent overtures by Pope Benedict XVI, is still persecuted.

Can you imagine a Chinese Catholic disciple of Our Lord hearing this Gospel this morning, and this afternoon having to definitively choose between Him and the Church He founded on Peter, or doing what the family considers safe and reasonable.

According to today's Gospel, followers of Jesus Christ must *prefer* to do this, must prefer the ostracism and cutting off from family, must *prefer* this cross. But they must never *hate* in the English sense of that word.

During this Mass let us particularly remember those for whom preferring Jesus over families exacts real penalties of property, of education and advancement, of liberty, and even of life.

May members of families torn apart because of the following of Jesus one day be re-united in the one family of humanity reconciled by Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ, in Heavenly glory.

# Parish News...

**Please Note:** The Parish Office will be closed for the following 2 Wednesdays, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**LED Lighting:** If you would like to donate, envelopes are on the gathering table. We are thankful for your kind and generous support towards this project.

**Justice of the Peace:** Jeff Freeman is a registered J.P. If you are requiring his service he will be available before 5pm Mass every Saturday.

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** Planned Giving Envelopes are available for collection in the gathering area.

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September The protection of the oceans

That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

## Child Protection Sunday

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and vulnerable adults.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention](http://www.catholic.org.au/responseandprevention)

## Rosters

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 13/09/19:** Kathleen Cullen, Elena Egan, Kevin Glacken, Christine French.

**Children's Liturgy 15/09/19:** Marian Bowyer, Emma Baker, Hannah El-Khatib.

**Morning Tea Roster 15/09/19:** School

## Catholic Youth Broken Bay

### Twilight Talks

Catholic Youth Broken Bay invites you to Twilight Talks. Join Young Adults (18+) from around the Diocese to connect, share a meal, pray and be nourished by inspiring speakers. This month we will be focusing on and breaking open Pope Francis' latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*. Hear from a panel of young adults with some of their insights, and join in discussion around the Holy Father's latest document to young people and the Church.

Date: Tuesday 17 September 2019

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Hotel Pennant Hills, 352 Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills

**Bus Trip celebrating the month of the Rosary** to the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Shrine and Retreat Centre. Departs 0800 Thurs 10 October. Cost approx \$15-\$20. Contact Carrie Shepherd 0403 147 776.

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**Plenary Council - Listening and Discernment**  
Parishes will be receiving our Listening and Discernment Guides in the next week or two and are encouraged to run Discernment sessions in their parish.

The Listening and Discernment Portal is now open on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/listening-and-discernment/> where submissions can be made by groups after their sessions.

"Let's Listen and Discern", as well as other resources for this new phase, can be accessed on the Plenary Council website. Additional resources to help people understand the practice of discernment can be found on this page: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/introduction-to->

**Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, 1964-1969 Golden Reunion, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019:**

Did you attend Year 7 at OLMC in 1964, or thereafter? Did your SC in '67 or your HSC in '69? If you left before your exams, you're still welcome at our 50th Reunion!

Contact Jennifer Newton: email [fiftyyearsonolmc64-69@hotmail.com](mailto:fiftyyearsonolmc64-69@hotmail.com) or Facebook page OLMC Parramatta 1964-1969 50th Reunion (September 2019).

International speaker, Sherry Weddell, will be visiting our Diocese next month. This is an important opportunity for our parishes to be part of a conversation Presented by Sherry Weddell

(Author of *Forming Intentional Disciples*)

SRE Catechists, Sacramental Teams and all those working in Children's Ministries

Date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Time: 10.00am – 2:30pm  
Registrations Essential

Colleen Smith  
[registrations@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:registrations@bbcatholic.org.au)  
or 8379 1643

RSVP by 6<sup>th</sup> September  
morning teas /Lunch and morning are provided

### Topics include:

- Exploring Intentional Discipleship
- Thresholds of discipleship, with a focus on ministry to children
- Discerning our own calling as disciples, and identifying our gifts

**Venue:**  
Caroline Chisholm Centre,  
Building 2,  
423 Pennant Hills Road  
Pennant Hills

Limited parking available

Four minutes' walk from Pennant Hills Station

Fostering intentional discipleship amongst our parishioners.

Date: Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
Time: 9:30am - 4:00pm  
Registrations Essential

Pina Bernard [faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au)  
or 8379 1627

RSVP by 6<sup>th</sup> September

Lunch and morning / afternoon teas are provided

### Topics include:

- The nature of intentional discipleship and the thresholds of discipleship
- Supporting people from one threshold stage to the next through a variety of entry points
- Practical ways that ministries and parish activity can foster intentional discipleship
- The importance of discerning our gifts and using them to live the mission of Jesus

**Bequest, Gift In Wills or Gifts in Memory Booklets**  
Following requests from Parishes to provide new and updated Gift In Wills (Bequest) booklets, we are pleased to advise that bequest booklets are now available in the gathering area.

For further information please contact Liane via 8379 1664 or [liane.giuliano@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:liane.giuliano@bbcatholic.org.au)

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

**St John the Baptist Youth Group:** Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

**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 Pat 0403 672 077.

**"Mary Mac's Place" Hospitality:** 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 4341 0584.

## Fransalian Quote

"Abandonment to the Will of God is the virtue of virtues. It is the cream of charity, the fragrance of humility, reward of patience and the fruit of perseverance. Following the example of Jesus on the cross (Lk 13/46) this is a virtue that children hold dear to the Father should strive to practice."

**St. Francis de Sales**

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**Hardwick's on Blackwall**  
(Opposite corner to our church)  
4/115 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy  
**Café and catering services**  
Ph 0422 561 439