

OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY
0438 631 327

"He must increase, I must decrease"

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

Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priest

Office Staff
Helen Cameron & Raelene Spithill

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 11.30am & 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

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



The Lord is my light, my light and my sal - va - tion.

Gospel Acclamation
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! From the
shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved
Son, hear him.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Readings: 24th March 2019 Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12;
Lk 13:1-9. Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

Recently Deceased: Margaret Friend, Robert Martin, Paul Smith,
Val McLenaghan, Marta Popic, Doris Magro, Maria "Ruby" Alvir,
Michael Willesee, Peter Ford, Bill Skane.

Anniversaries: Carmen Catania, Keith Booth, Daniel Hennessy.

Sick: Vicki Pirie, Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer,
Oscar James Morreti, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido,
Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf,
Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff, Leon de Pradines, Margaret Davin,
Helen Taylor, Amanda Sheridan, Marta Panczyna, Sue James,
Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle,
Paul Hennessy, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green,
Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan,
Karen Chorazyczewska,Carolynn Jupp, Ed Hyland, Carmel Diorio,
Maureen Frost, Ian Wilks, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty,
Mary Dolan, John Corrigan, Anne Gan, Hanna El Khatib,
Tim Parker, Lorraine Smith, Alison Richmond, June Townsend.

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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

2nd Sunday of Lent

17 March 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 2)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us. God loves us as we are, not as we like to be.

As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'
Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.'

Parish News...

First Communion 2019. Candidates will be presented at 6pm Mass this Sunday. Please keep them in your prayers as they commence instruction next week.

The Light is On for you.

All churches in the Diocese will be open during Lent for quiet time and prayer with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday evenings, 7pm-8pm. March 22, 29 & April 5 & 12. There will also be Stations of the Cross from 6.30pm & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church on these nights.

Mass on Wednesday nights during Lent:

From 13 March at 6.30pm there will be Stations of the Cross followed by Mass (approx. 6.50pm).

Praying the Scriptures in Lent: Copies of "Discerning the Way of Jesus" are available in the gathering area.

Listening to God: Continues 12noon-2pm, Tuesday 19 March, in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome. 'Whatever way you hear from God, don't shut it down because you don't understand it or it doesn't look like someone else's relationship with the Lord.'

Parish Retreat: Saturday, 23rd March to Wednesday, 27th March. More information on the following page. Please note there will be **no morning Mass** on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (25th March-27th March).

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room, due 18th March, 1.00pm-2.30pm. If you would like to join us phone Pat on 0403 672 077. Transport provided.

Dear parish community, the Pastoral Council have been busy working on some strategic priorities for our parish for 2019. In case you are not aware the parish of Saint John the Baptist Vision and Mission statements are:

"Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL through:

- Worship and Liturgy
- Outreach
- Our Parish School
- Hospitality
- Adult & Child Formation"

We have come up with two priorities

1. Hospitality and 2. Faith Formation

How can we bring Jesus Christ to ALL through Hospitality?

How can we bring Jesus Christ to ALL through Faith Formation?

We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please phone the parish office.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 22/3/19: Laurie Jarvis, Bev Whackett, Rano Spiteri & Tom French.

Children's Liturgy 24/3/19: Marian Bowyer, Jenny Fitzgerald & Shadeeqh Quai Hoi.

Morning Tea Roster 24/3/19: School P&F.

Project Compassion: Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season, which is themed "Give Lent 100%". You are empowering communities with hope and helping those in great need to shape a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Lives change when we all give 100%. You can also donate by phoning 1800 024 413 or www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion.

St Francis de Sales teaches us that one may think that he or she is very devout if one prays lengthy prayers. He tells us that with the lips one prays a lot and loudly—with the same lips the same person can use unholy, unkind, uncharitable language.

One can pray in the church or chapel & as soon as one is out of the place of worship, is ready and willing to speak uncharitable language with lots of bitterness, anger and pride.

The same tongue that prays, can't curse .
The same tongue that prays can't be uncharitable and unkind with words at the same time.

Prayer changes one who prays.
If the one who prays does not change,
then is one really praying?

Retreat on Eucharist, The Word of God & The Passion of our Lord For Healing. Saturday, 23 March to Wednesday, 27 March.

Fr. Gilbert Carlo svd (Divine Word Missionary), will be conducting a retreat in our Parish church during Lent.

The Retreat is focused on Prayer, Meditation, Contemplation, Eucharist & the Word of God, which deepens our relationship with God & one another...

Saturday/Sunday, March 23/ 24 : Homily at weekend Masses.

Monday, March 25: 7.00pm Mass, followed by talk & reflection; 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Healing through God's Love and Forgiveness: Reflection Isaiah 53.5; 'By his wounds, we are healed'.

Tuesday, March 26: 7.00pm Mass followed by talk & reflection; 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Healing through the Word of God & Eucharistic Adoration: Reflection Matthew 8.8; 'By our faith on the Word of God, we are healed'.

Wednesday, March 27: 7.00pm Concluding Mass with Reflection on Eternal life. 'By His Body and Blood we are healed'.

Confession: Monday - Wednesday: 6pm -6.45pm.

Please call the Parish office if you need transport to attend the retreat.

Fransalian Quote on Prayers

"Another would fain to be devout because he daily repeats many prayers, although, at the same time he gives away to angry, proud and injurious language amongst his servants or associates."

St. Francis de Sales

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 Joan 0422 272 339.

"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.

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