

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: 0417 659
526. Practice Wed nights in the church
@ 7pm. New members welcome.

Christian Meditation Monday
evenings 6-7pm in the Leo Mahon
room. All welcome. Enquiries 0432 882
776.

St John the Baptist Church

Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy

Ethel Cox Parish Centre

100 Blackwall Road Woy Woy

Parish Office: Open Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30 am - 4.00 pm and
Tues & Thu 8.30 am - 3.00 pm

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

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 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! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring
Good News to the poor. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 22nd December 2019

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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

Recently Deceased: Helen McKeon, Colin Randazzo, Marilyn Edwards,
Raymond Kaifa, Hervé Fauvette, Sr Margaret Wall RSJ, John Carrol,
Maree O'Brien, Ernie Miller.

Anniversaries: Frank Ryan, Ann Culmer, Arnold Diorio, Patricia Hogan.

Remembrances: Mary, Frank & Katerina Justic.

Sick: Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina, Geoff Floyd,
Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Joan Kelleher, Brian Smith, Jason Simon,
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 & Rose 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, Andrew Muggs, Sheila
Houghton, Chryssine Toms, Frank Levy, Dorothy Fulton, Roger
Mitchell.

Quotes from Amoris Laetitia... "The Joy of Love"

Pope Francis

We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the
faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the
Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out
their own discernment in complex situations. We have been
called to form consciences, not to replace them.

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*For St John's parishioners or their friends who settle a home loan by 30 April 2020, Amanda will donate \$300 to a local community centre. Approved applicants only. Lending criteria apply. Amanda Lawer has access to a panel of lenders through Liberty Network Services Pty Ltd (ABN 65 151 158 628) | Australian Credit Licence 408042) (LNS) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LNS.



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

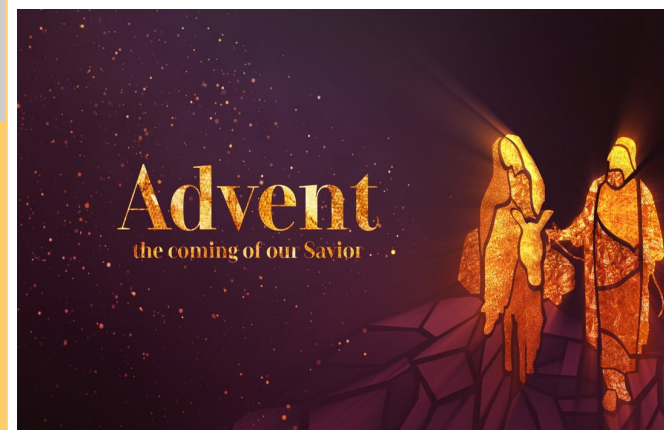
Adult & Child Faith Formation



3rd Sunday of Advent

15th December, 2019, Year A (Psalter Week 3)

Gospel Reflection - © Fr Richard Leonard SJ



Have you ever been on a farm during summer? If you have you will know how precious water is. When I was a boy, I spent several holidays on an uncle's property. There were often six or seven city-based cousins there for the long summer break. It was great fun, but the one thing of which we needed a daily reminder was to be careful with how much water we used. We seemed to luxuriate in the shower for twice as long as our country cousins!

I can remember that when we arrived for one holiday, it had not rained in the area for nearly nine months. A few days later, just at dusk, the thunder rumbled, the

storm clouds gathered and the heavens burst open. The rain poured down. Like in the movies, everyone inside the house just stood up and walked out into the rain. No one said a word. We stood in the rain and soaked it in. The earth was not the only thing in need of a drenching.

In today's letter from St James the metaphor of waiting for rain is given to us as a way of understanding what it was like to wait for Christ. It is a potent image for Advent. In this season each year we remember that humanity waited through a long, dry and exhausting period for the sign of new life in Jesus. For generations people looked to the heavens every day for a sign that today would be the day when God's salvation would come. Then, one night, in a way no one could have ever imagined, with no fanfare, a child burst forth into the world and established the final reign of God's love.

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

The First Reading and the Gospel make it very clear that farmers never down tools just because the rain comes. We're told that as a result of being soaked in the love of God we are called to do all we can for those in our world who are lame, blind, deaf, lepers, poor and for any one left for dead.

This is a vital message for us to hear today because there are some in our country who tell us that all we have to do is look after 'our own back yard'. This line is many things, but it's not Christian. Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our back yard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

We are ridiculously generous to others because God in Jesus has been lavishly good to us and our goodness remains a most powerful sign of God's salvation that is always seen in deeds not words.

Parish News

Sound system: We are in the process of changing our sound system and the first phase of upgrading the Radio Mic System is underway. The second phase will be the upgrade of the PA System. If you would like to contribute to the upgrade, the cost is due to be \$6,165.50.

IT Upgrade: We are in the process of updating our IT systems. The new computers are due to be installed in January 2020.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of Seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon Room, due 16th December, 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm. If you would like to join us phone Pat on 0403 672 077. Transport provided.

Christmas Eve Mass: The 5.30 pm Christmas Eve mass will be held at the Oval at St John the Baptist School, 21a Dulkara Road. Both school gates (Dulkara Road and Veron Road) will be open for access. Bring your picnic blankets and/or chairs.

Carols will be sung before Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are in the Church for those who do not have weekly envelopes.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation in other Parishes:

Thursday 19th Dec, 7.00 pm - East Gosford;

Friday 20th Dec, 7.00 pm - Wyoming;

Monday 23rd Dec, 7.00 pm - Kincumber.

Christian Meditation: Thursday afternoon meetings will no longer take place. The last meeting of the year will be held on Monday 16th December from 6pm - 7pm in the Leo Mahon Room. There will be a break after this and the meetings will resume on Monday 6th January 2020 from 6pm - 7pm in the Leo Mahon Room. For enquiries please call 0432 882 776.

Thank you: A big thank you to all the working bees and butterflies for their gardening work last weekend.

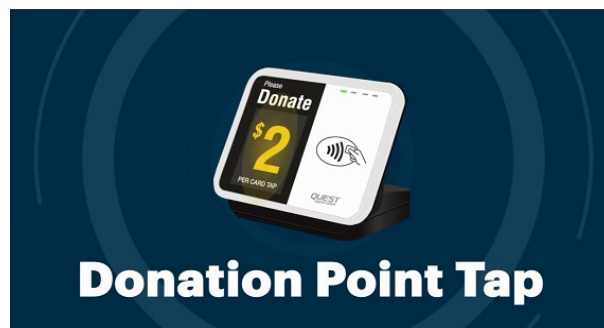
Bus for Christmas Masses: The Parish Bus will be available for the Christmas Eve 5.30 pm mass at St John the Baptist School Oval and both Christmas morning Masses at St John the Baptist Church. Please put your name on the lists situated on the table in the gathering area.

Gathering Area Table: Please do not place any brochures or any articles on the gathering table without prior permission. Thanks for your co-operation.

Divine Will Cenacle: The Divine Will Cenacle has been formed and plans to meet on Thursdays. These meetings will resume in the New Year and details will be printed closer to the time.

Tap & Go

Cashless society - we have installed #2 Tap & Go machines to facilitate those who would like to donate to the Church via card. These funds will be used for Church maintenance and the upcoming sound system & IT upgrades. One machine operates in denominations of \$2 and the other operates in denominations of \$5.



Rosters

Volunteer Church Cleaning 20/12/19: Reg Harrington, Tom French, Anisha Burns, Christina Thorson. 2020 Rosters are ready for collection in the Leo Mahon Room

Children's Liturgy 22/12/19: Celeste Boonaerts, Rebecca Beisler, Emma Baker.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 children who will be finishing Primary School this week. We will keep you in our prayers as this chapter of your lives close and your new journey into High School begins.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

<u>Dec 18th: 7 pm</u>	<u>Dec 26th Boxing Day</u>
2 nd Rite of Reconciliation	9:00 am
<u>Dec 24th Christmas Eve</u>	<u>Dec 31st New Years Eve</u>
5:30 pm (School Oval)	6:00 pm (Adoration)
21a Dulkara Road)	7:00 pm
8:00 pm (Church)	
10:00 pm (Church)	<u>Jan 1st New Years Day</u>
<u>Dec 25th Christmas Day</u>	9:00 am
7:30 am	
9:15 am	
(No evening Mass)	



Our Pope's call to all Catholics

"Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization"
(Apostolic Exhortation : *Evangelii Gaudium*)

There is no better way to be actively engaged in evangelization than to be a catechist teaching the catholic students of our parish who attend the state schools. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry, ring the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

Thank you: A big thank you to Susie Casey and all the helpers for delivering the Christmas hampers. Thank you to all the wonderful parishioners for donating so generously. Many recipients have called the Parish Office thanking everyone involved for their lovely hampers. The picture below is evidence of the scale of generosity.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Fransalian Quote

"Always be as gentle as you can, and remember that more flies are caught with a spoonful of honey than with a hundred barrels of vinegar."

St. Francis de Sales

During 2019, around 450 children from our Parish participated in **Special Religious Education** Classes. All year long these children prayed for our Church Community. And now, at Christmas time, the children from Ettalong, Umina, Woy Woy and Woy Woy South Primary Schools continue to pray for you, asking God to bless you and your families with joy, peace and love. The children wish you the happiest Christmas Season and a safe, healthy and hopeful New Year.



SAFEGUARDING MONTH – inclusion is a planned and intentional activity.

To learn more about the role of the Office of the eSafety Commissioner visit www.esafety.gov.au It is committed to empowering all Australians to have safer, more positive experiences online.

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 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. New Volunteers are always welcome. Please ring Pat 0403 672 077 or Peter 0425 358 376.

Ethel Cox Parish Centre - "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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