

**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



**Gospel Acclamation**  
*Alleluia, alleluia!* The Lord sent me to bring Good News to  
the poor and freedom to prisoners. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 3rd February 2019  
Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:12-31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30.  
Readings can be found at [www.usccb.org/bible/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/)

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

**Recently Deceased:** Gloria Kissane, Irene Barnes, Edmund Lowe,  
Leo Fry.

**Anniversaries:** Peter Hope, Myra Mayne, Pat Sullivan,  
Earnest & Morva Burton.

**Remembrances:** Silvina Balce, Lornelio Balce, Wenceslao Balce,  
Chris Simmons, Roz Sullivan.

**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, Sue Rose, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen,  
Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig,  
Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczevska, Joan Kelleher, Carolyn Jupp,  
Ed Hyland, Carmel Diorio, Maureen Frost, Paul Smith,  
Tony Schumacher.

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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

#### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 January 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 3)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in his religion class at school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.' 'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his mother asked. 'Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

Given the ways the Scriptures have divided Christians over the centuries and because previous generations wanted to protect the truth of the Bible, we were often taught that the Holy Spirit dictated the text. In this schema, the real skill of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John seems to have been their shorthand!

Today we begin reading through Luke's Gospel. And in the opening verses of this extraordinary document, Luke puts paid to the idea that he is simply listening to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit in his ear. What we now call the Gospel of Luke was the first instalment of a two-part letter written to his friend and disciple, Theophilus. Epic letters like this one and the Acts of the Apostles, which is its sequel, where the writer praises the deeds of a great man and lists his achievements, were very common in the Hellenised world of Ancient Rome. Luke knew how to write it and, more importantly, Theophilus knew how to read it.

It is not a documentary on the life of Jesus, recording a series of facts. If it were, then it cannot be reconciled with the other Gospels for they disagree with each other about many important details. As Catholics we believe the Holy Spirit guided the writing and selection of the scriptural record so that it contains no errors regarding our salvation. Our life lived in harmony with the scriptures is its own testament to our belief that the Bible is not a book of facts: it is a book of truth.

Luke knows that Theophilus has already been instructed in the way of salvation in Christ, and he makes it clear that the truth of this way is what he is attending to. In this Gospel he paints a vivid and intimate portrait of who Jesus is and why he has the message of salvation for all people everywhere.

These days we often hear people asking others to be 'up front' and to 'lay your cards on the table'. Long before it was trendy, Luke does precisely this in the second part of today's Gospel. At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, Luke summarises the story he is about to tell Theophilus and his community in what is called 'the programme'.

In the tradition of the greatest of the prophets, we are told Jesus has come for those of us who are poor, captive, blind and oppressed. But, unlike the former prophets, Jesus is not only a companion in our distress or an advocate on our behalf, he has also come to turn the world upside down and establish the definitive reign of God in our lives. In Jesus, all that Israel longed to see is fulfilled.

And so to us. As the spiritual children of Jesus, Luke, Theophilus and his community, we are inheritors of a tradition that is upfront in what we are called to do. Our programme is explicit. We are called to be companions to the poor, to set prisoners free, to fight oppression, to enable others to confront what they would prefer to ignore and to boldly proclaim that there is no one beyond God's favour.

As tough as these demands are, they are not optional extras. They define who we are as Christians and how we are sent to change the world.

May this Eucharist give us courage for the task at hand.

## Parish News...

**Please pray for** the children of our Parish returning to school this week.

**Public Holiday:** Monday, 28 January, Mass at 9am. Please note that there will be no Adoration.

**The Live, Pray, Love Project:** is a parish ministry which aims to build and foster a sense of belonging to the parish community through faith formation and fun activities.

We are seeking new members and if you are interested or would like to know more about this work, please contact Gladys on 0421 312 362.

**Listening to God:** Continues 12noon-2pm, Tuesday 29 January, in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome. "When He speaks, it activates my faith and my ability to dream."

**Anointing of the Sick** will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday 1 February.

**Bus trip to Nelson Bay:** Wednesday, 6 February, leaving at 8:45 a.m. Cost \$20. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 1/2/19:** Mary McCumstie, Cheryl Sillick, Linda Potestas & Rano Spiteri.

**Children's Liturgy 2019 Rosters**—available for collection in the Leo Mahon room. Children's liturgy resumes during 9:15am Mass 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## Plenary Herald

Share the Story. Shape our Future.  
*"Religions die when their lights fail, that is, when their teachings no longer illuminate life as it actually lived by the adherents"* (Wolfhart Pannenberg, German Lutheran theologian (1928-2014).

Several parishioners accepted the invitation to share their stories and shape the future of the church by completing one of the Plenary Council cards distributed through the Church over the Christmas period. Thank you to all those who participated.

In the submissions several themes emerged. The most prominent theme was Mission and the Church's relationship to the secular and world society. This is a theme that resonates with the writings of the Second Vatican Council and of Pope Francis. The next most prominent theme was ordained ministry with calls for optional celibacy and the admission of women to ordained ministry. Mention was also made of leadership and the role of the lay faithful, sexuality and meeting the spiritual needs of the young.

The gospel reading from today is about the mission of Jesus. It is clear that Jesus, before this incident, had been preaching and healing throughout Galilee, an area in Israel inhabited by Jews and Gentiles. Jesus, however, returns to his hometown to announce his mission.

Jesus, a regular participant at synagogue services, reads a story about a prophet who says that the Spirit of the Lord will come to the poor, the oppressed, and the outcasts and will bring them God's mercy and love and freedom. Jesus then stunned the congregation by telling them that "I am the Man".

In Baptism we have inherited this Spirit and this Mission.

## Fransalian Spirituality

Fransalian Spirituality is a lived and living tradition inspired by St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and St. Jane de Chantal (1572-1641). It emphasizes common sense and the power of doing little, ordinary and everyday things for God and others with great passion and great love. It is a down-to-earth way of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.....wherever you find yourself.

St. Francis de Sales tells each of us to "bloom where we are planted." This spirituality offers practical ideas on how to journey through the spiritual life with great hope and joy as we embrace the duties of "where we are planted" and respond to the universal call to holiness. It's a "spirituality of the heart" as relevant today as in the time of St. Francis and St. Jane, an all-embracing, down-to-earth spirituality for everyone.

### Fransalian Quote

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so you learn to love God and man by loving. Begin as a mere apprentice and the very power of love will lead you on to become a master of the art."

**St. Francis de Sales**

## What is Fransalian Associates ?

The Fransalian Associates is a spiritual family, is made up of lay Catholics—single, married, or widowed—who choose to live their lives grounded in the Gospel and according to the teachings and virtues. We follow our "Gentleman Saint" along our journey towards God.

The Fransalian spirituality, which offers a simple way of reconciling the often conflicting demands of home, family, career, church and community. And we are assured by St. Francis De Sales that our daily duties in life are the most important tasks we have on our path to holiness. As we walk this path, we will see more and more clearly what God wants us to be and to do.

**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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