

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 kind and mer - ci - ful.

Gospel Acclamation
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Readings: 31st March 2019 Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21;
Lk 15:1-3, 11.32. Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

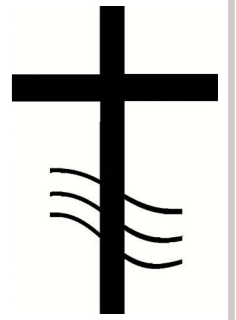
Recently Deceased: , John Ozment, Christopher Williams, Paul Quirk, Bradley William Ward, Daphne Montague.
Anniversaries: Bruno de Souza, Marceleen Cole, Matthew Cole, Dudley Juratowitch, John Wahlin, Sarah Vandenberg.
Sick: Vicki Pirie, Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morreti, 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, Kathy Ward, Paul Kuether.

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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 of Lent

24 March 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 3)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, 'What effect would adultery have on your marriage?' In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, 'Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault' or 'I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless'. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship. The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again. Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering. Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity. Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel. We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance. May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world.

Parish News...

Parish Retreat: We welcome Fr Gilbert Carlo svd (Divine Word Missionary) this weekend. More information is on the following page.

Please note, there will be **no morning Mass** on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (25th March-27th March).

First Communion 2019. Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they receive instruction in the following weeks.

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 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:

At 6.30pm there will be Stations of the Cross followed by Mass (approx. 6.50pm).

Children's Liturgy 31/3/19: Brenda Sweet, Christine French & Sue McKay.

Catechists: First meeting of the year this Thursday, 28th March at 9:00 a.m. in the Leo Mahon room. Agenda: Easter Assemblies, Woy Woy enrolments, 1st Term curriculum, & last chance book orders. Please bring current class numbers. Coffee & cake afterwards—we need to catch up!! Susie.

Ecumenical Dawn Service on Easter Sunday morning, 21st April, 6am at Umina Beach Surf Club. Fr Timothy is preaching the homily & it is a very fulfilling service—please make an effort to come. Breakfast will be served at the Salvation Army Umina after the service.

The Pastoral Council would like to get the parish community involved in the next phase - 'Pastoral Planning' of 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. A box has been placed near the door entering the church from the gathering area.

The next Parish Pastoral Council gathering is Tuesday, 9th April, 7pm in the Leo Mahon Room. Pina Bernard from the Office for Evangelisation will also be in attendance.

All are invited to attend or place your thoughts or ideas in the box provided.

PPC members are:

Gladys Leger (Chair); Jeff Freeman (Vice-Chair); Barbara Cardwell Glanz (Secretary); Patricia Baxter (Vice-Secretary); Nicole Cumming; Louise Degeling; Bernard French; Martin French; Helen Glennon; Anthony O'Neill; Patricia Slattery; Ken Stewart; Wilhelmina Woods.

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.

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.

Reflection by Greg Sunter Living the Gospel Bad Things / Good People

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

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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