

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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

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

Administrator

**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 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

**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

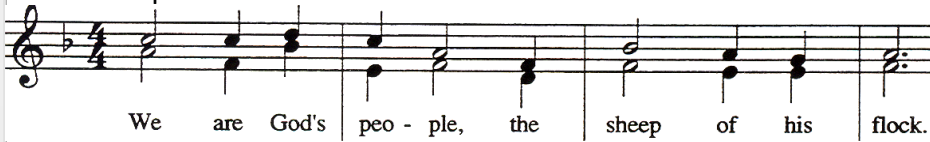
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

**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!* I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 19th May 2019

Acts 14: 21-27; Apoc 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-35.

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

**Recently Deceased:** Patrick Gibson.

**Anniversaries:** Keith McGuigan, Richard Kemp, Mary Moulds.

**Remembrances:** Miles Burns, Kathleen Cairns, Mary, Katerina & Frank Justic.

**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, 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, Ian Wilks, Carolynn Jupp, Ed Hyland, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Mary Dolan, John Corrigan, Hanna El Khatib, Tim Parker, Lorraine Smith, Alison Richmond, June Townsend, Kathy Ward, Audey Barsenbach, Ken Joyce, Josie Weate, Ernie Mullins, Guy-Denis Farla, John Cregan, Francis Flagan, Brooke Simmons.

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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**

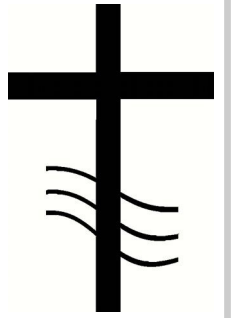
**Hospitality**

**Adult & Child Faith Formation**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**12 May 2019, Year C**

**Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.**



The passages from the Gospels where Jesus likens us to being sheep leave me a bit cold. I think I must lose something in the translation from first century Palestine to today. Most of the sheep I have ever watched may well be cute, in a woolly sort of way, but they are anxious creatures often running in packs in every direction, are notoriously stupid and difficult to manage or direct. On second thoughts maybe the analogy is not so bad after all! We, the people of God, can certainly be an anxious lot, a bit slow on the uptake and difficult to lead. It's also true, however, that sheep are incredibly useful and adaptable animals. Think about all the places they have been taken throughout the world. They thrive. With all due respect to the vegans, vegetarians and animal liberationists here today, think about the multiple ways they have served humanity.

The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in our homes. They are members of the family.

Shepherds in Jesus' day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus' lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.


The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let's steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.



## Parish News...

**First Holy Communion:** Please pray for our children making their first Holy Communion at weekend Masses through to Pentecost Sunday.

**Charitable Works Fund**  
 \$7 362 was collected at last week's appeal. Thank you for your generosity. A shortfall of \$6 530 now remains. It's not too late to donate—envelopes are on the gathering area table. Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible. Taxation receipts will be issued after the end of June.

**Fr Timothy will be away** from the Parish this Monday to Friday (13th-17th May). There will be no Adoration after Monday morning Mass.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, 14 May at 7pm. Parishioners with suggestions or ideas that they'd like discussed at that meeting should leave written details in the box on the gathering area table. Also, the PPC will also be hosting a.....

**Cuppa after 5pm Mass** next Saturday night, 18th May in the Leo Mahon room.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 17/5/19:** Kevin Glacken, Elena Egan, Brian Jordan & Veronica Jordan.

**Children's Liturgy 19/5/19:** Ingrid Stevens, Mimi Lambert & Jenny Fitzgerald.

**The 2019 St. Vincent de Paul Winter Clothing Appeal** will be held on the weekend of 25/26th May. Bags for this appeal are available in the gathering area. Please give generously to assist the poor.

**Expression of Interest:** Seeking volunteer/s to perform Sacristan duties on a rostered basis. Please speak to Fr Timothy or call the Parish Office.

**Fr Philip's farewell gift:** For those wishing to contribute, a leaving collection will be taken at all weekend Masses next weekend, 18/19th May.

### Prayer for a New Bishop

Heavenly Father and Eternal Shepherd, you watch over and govern your flock with vigilance and concern.

In your immense love, grant to your Church a pastor who will please you by his holiness and aid us with his unfailing care.

In your time, grant us the joy of welcoming a shepherd formed after your own heart.

May he be an example of virtue to your people and, imbued with the power of the Holy spirit, fill their minds with the truth and beauty of the Gospel.

Grant wisdom, O Lord, to those now discerning your holy will in the selection of our new bishop.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and through the intercession of our mother, Mary Star of the Sea.  
Amen.

### Reflection by © Fr Michael Tate

You and I are Gentiles – part of the non-Jewish world. We are the sort of Christians we are, because of St Paul. He became the strongest advocate of the grace that the early Christian community should be inclusive of all nations and tribes and ethnic groups on the face of the earth. We have not yet realised this potential.

What riches of intellectual traditions, cultural expressions, and organisational structure are we still to receive from the Chinese, the Korean, the Indonesians, the Africans, the Indian Catholics who are part of our 'Church without Borders'?

How do we maintain unity and identity amongst such diversity? By listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But it takes a good teacher to help us to hear The Voice in the clamour of life.

Some of those teachers may be found amongst the Bishops who carry a shepherd's staff. But at least in my experience the best assistant-shepherds have been my parents, and some others. They have helped me hear The Voice assuring me that I will never perish, that I will receive eternal life.

That is a Voice worth following! We could pause for a moment to get on the same wavelength as the Good Shepherd so as to echo His Voice in our lives.

## The World Community for Christian Meditation Australia (NSW)

### INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

"Be still and know that I am God" psalm 46, v10

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Monday Evening: 6 – 7 pm

6 May, 13 May, 20 May, 27 May, 3 June and 17 June

For more information contact Marian: 0432 882 776

### Mt Carmel Retreat Centre May retreats

Where: 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville

Ph: 8795 3400

retreats@carmelite.com.au

[www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

Mary MacKillop, Woman of faith and Vision

May 17 – May 19

Presenter: Sr Ann Morrison, RSJ

Cost: \$300 (concessions apply)

"Believe the whisperings of God to your own heart."

A week with the Carmelite Saints

May 27 – June 2

Presenter: Fr Aloysius Rego, OCD

Cost: \$800 (concessions apply)

How can the Carmelite Saints guide us in our journey to intimacy with God?

Directed retreat

May 27 – June 2

Cost: \$800 (concessions apply)

A time of reflection and prayer on your own spiritual journey with the help of a director.

**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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