

**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.

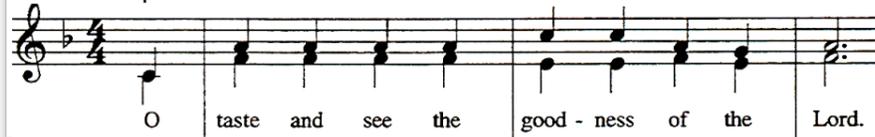
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
Baptism Preparation - 9.30am second and fourth Sunday of the month  
Sacrament of Baptism - 11.00am first and third Sunday of the month . Please contact the parish office for more information.

**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



O taste and see the good-ness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*  
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

Readings: 7th April 2019 Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11.  
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:** Barney Mungoven, Patricia Longworth.  
**Anniversaries:** Kevin Easterbrook, Ireneo & Eleuteria Alejaga, Frank Savage.  
**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, Carolyn 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, Ken Joyce.

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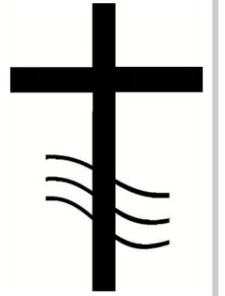


# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

## 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



### 4th Sunday of Lent

**31 March 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 4)**  
**Gospel Reflection © Fr Michael Tate .**

Last year I went to a restaurant with some friends and ordered brains, lambs brains in a caper sauce. Delicious! But some of my friends declared they would like to move to another table! My food was revolting to them. Imagine if, in addition, eating brains was absolutely forbidden by their religion – a very strong religious taboo, so strong that they were forbidden to share a table with someone eating brains. My friends would have definitely moved tables! They would *have* to keep a distance. The Jews of Jesus' time had the same reaction to anything to do with pigs. Pork is not 'kosher'. Pigs are so revolting that what this young man did, living in a pig sty, would have made him unapproachable, unwelcome, to be kept totally at a distance.

So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father who had been grievously wronged by his son who had treated him as dead by demanding his inheritance. Jesus portrays the father as overcoming the distance between them by running to his son and embracing him, still stinking of the pig sty.

Why? Because he regarded his son as someone 'who was lost and now is found.' That is Jesus' portrayal of his heavenly Father's relationship with us. God always keeps an eye out for the return of a dearly loved daughter/son who has got lost in the maze of life. Sometimes that son or daughter, you or me, deliberately strays from the path. More often, perhaps, we stray to a far off place out of sheer carelessness, not paying attention to all the signs which tell us how to be fully human and whole-hearted children of God.

Jesus says to you and to me: 'My heavenly Father is of such a character that he will run to meet you as soon as you set foot on the path home. All he wants to do is to embrace you, welcome you and celebrate the fact that *you are found.*' This is the amazing truth: God runs towards us in order to overcome the distance as soon as possible!

We can easily imagine ourselves as the younger brother in this story. But sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God's forgiveness whilst we say: 'Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders.'

But perhaps we may find an opportunity to be more like the father in this story, very ready to forgive, too ready in the eyes of some. And, yet, when a person adopts the model of the father as portrayed by Jesus – history can change.

When Nelson Mandela came to power in South Africa, throwing off the evil power of white supremacy, he could have tried to 'get even', to operate in terms of revenge, bloodshed – at least, of crime and punishment.

Instead, he established a *Truth and Reconciliation* Commission. If the truth of complicity in racism was admitted at a public hearing, then the person making the admission would be reconciled to the new national community. Civil war was averted.

Truth and Reconciliation. These go together for us also, not in a public session of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but at times in a private session of the Truth and Reconciliation Sacrament.

Especially in this time of Lent, we have the opportunity to reveal the truth of our situation and to say with the younger brother: 'I have sinned against God and those I have harmed.'

And our heavenly Father, who had already started running towards us when we first turned to come to Confession, embraces you. Reconciliation is achieved. God simply wants to say 'You were lost, now you are found.'

Now, that is worth a celebration!



## Parish News...

**Fr Philip will be leaving us** to take up the role of Administrator of Warnervale Parish until December 2019. He will relocate to Warnervale on 29 April 2019. A farewell will be organised on Sunday, 28th April—details to follow.

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

**Readers Roster for Holy Week:** Please advise of your availability to assist by writing your name on the list in the servers sacristy.

**Liturgy Team meeting:** Thursday, 4th April, 7.00pm in the boardroom.

**Chrism Mass:** will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 16 April at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The parish bus will be available, leaving at 5.15pm. Please call the parish office on 4341 1073 to book a seat.

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation:** to be held on Thursday, 11th April at 7pm.

### **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, 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).

**Anointing of the Sick** will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday 5 April.

**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.

**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](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 5/4/19:** Mary McCumstie, Linda Potestas, Reg Harrington & Pam Hickey.

**Paschal Lambs:** Will be available for \$8.

## Holy Week 2019

### Holy Thursday

**7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper**

### Good Friday

**9:00am - Stations of the Cross -  
in our Church**

**10:00am - Stations of the Cross at  
SJB Primary School**

**21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy**

**12:00pm—Last Seven Words of Jesus**

**3:00pm - The Lord's Passion**

### Easter Saturday

**8:00am - Devotion to Mother of  
Sorrows**

**7:00pm—Easter Vigil**

### Easter Sunday

**7:30am, 9:15am and 6:00pm**

### Easter Monday

**9:00am**

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 on the table in 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.

**Position Vacant:** Casual Housekeeping at St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre, Kincumber South. Please apply by email to Sister Ellen Daniel at

[bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au](mailto:bookings@stjosephsretreat.org.au)

## **Fransalian Quote on Prayers**

“Through devotion, your family cares become more peaceful, mutual love between husband and wife becomes more sincere, the service we owe to the prince more faithful, and our work, no matter what it is, becomes more pleasant and agreeable.”

**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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