

**OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

0438 631 327

"He must increase, I must decrease"

**Administrator**

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

**Assistant Priest**

Fr. A Lourdeswamy M.S.F.S.

**Office Secretary**

Triona Meagher

**Admin Assistant**

Raelene Spithill



**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 / PO Box 264, WOY WOY NSW 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073

Email: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

**St John the Baptist Primary School**

St John the Baptist Primary School is now enrolling for Kindergarten 2021. For all enquiries

P: 02 4341 0884 E: www.sjbwoywoy.dbb.org.au

**Follow us:**

Website

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/woywoy>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptist.woywoy>



**Mass Times:** Please note the time changes to **weekday morning Mass and Sunday evening Mass**

Monday - Friday **8:30am**,  
Saturday 9am (Adoration after) & 5pm;  
Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am & **5pm**.

Healing Mass (1st Friday of the month); 4pm;

**Confession Times:**

Friday 9am, 3:30pm (1st Friday of the month );

Saturday **9:30 am**; 4:30pm;

Sunday 7am.

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

**Anniversary:** Tom Smith, Emily Shelley, Shirley Job.

**Recently Deceased:** Barry Jehan, Xavier Droulers, Bryan Moroney, Bob Voysey, Doris Tancred.

**Remembrance:** Ruperto Potestas Sr.

**Sick:** Hanaa El Khatib, Josephine Weate, Mabel Torres, Tristan Mulligan, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Joan Fleming, Maria Linda Cabatingan, Eileen Jones, Larry Sheil, Pauline Hogan, Pat Savage, Ernie Mullins, John Mitchell, Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Donna Vella, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morreti, Luis Emilio Garrido, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Rose Aloisio, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Marta Panczyna, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Karen Chorazyczewska, Max Annett, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Andrew Muggs, Roger Mitchell, Maureen Fotheringham, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Eileen Jones, Marie McNamee, Georgie Brigdale.



**Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services**

1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy.

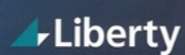
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Amanda Lawer Liberty Adviser  
0478 055 609



**\$300 donation to a local community centre\***

\*For St John's parishes 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 91 158 628) (Australian Credit Licence 408042) (NSD) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 65 077 241 983) which owns LMS.



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**Hardwick's on Blackwall**  
(Opposite corner to our church)  
4/115 Blackwall Rd,  
Woy Woy

Tel: 1300 663 753  
1/77 Rawson Rd Woy Woy



**WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH**  
**St John the Baptist Catholic Church**



**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Year A (Psalter Week 4)**

It is important now that **everyone at our celebration wear a mask**. People are encouraged to bring their own mask. However, there will be a supply of them available for those who may have forgotten one, a small donation to cover this cost is greatly appreciated. For further guidelines about masks, including mask types and who should and shouldn't wear them can be found here; <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/face-masks>.



Two little brothers, Harry and James, had finished supper and were playing until bedtime. Somehow, Harry hit James with a stick, and tears and bitter words followed. Charges and accusations were still being exchanged as their mother prepared them for bed. She said, "Now boys, what would happen if either of you died tonight and you never had the opportunity again for forgiving one another?" James spoke up, "Well, OK, I'll forgive him tonight, but if we're both alive in the morning, he'd better look out."

A married couple was going through a rough time. In the process, they both said and did things that hurt one another deeply. But with patience and commitment, they worked things out, and began moving forward together.

But not completely. One day the wife complained, "Why is it that you keep bringing up my past mistakes? I thought that you had forgiven and forgotten." "I have forgiven and forgotten," said the husband, "but I don't want you to forget that I have forgiven and forgotten."

When someone hurts us, it is very difficult to forgive and to forget. This is what makes today's gospel so challenging. Jesus is relentless in his insistence that we do not forgive people once, or seven times, but seventy times seven times. And what are we to make of that strange violent verse that ends the gospel, where Jesus assures us that our heavenly Father will hand us over to the torturers unless we forgive our brothers and our sisters from our hearts? What is that about? Whatever happened to a compassionate and understanding God? As strange as it may seem, that violent verse at the end of the gospel is the key to understanding the parable itself. For it is not telling us what God will do, but in fact what will happen to us if we do not forgive. If we refuse to forgive, we will live in torment, unless we change our minds. For the simple human truth is this: when we have been injured deeply, we can never recover until we forgive.

Now we should be clear on what forgiveness is and what it is not. Forgiveness is not pretending that everything is fine. It is not making an excuse for the person who offended us. It is certainly not putting ourselves back into the same situation where we can be hurt again. (In fact, in some cases, the best decision is to break off contact with the person who has hurt us) But what forgiveness is, is realizing that we cannot change the past and refusing to let what we cannot change control us. Because if we refuse to forgive, if we choose to feed our hurt, that hurt can grow and deepen and compound with anger and hatred. That hurt will rule our lives and hold us captive.

This is an old truth. Centuries before the birth of Christ, the Greek play, *Medea* was written. In this drama Medea kills her own children to exact revenge on her husband, who committed adultery. When her husband asks her, how could she kill her own flesh and blood just to spite him, Medea calmly answers, "Because I hate you more than I love them." Feeding a hurt creates a monster, a monster that can destroy us. The only way to slay that monster is forgiveness.

Forgiveness does not mean that we make excuses for the evil that was done. It certainly does not mean that we relax our vigilance to protect ourselves in the future. We are called to forgive the terrorists, not because they deserve it, but because we need it. For if we try to build a future based on hatred and revenge, we will become what we hate. Mahatma Gandhi, a man who knew much about humanity and world relations, once said, "If we base our relationships to one another on revenge, if we deal with one another based upon 'an eye for an eye,' soon the whole world will be blind."

Jesus is not being cruel in today's gospel. He is warning us about a hard truth. Feeding a hurt will destroy us. What happens in our life is not always fair; it is not always right. But if we want to be free, if we want to be at peace, if we want to live, we must forgive our brothers and sisters from our hearts.

*We The Woy Woy Catholic Parish acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.*

### Covid19 Updates:

*It is extremely important that every Parishioner is aware of the health advice during this Pandemic. If the Church is found to be in breach of these guidelines we will find ourselves with a hefty fine so PLEASE read the signs and the notices and familiarise yourself with the information provided. — IF YOU FEEL UNWELL PLEASE STAY HOME*

The number of people per Masses has been capped again. The maximum number allowed is 100 people. When you arrive for Mass there will be someone at the sign-in table conducting a headcount. Once 100 people are signed in, any remaining people will be invited to attend the Walter Baker Hall where a simultaneous Mass will be held. **It is imperative that EVERY PERSON who enters the church or Hall for Mass puts their name and contact details on the list in the Gathering Space. This includes Musicians, Servers and Readers.** This information will be handed over the Health Department should an outbreak occur.

**Attention Readers, Servers & Musicians (organists and cantors)** Please note that readers, servers & musicians are included in 100 person headcount. Fr Timothy has asked those rostered to arrive a little earlier than normal to sign in. **Can readers sit in the small section at the front of the Church which is reserved for Servers.**

**Hand Sanitizer:** There is hand sanitizer available for use in the Church. It is located at entry to rear doors and gathering table. Also available at the Walter Baker Hall. Please wash your hands when entering and leaving the Church.

**Collections:** The collection containers will be on the font walls, just inside the church doors. Collection bags are **NOT** to be passed around.

**Face Masks:** To be worn at Mass including upon entering and when leaving.

**Singing:** Chanting is permitted during our services however it is asked you still refrain from singing. The Cantor is to sing alone.

### Parish News:

**Cleaning Roster: 18/09/20** Jo Salter, Cheryl Sillick, Peter Smith, Rano Spiteri.

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** PGE are available for collection from the table. For those not attending Church at the moment, You may have a friend or family member could collect them, if not contact the Parish Office to arrange an alternative option.

One of our eldest Parishioners, Verna Palmer (101), will be leaving our Parish soon. She spoke so highly of the warmth and community spirit that she will greatly miss when she moves away. Verna would like to thank everyone for their years of support and friendship.

*Thank You*

A big thank you to everyone who has so kindly donated during these difficult times  
Your ongoing generosity and support is incredibly appreciated.

### YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Ministry is currently very active in continuing their preparation for our youth. Bernie O'Keeffe and the team have been the empowering force in advocating this exciting ministry.

We are refreshing our training of Mentorship of our Components of Youth Ministry.

Advocacy: Bernie O'Keeffe/ Sharron O'Keeffe

Evangelisation: Amanda Lawer

Catechist: Ann Hall/ Kiliti

Community Life: Danny Mourani

Praise & Worship: Rosie Naati/Amanda

Justice: Ingrid & Speranza

Pastoral Care: Seilina Naati/ Kiliti

Leadership: Kiliti Naati

Our next Youth Ministry meeting will be with a dinner on the 16th of September at 11 Geoffrey Joseph Close, Karing at 7.00pm. Please book this date and make yourself available.

Everyone interested to join the Youth and Young Adult Ministry in this Parish – as Youth Leaders and Mentors - you are welcome to attend our meeting.

Or contact me by email on [sks2230grace@gmail.com](mailto:sks2230grace@gmail.com) or 0412 731 979 or Bernie O'Keeffe on 0417 698 760.

Leaders are required to understand the Anointed and Sent Model of Youth Ministry before exercising your gifts as a Leader. I hope we will resume Youth Group Gathering nights when we are ready. He must increase, we must decrease. Kiliti.

### Parish Collections:

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish at this time please find the bank details below. It is vital that you indicate in the reference what the donation is for. If you are a planned giver please provide your name and envelope number in the reference line.

Bank: Commonwealth Bank  
Account Name: Woy Woy Catholic Parish  
BSB: 062 784  
Account Number: 1200 8001

**1st collection** goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests.

**2nd collection** goes towards all the pastoral and operating expenses of the Parish; phones/photocopier, electricity, insurance, rates, priests' vehicles, staff wages, Presbytery, Church and ground maintenance to name a few.

You can donate via Bpoint by clicking

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/woywoyparish>

You can also donate via Tap and go in the church (this goes to 2nd collection) or credit card. You can pick up a pledge forms from the gathering space or request one from the Parish Office.

**Please consider putting the majority of your donations in the 2nd collection as this is where it is the most needed.**

### First Reading

**SIR 27:30-28:7**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbour's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

### Responsorial Psalm

**PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

### Second Reading

**ROM 14:7-9**

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

### Alleluia

**JN 13:34**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:  
Love one another as I have loved you

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

**MT 18:21-35**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his

wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

### PRAISEFEST

This year Praisefest will be going ONLINE. Come join young people across the diocese as we gather online, participate in community, and break open our faith in a new and fresh way!

We will have very special guest and friend, Fr Rob Galea take us deeper into our theme 'Christ in Me'. Not to mention, there will be some fun and creative segments we've never done before on this online environment that you surely will not want to miss!!!

Date: Friday 18 Sept

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: Zoom Meeting & Live Stream

<https://www.facebook.com/events/361345181560667>



### Families across Broken Bay need your help September 2020 CWF Appeal

Your generous donation will support five Catholic agencies and ministries helping families and neighbours in our Broken Bay Diocese. The Charitable Works Fund Appeal is 100% tax deductible.

*"He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed"* Luke 4:18

**How to give**—Support by making an online donation or by completing a CWF envelope (available in Church). Online donations are allocated towards your parish CWF target.

[www.bbcatholic.org.au/give/charitable-works-fund](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/give/charitable-works-fund)

The assessment for our Parish for this financial year is \$36,512. \$12,171 in Sept 2020, Nov 2020 & May 2021.