

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

"He must increase, I must decrease"

**Administrator**

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

**Office Staff**

Raelene Spithill, Johnson Mani, Triona Meagher.

**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: 0417 659  
526. Practice Wed nights in the church  
@ 7pm. New members welcome.

**Christian Meditation** Monday  
evenings 6-7pm in the Leo Mahon  
room. All welcome. Enquiries 0432 882  
776.

**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 / P.O. Box 264 WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073 Email: woywoyparish@bbccatholic.org.au

Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au

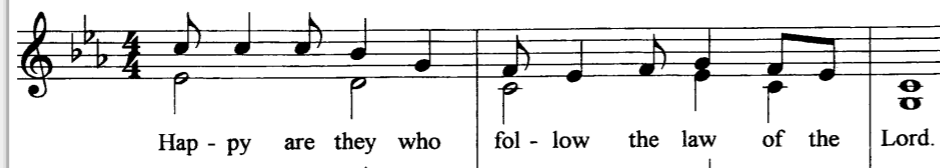
**St John the Baptist Primary School:**

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!* Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

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

**Recently Deceased:** Charles McGinley, Mary Smeaton, Maureen Clarke, Sue James.

**Remembrances:** Sara Salim.

**Anniversaries:** Fatima Fawzy.

**Sick:** John Mitchell, Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina, Geoff Floyd, Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Joan Kelleher, 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 & Rose Aloisio, Amanda Sheridan, Audey Barsenbach, Marta Panczyna, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczewska, Ian Wilks, Michael Hourigan, John Horrigan, Ed Hyland, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Tim Parker, Lorraine Smith, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Alison Richmond, June Townsend, Andrew Muggs, Sheila Houghton, Frank Levy, Dorothy Fulton, Roger Mitchell.

Quotes from *Amoris Laetitia*... "The Joy of Love"  
Pope Francis

We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.

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\$300 donation to a local community centre\*

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\*For St John's parishioners 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 65 151 158 628 | Australian Credit Licence 408042) (LNS) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LNS.

**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**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

16<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Year A (Psalter Week 2)

Gospel Reflection—© Fr Michael Tate



I seem to remember some lines from a poem I learnt at school: 'Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive.'

To guard against deceptions, many societies and organisations, including the Church, require a person to swear an oath to bolster their assertion that they are telling 'the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth'.

But, we have just heard the least observed command of Our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. Referring to oaths he taught, 'Do not swear at all ...instead let your "yes" mean yes and your "no" mean no. Whatever goes beyond these simple words is from the Evil One.'

The early Church took this prohibition extremely seriously. It was only when the Church and State became entwined three hundred years later that that policy changed. The Church preferred to avoid tension with the political authority which required oaths as a supposed guarantee of truthful speaking.

The Church was weak, whereas Our Lord was strong. When He was challenged by the High Priest to swear by the Living God whether He was the Christ, Jesus simply replied: 'The words are yours', refusing to invoke the Living God. (Matt 26:63-64). Aren't we meant to imitate Jesus?

'Yes or No.' Our Lord tells us: '...anything more than this comes from the Evil One.'

This is strong language. Why does Our Lord say this?

In the same Sermon on the Mount, he teaches us the proper use of God's name: 'Our Father'. It is the beginning of the prayer which is Jesus' gift to his community. It is our privilege and right as adopted children of God to use God's name in that way. That is the way in which Our Lord wants us to use the name of God. The use of God's name for oath-swearing is an abuse.

It is clear that Our Lord was trying to establish a new sort of society (The Kingdom) within which truth-telling was of paramount importance, where there is no two tiered way of speaking the truth. Anything more by way of pious veneer devalues plain speaking. Straightforward, unadorned language will do.

Truth telling should issue simply from the character of the person – the truthful person truths.

We know this at the very private level of intimate relationships. Such relationships are easily fractured or soured by lying. At the community level, a society will soon break down if the words of its members cannot be relied on.

It is shocking, but true, to realise that in this respect, secular society is more in conformity with the Sermon on the Mount! At least it allows for observance of Our Lord's injunction. For example, Parliamentarians are offered the choice of an oath or an affirmation in taking up their duties in the Chamber. The Courts offer the same choice, and if the accused makes the affirmation, no adverse inference can be drawn by Judge or jury.

And the Church? The Church needs to listen to the epistle of St James. It was written within living memory of the Sermon on the Mount and is astonishing in recalling this passage almost verbatim, urging it on to a new generation of disciples.

St James, a relative of Our Lord and leader of the Church in Jerusalem, writes, 'Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no so that you may not fall under condemnation.' (James 5:12-13)

The Church needs to put itself under the authority of the Sermon on the Mount, or rather under the authority of the Divine Teacher. Then perhaps it will find itself able to teach the rest of the Sermon with greater credibility, a greater chance of being heard.

The Church needs to hear for itself the final great imperative in this Gospel: 'Teach them to keep all that I have commanded you.' (Matthew 28:20)

## Parish News

**Bus Trip:** Bus trip to Palm Beach, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, leaving 8.45 am. Morning tea supplied. Cost \$20. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of Seniors meet every third Monday. Next cuppa will be 17<sup>th</sup> February in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm. Transport is provided. All are welcome. Enquiries to Pat on 0403 672 077.

**First Holy Communion Programme 2020:** Information night for parents will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30pm in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. Group Leaders: please make every effort to attend. Enquiries - Dorothy Fulton 43417610 Or Parish Office 4341 1073.

**World Day of Prayer:** It is our turn to host World Day of Prayer. The Service will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March Commencing at 10.30 am. There will be approximately 995 services celebrated on the same day across Australia. This years service has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. Refreshments will be held afterwards in the Walter Baker Hall. We would like some help from some of our parishioners to serve and prepare the refreshments. Also we are wondering if we could borrow some Eskys to keep the food cool please. Please call Phoebe Glacken 0416 056 324 or 0407 911 904. Everyone is welcome"

**Coronavirus:** We have received a directive from our Vicar General advising that the Chalice is not to be shared at any Mass but is to be reserved for the Celebrant(s) only.



**Welcome:** On behalf of Fr Timothy and the Parish Community we would like to extend our welcome to Provincial Fr Jayaseelan who will arrive 14<sup>th</sup> of February for a visit to our Diocese. Fr Jayaseelan will stay with us until the 26<sup>th</sup> of February.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February Universal Prayer intention - Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

## SJB PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

**Our Parish Vision is Bringing Jesus Christ to All. : "He must increase, I must decrease".**

I thank everyone who has helped our Youth Ministry with the donations of \$1105.00. We are waiting for the books already ordered on **Anointed and Sent: an Australian Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry**. This is a Comprehensive Youth Ministry Model that we are going to use for our Youth. Training will be resumed soon for the Leaders/Mentors and all Volunteers.

Our Youth Ministry Team are still recruiting for:

**Youth Leaders and Mentors (Aged 18 and over needed - we will train you)**

**Youth Group Members aged 12 - 17**

**Young Adult Members aged 18 - 30**

**Please sign up on pages provided if you want to be a Youth Leader/Mentor**

**A separate sheet for Youth Members aged 12 - 17 & and for Young Adults aged 18 - 30**

**Youth will start with an Open Evening on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March starting at 7.15pm - 8.45pm. Program will be presented with: Prayer**

**Fun Games** (Games to build-self - esteem, self-confidence, teamwork etc)

**Activities** (Film Clip for group discussion - Current youth issues - (Catechesis) Faith development - **Evangelization** - Organizing Field Trips - Outings, Retreat and Seminars, Diocesan Youth Events, World Youth Day Lisbon Portugal 2022, Family Dinner Nights and many others.

We will train the Team (all these Leaders) in Anointed and Sent Model starting on **19th February 2020** and it's an Ongoing Training of Leaders and Mentors. **All adults that are participating are required to be trained and complete Work with Children's check** by the end of this month before activating your gifts and talents to help.

**Youth Ministry Team Meeting and training will be changed to fit in everyone which might include weekends. The books Anointed and Sent will arrive next week and the Training will start straight away. High Schools has been contacted and they will include our Youth Notices in their School Newsletter.**

**Youth Ministry Training will commence on these dates as a start.** Those who cannot make it at these times will be trained in their available time - please let me know in advance.

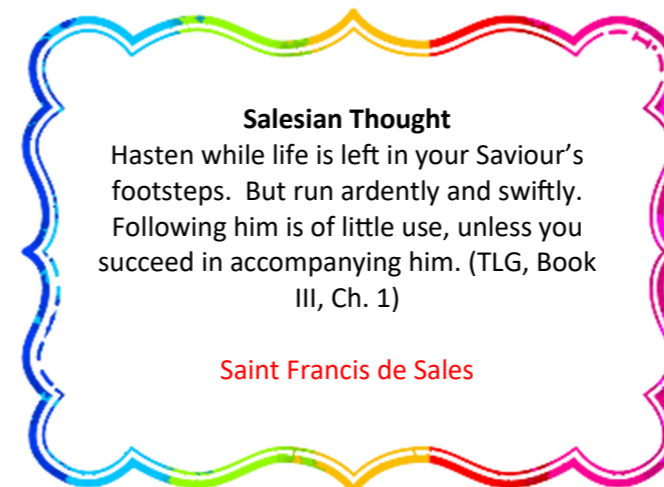
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of February 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of February 7.00pm - 9.00pm**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am - 4.00pm** covering topics on:

What is Ministry? Communication Understanding Adolescence Teamwork Evangelizations. Leadership Understanding the Catholic Faith Anointed and Sent Model with Three Goals and Eight Components.

**Please sign up and contact Kiliti 0412731979 or the Parish Office 4341 1073.**



### Salesian Thought

Hasten while life is left in your Saviour's footsteps. But run ardently and swiftly. Following him is of little use, unless you succeed in accompanying him. (TLG, Book III, Ch. 1)

Saint Francis de Sales

## BRINGING JESUS CHRIST TO ALL THROUGH HOSPITALITY

Hello everyone, The Parish Pastoral Council has chosen Hospitality as a key area for our parish to build upon and strengthen the work already happening here at St John the Baptist. Pope Francis' theme and message on Mission Sunday 2019 is 'Baptised and Sent: The Church of Christ in Communion and Mission in the World'. The Peninsula consists of a diverse community and we often have first-time guests at weekend Masses. How wonderful it is to welcome new parishioners and visitors to our beautiful Church! The second stage of the Hospitality Plan is now beginning. The Parish Pastoral Council has approved a Welcome desk in the foyer, with information to assist current and new parishioners. A Welcome Pack, brochures on our parish school, Ministries and services for those in need, including Mary Macs will be available. Our Peninsula community may not be aware of what our Church has to offer and we have been asked questions in the foyer regarding Sacraments, Reconciliation, Youth groups, Home Communion, Anointing of the Sick and Prayer groups. Our mission has become very clear: To share the welcome and love of Jesus Christ. Through our Parish Mission and Vision, the Hospitality Ministry welcomes all who wish to pray, connect and become followers of Jesus Christ. We seek to be renewed and transformed, inspired by the Holy Spirit. To carry this work we need volunteers as Welcomers who will set up the desk before weekend Masses. All that is needed is some of your weekend time on a monthly roster, a positive attitude and a desire to talk to people. We will be guided in the formation of our ministry by the Diocese. Please contribute your wonderful God-given gifts to this Ministry. Let us make a difference in our world, as followers of our Lord, Jesus Christ. God Bless, Kathie Smith, Coordinator, Hospitality Ministry 0404 058 970.

## St John Paul II Pilgrimage

20 days Pilgrimage to Croatia and All Italian Shrines with Fr Timothy Raj MSFS Spiritual Director. Francis Williams (Travel Coordinator)

Depart Sydney Thursday 3 September 2020 and return Sydney Tuesday 22 September 2020 (17 nights)

### Trip includes

Round-trip airfare Sydney/Dubai/Zagreb/Dubrovnik - Venice/Dubai/Sydney. One way flight Split/Rome 17 nights centrally located 3 stars hotels: (or similar)

**To facilitate planning and finalising of details for this pilgrimage, direct contact can be made with Francis Williams who is the travel co-ordinator. Francis can be contacted by telephone on 0404 893 877 or by email at perthfamily888@gmail.com. Final arrangements will need to be concluded in the next few weeks.**

## Rosters

**Children's Liturgy 23/02/20:** Emma Baker, Christine-French, Gemma French.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 21/02/20:** Jo Salter, Warren Sparrow, Peter Smith, Michael French.

**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 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. New Volunteers are always welcome. Please ring Pat 0403 672 077 or Peter 0425 358 376.

**Ethel Cox Parish Centre - "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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