

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 Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

Admin Assistant

Raelene Spithill



St John the Baptist Primary School

School Enrolments are now being taken for 2021 school year. Enquiries - School Office

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

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Website

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

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

Anniversary: Thomas & Annie Peachey, Margaret Wahlin.

Recently deceased: Mary Hill, Divna Bolanca, Ljubica Stojic, Bozica Bukovac, Moises Binalingbing.

Remembrances: Mary, Katerina & Frank Justic, Mary & George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, the Mills family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.

Sick: Susie Simmons, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Hanaa El Khatib, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Eileen Jones, Larry Sheil, Pauline Hogan, Pat Savage, Ernie Mullins, John Mitchell, Marie Dixon, 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, Max Annett, Karen Chorzyczewska, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Andrew Muggs, Roger Mitchell, Maureen Fotheringham, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Marie McNamee, Georgie Brigdale.



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OUR FAMILY
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Hardwick's on Blackwall

(Opposite corner to our church)
4/115 Blackwall Rd,
Woy Woy

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

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.



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

St John the Baptist Catholic Church



1st Sunday of Advent

29th November 2020, Year B (Psalter Week 1)



One young clergyman preaching his first sermon, was very nervous. He started with the text, "Behold I come!" Then his mind went blank. He bravely repeated, "Behold I come!" Still his frightened brain wouldn't function. So he leaned over the pulpit and repeated once more, "Behold I come!" At that moment the pulpit collapsed. He tumbled over into the lap of a lady. He got up and, red-faced, stammered, "Oh, I'm sorry! Please forgive me!" The lady was not upset in the least and replied, "That's all right. I should have been expecting you. After all you warned me three times!"

The holiday season is taking off. As beautiful as this season is, there is no doubt that it places increasing demands upon us. The preparation for family gatherings, for special meals, for shopping and gifts absorbs our time and our energy. Yet it is possible in the midst of all these activities to miss what is truly important. This is why today's gospel tells us to stay awake, to stay awake to life, to stay awake to what really matters. After all, what is the value of spending hours of preparation to call family and friends together, if the activity of that preparation prevents us from appreciating the people who gather? What advantage is it to find the perfect gift for every person, if the activity of finding that gift makes us irritable or impatient with the people we love? What is the ultimate importance of checking off everything from our holiday list, if such activity blinds us to the moments of grace that God will place in our life?

Those moments of grace are at the heart of the holiday season. Those moments are what we cannot miss. It is for those moments that we must stay awake. Christ is with us, and Christ does plan to bless us in the upcoming weeks, with tenderness, reconciliation, and joy. But the success of the holidays will depend on our ability to recognize those moments and to take them in.

We have heard so many times the word "advent" means "coming". The season of advent is a time to prepare for Christ's coming to us 2000 years ago and Christ's coming to us some day in the future. Jesus tells us emphatically to watch for his coming, to be alert.

Our job is not to sit piously and stare at the sky, recalling Jesus first coming and anticipating his second coming. Our job is to complete the work he gave us to do. Advent is a time when we call to mind in a special way, that when Jesus returns he will judge us on how well we worked to spread God's kingdom on earth. "Christ has died. Christ is risen and Christ will come again" Until he does, we must be about the work he gave us to do.

As Christians, we should be ready not just for the final coming of Christ but for his constant coming every day of lives. If we are alert, we can find the Lord popping up in the ordinary activities and possibilities of life. Recall last Sunday's gospel: Jesus says, "I was hungry, thirsty, naked, sick..." If I am watchful, he may be tapping me on my shoulder when I meet my neighbour.

Advent is the countdown time for the celebration of Christmas. But Christmas is only a pointer to the constant coming of Christ in our lives. When we do Christmas shopping and buy gifts and cards suited to each friend, Jesus comes in the respect we show to the uniqueness of each individual.

May this Holy season of Advent inspire us to meet Christ in all our activities and in all the persons we meet. Let us take the advice of the gospel today and be watchful and be alert always in our preparation to meet Christ. While we are in this world, God is not a stern Judge but a merciful father.

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.

Parish News

Important: Due to the lack of response to our request for bus driver, the Parish bus will only operate on the 1st Sunday of each month for 7:30am & 9:15am Masses. This will be in place as of December 2020.

Christmas Volunteers: A list will be in the Severs Sacristy for those who are available to Volunteer for Christmas & New Years Eve Masses. We are looking for Servers, Readers, Wardens and Covid Marshalls

Covid update: Masks no longer compulsory at Mass however it is still encouraged.

Home Visits: For those Parishioners who would like Confession and Communion in the home or a House Blessing in the lead up to Christmas, please call the Parish Office to register your details.

Divine Will Cenacle: (1yr Anniversary) The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3rd December in the Leo Mahon Room after morning mass. All welcome.

Cash Housie: We are temporarily operating at Ettalong Diggers, Wednesday nights 7.30pm. 50 games, cash prizes. We will return to our normal venue once restrictions lift. Enq: Rob 0427 990 818.

Piety Stall: Columban Calendars \$12, Ark Calendars \$9 & SvdP cards \$2 all available from the Piety Stall. Volunteers needed for Sunday evenings. If we have no one available we will be forced to close the Piety stall for this mass

Cleaning Roster: 4/12/20—Pam Hickey, Linda Potestas, Mary McCumstie, Elana Egan. Additional volunteer church cleaners are needed. Enquiries to Christine 4342 4548.

Youth News: Youth Ministry Team and Leaders and anyone interested are invited to attend our next meeting on the 2nd of December at 7.00pm in the Leo Mahon room. Anyone interested in learning about the Theological Virtues of Faith Hope and Love and the Cardinal Virtues of Prudence Fortitude Temperance and Justice are welcome to attend. This is also a meeting where we decide to start having activities for our young people during school holidays - while still abiding by the rules and regulations of COVID 19. For further Enquiries please contact Kiliti Na'ati on 0412731979 or Bernie O'Keefe on 0417 698 760.

Christmas Hampers: Due to Covid, it has been decided the Christmas hampers won't go ahead this year. Thank you to all those volunteers who normally put in a huge effort every year. If you do find yourself in need this year please call St Vincent de Paul for assistance. Peter 0425 358 376 or Pat 0403 672 077.

From the Diocese

Mass of Inclusion: The annual Mass of Inclusion will be celebrated by Bishop Anthony Randazzo at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara on Sunday, 6 December 2020 at 11.00am. This Mass marks the International Day of Disability (on 3 December) and recognises the ability and dignity of all.

This year, we encourage all to join via the live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNenwlf7i14XB9TsVBrLvQ>

Due to the current restrictions, there are very limited places available for people to attend in person. Should you wish to enquire please contact Nicholas Weir at nicholas.weir@bbcatholic.org.au or phone 8379 1632.

Positions Vacant: Are you keen to be part of a renewed vision for Evangelisation in the Diocese of Broken Bay? After celebrating one year as Bishop of Broken Bay, Bishop Anthony Randazzo is announcing a call out to enthusiastic, faith filled and appropriately skilled people who might help implement his dynamic vision with the following invitation:

There are six new roles available in the Chancery at Broken Bay:

- Team Leader - Catholic Youth;
- Team Leader - Life, Marriage & Family;
- Sacramental Life, Liturgy & RCIA Coordinator;
- Executive Assistant (job share / part time 2 days); and
- Diocesan Pastoral Project Facilitator.
- Diocesan Director, Communications

To apply for these roles or for more information go to www.bbcatholic.org.au/jobs

Parish Collections:

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 weekly envelopes or by the following methods.

Bpoint, which will take you to our Website for secure online payments.

<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 form from the gathering space or request one from the Parish Office.

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish via electronic transfer please contact the Parish Office for the account details.

Reading 1

IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say:

"Let us go to God's house".

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Therefore the tribes of the Lord go up, to praise the name of the Lord.

There were set up the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For the peace of Jerusalem let us pray:

"peace to your homes".

May peace reign in your walls; in your palaces too, be peace.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

For love of my brethren and friends

I say: "Peace be to you!"

For love of the house of the Lord

I will ask the Lord for your good.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Reading 2

1 COR 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia

PS 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love;

and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"



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 incur a hefty fine so PLEASE take note of the information provided.— IF YOU FEEL UNWELL PLEASE STAY HOME

The number of people per Masses will remain at 120 to comply with the social distancing ruling. When you arrive for Mass there will be someone at the sign-in table conducting a headcount. **It is imperative that EVERY PERSON who enters the church or Hall 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 the headcount. **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: not compulsory but encouraged.

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