

### 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](http://www.sjbwoywoy.dbb.org.au)

#### Follow us:

Website

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

Facebook

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



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

Anniversary: .

Recently deceased: Wendy Weir, Juanito Alejaga.

Remembrances: Bianca Tignani.

**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, Sue Campbell.



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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](mailto: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



### 2nd Sunday of Advent

6th December 2020, Year B (Psalter Week 2)



A man who thought he was John the Baptist was disturbing the neighbourhood. So, for public safety, he was forcefully taken to the psychiatric ward of a hospital. He was put in a room with another 'crazy' patient. He immediately began his routine, "I am John the Baptist! The Lord has sent me as the forerunner of Christ the Messiah!" The other guy looked at him and declared, "I am the Lord your God. I did not send you!"

Dear Friends! One message rings out loud and clear from the readings of today's Mass. We hear it in the First reading and it sounds again in the Gospel. That message is: Prepare the way of the Lord...

Locusts and honey are the two foods that the Gospel associates with

John. These foods are intimately connected with John's message. Unless we interpret correctly what he ate, we will not be able to understand what he preached.

Why locusts and honey? Let's start with the locusts. For the young people here who might not know what a locust is, it is an insect similar to a grasshopper. In the ancient world locusts were a sign of utter destruction, of plague, of complete loss. Locusts would travel in swarms of millions and when they would come to an area or a field they would consume every plant. No green thing was left; no seed was uneaten. Locusts mean destruction. Honey, of course, is the sign of plenty, of abundance, as in the "land of milk and honey." Honey was a strong symbol in the ancient world of the bountiful nature of God's blessings.

These two foods, then, represent the two sides of life: the good times and the bad times, the gains and the losses, the joys and the sorrows. What John is telling us by his diet is that the diet of every person consists in these two foods. In each of our lives we have a certain amount of honey, and no one can get through life without having to swallow a few locusts. The food of John the Baptist describes the lives that we live.

This is how John's food is connected to his message. John the Baptist has one of the clearest messages in the Scriptures. We heard it today in the Gospel, "Prepare the way of the Lord." John's message is that God is coming. God is coming, and that is good news. When is God coming? Here's where the food comes in. God is coming in both the locusts and the honey. This connection makes John's message a real challenge, for it takes faith to believe that God is coming to us in both the good times and the bad.

It is easy to believe that God is coming to us in the honey. When we watch our children play and they are healthy and happy, when we look into the eyes of our spouse and realize that we are loved, when we finish a job and know that it is well done and it has made a difference, when we find common ground and reconciliation with an enemy, in those moments it is easy to believe that God is coming. It is easy to see God present in our blessings.

But dare we believe that God also comes to us in our pain? Can God be with us when we worry about a family member who is struggling with depression or Alzheimer's, when we have to face divorce, when we lose our job, when the doctor tells us we have six months to live? Dare we believe then that God is still coming to us in our lives? Our faith tells us that we must. Our faith does not ask us to pretend that the bad times are somehow good times. It does not ask us to imagine that our curses are actually blessings in disguise. But, it does say that in each and every circumstance we must believe that God is coming and we must prepare God's way.

Dear friends! If there is honey on your tongue, savour it. Appreciate the sweetness of your relationships, of your successes, of your gifts. Delight in God's blessings. But if you look down and there are locusts on your plate, do not despair. Even when you wake up to another morning with a heart broken because of the loss of someone that you love, even when your family is in shambles, even when you are weakened by sickness, do not despair. God is still coming. No trouble can keep God away.

The voice of John the Baptist continues to call out, "Prepare the way of the Lord." How God is coming to you in your pain I cannot say. But that God is coming is the Gospel. In that we must believe. Whether with honey or with locusts, God is coming—and that is the best possible thing.

*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. This will be in place as of December 2020.

**Covid update:** The latest changes pertain to the social distancing measurements however, this will not affect our church as we are still working off the 1.5m distancing.

**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.

**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.

**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. Joy of the Bible, *Reflections 2021*. also available. Donations for this Diary will go to the MSFS missions. Volunteers needed for Sunday evenings.

**Cleaning Roster: 11/12/20**—Warren Sparrow, Elena Egan, Christina Thorson, Maria Owen.

**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.

### 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.

**Mingaletta** is a volunteer run organisation providing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and family support. It is the only AATSI community centre based in the Umina/Woy Woy area, ensuring there is a meeting place where all can be part of a community and celebrate their culture. Mingaletta also offer range of activities, programs and services including health and welfare programs, advocacy services for cultural programs, social support community engagements and educational programs, to enhance the wellbeing of everyone. They especially assist those who are homeless, displaced or at risk of family breakdown. When necessary, such cases are referred to varying support services.

If you would like to make contribution to this wonderful organisation please give them a call on 02 4342 7515 or call into the centre at 6 Sydney Avenue Umina Beach. Cash donations, particularly at this time of the year, are gratefully accepted.

### Attention all kids:

The Kids' Bulletins are a resource for Catholic children who would like to have some fun while learning about the readings from the Sunday Mass every week. To learn more click <https://thekidsbulletin.com/about/> To access the bulletins click <https://thekidsbulletin.com/tag/the-kids-bulletin/> To access free online Children's liturgy of the Word videos click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg9euOFFmsu-xX7S2tCcNA> or search Heidi Witte- YouTube.



*Christmas Mass Times 2020  
St John the Baptist Parish,  
Woy Woy Peninsula*

54 Victoria Rd  
Woy Woy

December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve

5:30pm - SJB School Oval

25a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

6:00pm - Church

8:00pm - Church

10:00pm - Church

December 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day

7:30 am - Church

7:45am - Walter Baker Hall

9:15 am - Church

9:30am - Walter Baker Hall

December 26<sup>th</sup>: Boxing Day

9:00 a.m.

December 31<sup>st</sup>: New Years Eve

6:00pm (Adoration)

7:00pm

January 1<sup>st</sup>: New Years Day

9:00am

4pm Mass Cancelled

• School Mass can accommodate up to 500 people  
• Maximum of 120 in the church  
• Numbers for WBH to be announced.

## Reading 1

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

### Responsorial Psalm

**R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, and to a king's son give your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in righteous judgement.

**R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.**

In his days, justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the bounds of all the earth.

**R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and he will save the lives of the poor.

**R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun.

Every tribe shall be blessed in him, and all the nations will bless his name.

**R. In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.**

## Reading 2

2 PT 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise

we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

### Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

LK 3:4, 6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

MK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### 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.