

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



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

Anniversary: Ann Culmer, Patricia Hogan.

Recently deceased: Eileen Shannon, Marie 'Teresa' Arahill, John Owen, Pauline Hogan, Norma Petersen.

Remembrances: Ivan Adolfo Guzman, Mary Bjebou.

Sick: Susie Simmons, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Hanaa El Khatib, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Eileen Jones, Larry Sheil, Pat Savage, Ernie Mullins, John Mitchell, Marie Dixon, Maureen Fotheringham, 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, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Marie McNamee, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell.



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OUR FAMILY
Caring For Your Family



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



3rd Sunday of Advent

13th December 2020, Year B (Psalter Week 3)



Kevin was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and could not find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up my Irish whiskey during Advent and Lent. Miraculously a parking place appeared. Kevin looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

Dear friends! Today we light the rose candle and the priest wears rose vestments to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our saviour. The common theme running through today's readings is one of joy, encouragement and the need for preparation required from those of us who are awaiting the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. There is a

second common theme, namely, witness. The prophet Isaiah, Mary and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people.

Today's readings remind us that the past, present and the future coming of Jesus is the reason for our rejoicing. The first reading tells us that we should rejoice because the promised messiah is coming as our saviour and liberator, saving us by liberating us from our bondages. The responsorial psalm of the day is taken from Mary's "Magnificat," in which she exclaims: "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my saviour."

St. Paul in the second reading advises us to "rejoice always" by leading a blameless, holy and thankful life guided by the Holy Spirit because Christ is faithful in his promise that he will come again to reward us. Today's gospel tells us that John the Baptist came as a witness to testify to the light, i.e., Jesus, and the coming of Jesus the light into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world.

We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptist, we too are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the light of the world. We are to reflect his light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today's liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community.

There is a story told about a man from Louisville, Kentucky, who had to travel to St. Louis on business. This was years ago when Christians kept Sunday as a very special day. After he finished up his business late Saturday night, he had to stay over in St. Louis until the following Monday morning. On Sunday morning, he left the hotel looking for a place to worship. The streets were quite deserted, but finally he saw a policeman and asked him for directions to the nearest church. The stranger thanked the policeman for the information and was about to walk off when he turned and asked the policeman: "Why have you recommended that particular church? It looks like a Catholic church. There must be several churches nearby that you could have recommended."

The policeman smiled and replied: "I'm not a church man myself, but the people who come out of that church are the happiest looking church-people in St. Louis and they claim that they have received Jesus and they are happily taking him to their homes. I thought that would be the kind of church you would like to attend." Can you and I go home happily after our Mass whenever we come for Mass here? How can we rejoice always? When we put our trust and hope in God, then even in difficult times when there is a storm at the surface, we can "rejoice always" deep within.

In the Gospel John the Baptist was asked, "Who are you?" and he declared, "I am not the Messiah" In John the Baptist we see a model for our own spirituality, knowing our smallness and nothingness, that we are not worthy to untie even the sandal strap of the Lord. John pointed away from himself to Jesus. Humility, like that of John the Baptist in the Gospel today, brings happiness.

These beautiful texts we heard proclaimed from the Word of God today remind us that true joy and happiness is to be found only in God. If we are not finding our joy and happiness in God, we are under an illusion and sooner or later God will give us the painful grace of allowing that illusion to give way to reality. God is the answer. Only in God can we find true joy and happiness. Those who abandon God are on the road to sorrow and pain. Advent reminds us that the joyful answer to our problems lies in God. Any unhappiness we experience is really an experience of the lack of God. God is the fulfillment of our anxieties and worries, of our needs, of our greed.

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

2nd Rite of Reconciliation: We will be having our 2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 16th December at 7pm.

Peter's Pence: This weekend is the belated Peter's Pence collection. This will be a special leaving collection however, envelopes can be found on the pew or on the gathering table if preferred.

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. The Diocese has published a list of frequently asked questions. You can find a copy of this on the gathering table. If there is none left, please feel free to contact the Parish Office and we can provide a copy for you.

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.

Thank you: Jeff Freeman would like to thank the following people for their assistance in helping him with the set-up of the Nativities, Christmas tree and decorations in the church; Pat and Joy Anthony, and seminarian Huy Tan.

Please take one: Jesus Christ, our beginning and end - A Pastoral letter from Bishop Anthony Randazzo to the community of the Church of Broken Bay. 2020-2021.

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.

Cleaning Roster: 18/12/20—Reg Harrington, Tom French, Linda Potestas, Christina Thorson.

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.

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

54 Victoria Rd
Woy Woy

December 24th: Christmas Eve

5:30pm - SJB School Oval

21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

6:00pm - Church

8:00pm - Church

10:00pm - Church

December 25th: Christmas Day

7:30 am - Church

7:45am - Walter Baker Hall

9:15 am - Church

9:30am - Walter Baker Hall

December 26th: Boxing Day

9:00 a.m.

December 31st: New Years Eve

6:00pm (Adoration)

7:00pm

January 1st: 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.

We're Back!

Cash Housie

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.30pm, 51 Games
A set of 6 costs \$50 and additional tickets can be added on paper or to your electronic tickets.

Prizes in first 2 books are all \$100 and pink games \$150, then last book all \$200 prior to the \$2000 Jackpot (reverts to \$1000 if not won within calls).

Ticket sales from 6.30pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818 or

wwwcphousie@hotmail.com or [https://](https://www.facebook.com/woywoybingo/)

www.facebook.com/woywoybingo/

NEW SESSION:

Tuesday nights at Everglades Country Club, Dunbar Rd
Woy Woy.

7.30PM, 23 games only \$10 for a set of 6 tickets.

Paper tickets and pets available.

Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Road, Woy
Woy NSW 2256

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://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg9euOFFmsu-xX7S2tCcNA)

www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg9euOFFmsu-xX7S2tCcNA

or search Heidi Witte- YouTube.

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 61:1-2A, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

My soul glorifies the Lord,

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour,

He looks on his servant in her nothingness;

Henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

The Almighty works marvels for me

.....Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

On all those who fear him.

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

He fills the starving with good things,

Sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant

Rememb'ring his mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

Reading 2

1 THES 5:16-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Alleluia

IS 61:1 (cited in LK 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to

testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



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.