

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

Follow us:

Website

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

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



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.

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

Anniversary: Margherita Bugeja, Joe & Maria Bajo.

Recently deceased: Elizabeth Gallagher, Sr Mary Constable, Allen Edgecombe.

Remembrances: James & Faella Casey, Bryan Moroney, Mary Dolan, John Doherty, Marie Therese (Terry) Hall, Lilith Jordan, Bruno de Souza, Sergei de Souza, Val & Frank McLenaghan.

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

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0478 055 609

Liberty

\$300 donation to a local community centre*

*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 65 151 158 626) [Australian Credit Licence 408042] (LND) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LND.



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church



4th Sunday of Advent

20th December 2020, Year B (Psalter Week 4)



One of the most beautiful of the modern Christmas songs was written by a man who is best known, perhaps, as a comedian. His name is Mark Lowry. Lowry is also a musician of some note. He performed for many years with the Gaither Vocal band. In 1984 he was asked to pen some words for his local church choir, and he wrote a poem that began like this, "Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?" A few years later guitarist Buddy Greene added a perfectly matching tune and a wonderful song was born. The most popular version is sung by Kenny Rogers and Wynonna Judd. Mary, did you know ... ? How could Mary know what was happening to her when the angel Gabriel came to her long ago?

"Let it be done to me according to your Word." The history of the world turned on that line. All that God planned to do to save us, the gift that divine love wanted to give us hung on Mary's response, on her willingness to cooperate. Her choice was a free choice, for Mary could have said "no". It would have been easy to find many reasons to say "no." She could have responded to Gabriel by saying, "Wow! This is unexpected. Sort of out of the blue. How long before you need my answer? I'd really like to think about this. I know that God has a plan, but I'm rather upset about being brought into it at the very last minute.

And really, to tell you the truth, it's not the best time for me. I'm really busy with the wedding and all coming up. We still have to pick a hall and get flowers; I've already bought the dress and it's not going to fit if I'm pregnant.

And the more I think about it, this idea of conceiving by the Holy Spirit without a human father, it's kind of peculiar, isn't it? I really wish God would rethink that part of the plan. Joseph is a great guy, but I don't think he'll sign off on that.

So why don't we just leave it this way: first of all, tell God that I'm very honoured to be considered. But the plan is really not that well thought out. So why don't you take it back and work on it a bit? Put some more detail in it, iron out some of the wrinkles, and we'll talk again after the wedding."

Mary could have said "no", but she didn't. What she said was, "Let it be done to me according to your Word." Without much preparation, with very few details, and with a lot of things that were unsettling at best, Mary said "yes" to God. She said "yes" because she trusted that God had a plan and would not abandon her. Because she said "yes", we have Jesus; we have eternal life; and we are preparing to celebrate Christmas.

Mary is our model, our model always. Like Mary, God's request is very likely to come out of the blue, without much preparation. Like Mary, the call might be unexpected, or even unwanted. It certainly will come at a very busy time. But unlike Mary, we should not expect an angel to announce it to us. Therefore, we need to be watching, watching for the opportunities that God provides, waiting for our chance to say either "yes" or "no".

That chance might come with a sudden twist in our plans—something unexpected that looks like an intrusion—something our children need or our parents expect.

It might come because we have a sadness to bear in this holiday season—a sadness because someone we love is not with us, a sadness because there are tensions in our family. When that sadness emerges, we can either hold it in and let it cause anger and depression in our hearts, or we can accept the truth that there is a sadness that we cannot change and reach out to others in love and in hope. We can say, "Let it be done to me according to your Word."

It might happen as we gather together with family and friends. Suddenly we could be faced with an opportunity to affirm somebody we love, to forgive someone who has hurt us, to listen to someone who is in need. When that opportunity presents itself, we can either choose to forge ahead with all of the other things that we have to do, or we can stop and accept the invitation to do God's will. We can choose to say, "Let it be done to me according to your Word."

Mary is our model, the model of how God chooses to interact with us. What God does is invite our cooperation and then wait for our response. Do not expect to see the angel Gabriel, but watch for the opportunities. They will be there. When you see them, be like Mary. Say "yes." Say "yes" to God's request, "yes" to God's will. Do your part in bringing Jesus into our world.

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.

Season's Greetings

Oh Holy Night



Parish News

Welcome: A very warm welcome to all those who will be joining us over this Christmas and New Years period, in celebration the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Word from our Bishop: In my Decree of 18 March 2020, in response to the crisis of the pandemic, I dispensed the Faithful of the Diocese of Broken Bay from the ordinary obligation to be present at the Sunday Eucharist. Now with the welcome situation that has developed, with gratitude to God, I rescind the Decree and call upon and encourage the Faithful to resume their obligations as part of the living Body of Christ. Under Canon 1247, the Faithful are now once more obliged to attend Mass on Sunday and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption. Notwithstanding, those who are aged or have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risk of Covid19 are free to remain at home, honouring the Lord's day through the best way open to them. Some examples are participation in live-streamed Mass, private prayer reading the Scripture, praying the Rosary.

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.

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: 23/12/20 - Kevin Glacken, Laurie Jarvis, Christine French, Cheryl Sillick. *Thank you to all Church Cleaners for your commitment this year. The rosters for 2021 are ready for collection in the Leo Mahon Room.*

NOTE: If you do find yourself in need over the Christmas/New Year period, please call St Vincent de Paul for assistance. Peter 0425 358 376 or Pat 0403 672 077.

Cash Housie

Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.30pm, every Saturday night. 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 wwcphousie@hotmail.com or <https://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

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.

You can find our Christmas Mass Times



Noticeboard
Website
Facebook
Or call Parish Office



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

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' " "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts forever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen ones;

I have sworn to David my servant:

I will establish your dynasty forever,

and set up your throne for all ages to come".

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

He will say to me: "You are my Father,

my God, the rock who saves us".

I will keep my love for him always;

for him my covenant shall endure.

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2

ROM 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia

LK 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

LK 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Nativity of the Lord, Readings

Thursday 24th December

Vigil

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17,22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Friday 25th December

Dawn

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:11-12

2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18



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.