

**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: parish@woywoycatholic.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! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

Readings: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

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

**Recently deceased:** Phillip Joseph O'Neill.

**Anniversaries:** Marie-Thérèse & Pierre Stanislas, Ken Moses, Dorothy Lahlberg, Ochanya Elizabeth Igba.

**Remembrances:** Tom Fauvette, Bugeja Family, Grima Family, Catania Family, Doris Galea, Nora, Eli, Kevin & Paul Houghton, Bruno & Sergei de Souza, de Souza & Menezes Families.

**Sick:** Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina, Geoff Floyd, Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Joan Kelleher, Brian Smith, Jason Simon, 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, Sue James, 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\*

Home and Car Loans Business Loans SMSF Loans Personal Loans

\*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**



**The Baptism of the Lord**

**12<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Year A**

**Gospel Reflection - © Fr Richard Leonard SJ**



These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'. This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.



## Parish News

**Parish Office:** The Parish Office will be closed Monday 13/01 and will reopen Tuesday 14/01. Apologies for any inconvenience.

**Sound system:** We are in the process of changing our sound system and the first phase of upgrading the Radio Mic System is underway. The second phase will be the upgrade of the PA System. If you would like to contribute to the upgrade, the cost is due to be \$6,165.50.

**Swipe cards:** We are currently experiencing technical difficulties with our card readers. If your swipe card is not working please contact the Parish Office.

**Divine Will Cenacle:** The Divine Will Cenacle meetings will resume at 9 am on Thursday 16/01 in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome. Contact the Parish Office for any enquiries.

**Recycled Postage Stamps:** Thanks to all who have donated used postage stamps. We do not need any further donations and will advise when we do.

**Bushfire Fundraiser - Filipino ladies:** The Filipino ladies will be hosting a fundraising morning tea to be held outside the Church after 9.15am mass on Sunday 19/01 to raise funds for those affected by recent bushfires. Please give generously for this most worthy cause.

## Rosters

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 17/01/20:** Veronica Jordan, Peter Smith, Reg Harrington, Kathleen Cullen. 2020 Rosters are ready for collection in the Leo Mahon Room

## Prayer for Protection Against Fire

Almighty and eternal God, we ask Your protection against destroying fire. Fire is so very necessary for our existence, and yet, when it gets out of control, it can be more damaging than anything else. Keep our homes and buildings and woods and fields safe from this scourge. Help us always to be most careful in our use of it. Help us especially in the winter time when need and use it most. For then, if our homes are destroyed by fire, we suffer more than ever.

Give us, too, we humbly pray You, a saving fear of the fires of passion, and the help of Your grace to control them. Help us also to fear the fires of hell, that we may always keep away from serious sin, and live lives of goodness and virtue, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## SJB Parish Youth Ministry

As our Parish Vision is **Bringing Jesus Christ to All**, we will continue to reach out to our young people, our sons and daughters who are in High School.

The purpose of Catholic Youth Broken Bay is to Evangelize, Gather and Send with the goals of:

1. Empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today.
2. Draw young people into active participation in the life and mission of our faith communities.
3. Promote a culture of youth discipleship by fostering the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

We will be using the Australian Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry as given to us by the Australian Catholic Bishops. So the plan for St John the Baptist Parish is to:

1. Recruit again for a Team (Parish Youth Ministry Team - Leaders) - February 1st and February 2nd 2020. Please sign up with Kiliti on 0412 731 979.
2. Train the Team (all these leaders) in **Anointed and Sent Model** - January 2020 ongoing.
3. Youth Group Ages 12-17 and Young Adults Group Ages 18-35 will start in February.

Anyone interested in joining the Youth Ministry Team/ Youth Group or Young Adults Group please contact the parish office on 4341 1073 or Kiliti Na'ati on 0412 731 979. 'He must increase, I must decrease.' This is an intergenerational Ministry. Please sign up with whatever gifts and talents that you have. Let us build the Kingdom of God in our family and our Parish.

**Volunteers are asked to attend our first meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Leo Mahon Room at the Church at 6.30 pm for a 7.00 pm start. All volunteers who sign up please come and support and let me know what you can do for our Youth and Young Adults.**

## Salesian Thought

Perfect happiness is reserved for the blessed in heaven. As long as we live in this passing world we must strive to be joyful to the greatest possible degree. [AE VI, Conf. 14, footnote (i) app II, p. 445, SC I, p. 50]

Saint Francis de Sales



## How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church?

As the Catholic Church in Australia prepares for the first gathering of the Plenary Council in October 2020, we are all invited to discern how we are being called to be a Christ-centred Church. To learn about the process of discernment, visit [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) or speak with your parish priest. The November National Theme for Discernment is Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal. Further information in the Gathering Area.

## Guided Tour of the Anzac Memorial Museum, Hyde Park, Sydney.

Jeff Freeman is conducting a guided tour of the Anzac Memorial Museum on Saturday 18th January 2020. Meet at Woy Woy station by 8am for the 8:15am train. The tour will commence on arrival at the Memorial (weather permitting). The tour cost is free, but travel and lunch at own expense. There is complete disabled and disability access. Additional information flyers are located on the gathering space table next to the registration sheet. Any questions contact Jeff on 0419 691 572.

## 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](mailto:perthfamily888@gmail.com). Final arrangements will need to be concluded in the next few weeks.**

## 2020 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Training Programme

### Equipping the Saints for the work of Ministry Eph. 4:12

Two Foundational training programmes in Pastoral/Spiritual care will be offered on the Central Coast in 2020 from February to September. If you feel called to support people with Pastoral/Spiritual care these Units are an exciting way for you to discover and develop your pastoral ability and become equipped for this ministry within a public or church setting. During training placements are in Gosford or Wyong Hospitals. The training can be used towards formal chaplaincy qualifications with the Sydney College of Divinity.

If you would like to know more please contact: Chaplain Frank Wortley on:

**4320 2253** or [Francis.Wortley@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Francis.Wortley@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January Prayer intention for evangelisation - Promotion of World Peace

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

**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.

**CALVARY FUNERALS**  
LOW COST FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Tel: 1300 663 753  
1/77 Rawson Rd Woy Woy

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*Caring For Your Family*



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**Hardwick's on Blackwall**  
(Opposite corner to our church)  
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