

#### 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>



#### 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.

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

**Anniversary:** Barrie McKeowen, Stefania Berlinska, Tom Fauvette

**Recently deceased:** Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Caterina Randazzo, Mike Valencia, Susan Recto, Carren Quinn, Daniel Hennessey

**Sick:** Kiliti Na'ati 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.



#### Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services

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

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**\$300 donation to a local community centre\***

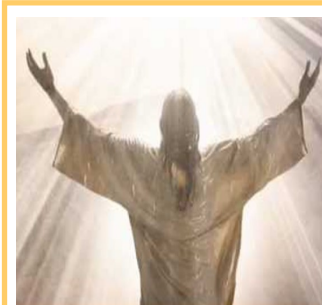
\*For St John's parishioners or their friends who settle a home loan by 30 April 2020. Amanda will donate \$300 to a local community centre. Approved applicants only. Lending criteria apply. Amanda Lawer has access to a panel of lenders through Liberty Network Services Pty Ltd (ABN 65 151 158 626) Australian Credit Licence 4080423 (LND) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LND.



## WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church



### The Baptism of the Lord 10th January 2021, Year B



This is what John the Baptist 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." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

My sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,

On the Epiphany we spoke of light and the radiance of love. Today we speak of water and being immersed in the Lord. The mystery of the Epiphany and the mystery of the Baptism of the Lord are the same mystery with perhaps a stronger focus on God's action toward us in the Epiphany and a focus on the need to die on our part in the mystery of the Baptism.

Die? Yes, the Baptism is about dying to ourselves so that we can live in Christ Jesus. The first reading is from the Prophet Isaiah, just as it was on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. The focus of the Epiphany was on God's light coming to us and today the focus is on our being called to the Lord and the necessary inner transformation that would allow us to be caught entirely up in the mystery of Jesus Christ. Come to the water! But we will only come to water if we are thirsty! Are we thirsty? Probably not always! Only as we begin to recognize the brokenness of our world and the craziness of it all do we begin to look and wonder whether there is not something better and more stable and with less bent to darkness and evil.

The second reading today is from the First Letter of Saint John. It is so clear that our belief is only true if our lives begin to reflect the love of God, both for others and also for ourselves. We must love. We are invited to love. We are told that love is all that really matters. We come to understand that love is not about feeling good but about serving others and looking for their good. When we love others in this way, our lives and our world can become transformed!

The Gospel today is Saint Mark's account of the Baptism of Jesus. The first thing to notice is that the heavens are opened and a voice is heard: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Father wants us to recognize His Son and also the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can spend our whole life without paying much attention to God. Perhaps at some point we begin to recognize that there is a God and then perhaps, we recognize that God wants us to believe in Him and to come to understand Him more and more.

The world is transformed in the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus has taken on our flesh and goes into the very depths of our humanity. God seeks us out and looks for us. Do we look for God and seek Him out? God gives His life for us. Do we give our lives for Him and for His people?

Baptism is death to ourselves and life in Jesus. We must be taken over entirely by God and by His love—and that will be reflected in the way we live. May our baptism be strengthened today so that we can die for others and so gain our own lives.

*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:

**Prayers:** Bishop Anthony 's mother passed away earlier his week. We ask you keep him and his family in your prayers.

**Home Visits:** For those Parishioners who would like Confession and Communion in the home or a House Blessing please call the Parish Office

**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: 15/01/21** - Veronica Jordan, Tom French, Reg Harrington, Kathleen Cullen.

### 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 [wwcp housie@hotmail.com](mailto:wwcp housie@hotmail.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/woywoybingo/>

### New Session:

Tuesday nights at Everglades Country Club, Dunban 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

### 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.

### 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/>

or access free online Children's liturgy of the Word videos click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg9euOFfmsu-xX7S2tCcNA> or search Heidi Witte- YouTube.

### 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:** Masks are COMPULSORY. For Children under 12 they strongly encouraged.

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

### Reading 1

Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smouldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

### Responsorial Psalm

**R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.**

O give the Lord you children of God,

give the Lord glory and power;

give the Lord the glory of his name.

Adore the Lord in his holy court.

**R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.**

The Lord's voice resounds on the water,

the Lord on the immensity of waters;

the voice of the Lord, full of power,

the voice of the Lord full of splendour.

**R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.**

The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry; "Glory!"

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits as King for ever.

**R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace. peace.**

### Reading 2

Acts 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

### Alleluia

Cf. Jn 1:29

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

Mk 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist 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." It happened in those days

that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee

and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up

out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open

and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my

beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

**Pope at Audience: 'Never feel ashamed to pray in difficult times'**

**In his catechesis at the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis urges everyone to listen to the cry that wells up within us especially in moments of difficulty, which he says is the prayer of supplication.**

**By Devin Watkins**

Pope Francis continued his catechesis on various aspects of Christian prayer, at the Wednesday General Audience, focusing on the prayer of supplication.

He began by noting how Jesus taught His disciples the Our Father to pray for both great and humble things. In the Lord's Prayer, we implore God for the highest gifts: "the sanctification of His name among men, the advent of His lordship, the realisation of His will for good in relation to the world."

Yet with the same prayer we also ask for simple items, "our daily bread", which the Pope said indicate "health, home, work; and also the Eucharist, necessary for life in Christ."

### **Prayer a ray of light in darkness**

Pope Francis said the prayer of supplication is "very human".

He said at some point in everyone's life the illusion of self-sufficiency crumbles. "The human being is an invocation, that at times becomes a cry, often withheld."

We all experience loneliness or sadness, he said. The Bible does not shy away from showing humanity at its weakest, when sickness, injustice, or betrayal seem to win out.

"At times it seems that everything collapses, that the life lived so far has been in vain. In these seemingly hopeless situations, there is only one way out: the cry, the prayer 'Lord, help me!'. Prayer can open up a sliver of light in the densest darkness."

### **All Creation cries out**

The Pope went on to say that all of Creation shares in the prayer of supplication.

"Every fragment of creation," he said, "bears the desire for God" and yearns for fulfilment.

### **From the depths**

Pope Francis urged Christians not to feel ashamed when we feel the need to pray in our moments of darkness, though we should also learn to pray in times of happiness as well.

"We must not suffocate the supplication that rises up in us spontaneously," he said. "Prayer of petition goes in step with acceptance of our limit and our nature as creatures."

Prayer, added the Pope, presents itself to everyone as a cry from the depths, even if we seek to suppress it.

### **Awaiting God's response**

Finally, Pope Francis assured everyone that God will respond, as the Bible makes abundantly clear.

"Even our stammering questions, even those that remain in the depths of our heart. The Father hears them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every prayer and transforms everything."

Our task, he concluded, is to wait patiently for God's response to our prayer of supplication.