

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

#### Follow us:

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:** Margherita Bugeja

**Recently deceased:** John Orford, Marie Theresa Arahill, Patsy Bennett, Br Willie Bracken S.S.S.

**Remembrances:** Noelle Davidovic, Tom Fauvette

**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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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](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

The Feast of the Holy Family, 27th December 2020, Year B (Psalter Week 1)

The Epiphany of the Lord, 1st January 2021, Year B



#### The Feast of the Holy Family

During one of the worst snowstorms of the season a small business owner, who owned his own bakery, decided to close his store early. "I'm not going to get any customers tonight," he thought, "in this kind of weather." But just as he was ready to lock the door, a man came in, shivering and covered with snow. "I'd like two sweet rolls" he said. Now the owner was shocked that anyone would brave such bad weather for two sweet rolls. "Friend," he said, "I don't recognize your face. Are you new around here?" "Yes" the man said. "I moved into the old Wagner place about two weeks ago." "Well, welcome,"

said the bakery owner, handing him his sweet rolls. "Are you married?" "Of course I'm married," said the man. "Do you think my mother would send me out on a night like this?" Ah family! Who cares more for us? Who demands more from us? It is the people in our families who love us the most and also hurt us the most. This truth should not surprise us, because with a little reflection it is clear that love and hurt are connected. The Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are put before us by the Church this weekend as a model for our families. We call them "The Holy Family" but that does not mean that they did not have problems. Just as every family has to face problems and overcome them, or to put it another way, has to carry a cross, so also The Holy Family had to carry crosses. Their many crosses come to mind as we read the Scriptures. We can easily imagine how misunderstood both Mary and Joseph must have been when Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Their story would never be believed. Even Mary herself had it very rough early in the pregnancy when Joseph was planning to divorce her before the angel intervened in a dream. When the time for Jesus' delivery came it took place in an animals' shelter since Bethlehem was already so crowded. Then the family had to flee to Egypt as refugees because Jesus' life was in danger due to Herod, in much the same way as refugees from war-torn countries are now entering many western countries. Mary and Joseph suffered the awful experience of losing Jesus for three days when he was twelve years old and the only satisfaction they got from him was that he had to be about his Father's business. We do not hear of Joseph any more so we presume that before Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee Joseph had died – The Holy Family suffering the greatest pain of all families, the pain of bereavement and separation through death. Jesus' public ministry must have taken its toll on Mary. Simeon had predicted in the Temple that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's soul. We can imagine one such occasion as we read in Mark 3:21 that when Jesus returned to Nazareth one day his relatives came to take him by force convinced that he was out of his mind. Not a very pleasant experience for any family, no matter how holy. There was also the pain caused by the rhyme made up about Jesus: "Behold a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:34). The saddest moment of all came when Mary watched her son die on the cross. What kept The Holy Family together and sane throughout all of these trials and crosses? The answer is 'Love for each other and God'. Jesus' love for Mary and Mary's love for Jesus, and the love of both of them for God the Father. We can see Jesus' love for his mother when he was dying on the cross and was worried about leaving her behind so he asked his close friend and disciple John to look after her, saying to Mary, 'Woman behold your son', and to John 'behold your mother' (John 19:26-27). What holds our families together also in times of difficulty is love and forgiveness. It is love which triumphs in the end, even if for a while love may have to take the form of some honest talking. When discipline needs to be given, if it is not given in love it is reduced to abuse. If ever our families fail in any way, it is because of a lack of love on someone's part. Whenever our families are successful, it is because they are places of love. I believe that the greatest threat facing families now is simply that we don't spend enough time together. We are so busy working, or socializing, or watching TV that we have less and less time for each other. What a pity. Spending time together with the family is a way of showing our family that we love them. When we love our family we want to sacrifice ourselves by spending time with them, and all the more so when we realize that by not spending time with them we are depriving them of our love and hurting them. Just as the holy family survived all its crises through love for each other and faith in God, let us pray during this Mass that our families will conquer all difficulties through love for each other and faith in God.



## Parish News

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

**Office Closed:** The Parish Office will be closed from December 24th December - 4th January.

**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: 30/12/20** - Christine French, Elana Egan Maria Owen, Laila Dawe. *Thank you to all Church Cleaners for your commitment this year. 2021 rosters available from 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](mailto: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

## 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.

## 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:** Is asked you still refrain from singing. The Cantor is to sing alone.

## 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.

## Readings

### Feast of the Holy Family - 27th December

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-6; 21:1-3

2nd Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: LK 2:22-40

### The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - 1st January

1st Reading: NM 6:22-27

2nd Reading: GAL 4:4-7

Gospel: LK 2:16-21

### The Epiphany of the Lord - 3rd January

1st Reading: Is 60:1-6

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12



## The Epiphany of the Lord

A school principal called the house of one of his teachers to find out why he was not in school. He was greeted by a small child who whisper: "Hello?" "Is your Daddy home?" asked the principal. "Yes," answered the whispering child. "May I talk with him?" the man asked. "No," replied the small voice. "Is your Mommy there?" he asked. "Yes," came the answer. "May I talk with her?" Again the small voice whispered, "No." "All right," said the man, "Is there anyone there besides you?" "Yes," whispered the child, "A policeman." "A policeman? Now, may I speak with the policeman?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child.. "Busy doing what?" asked the principal. "Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman," came the child's answer. "The fireman? Has there been a fire in the house or something?" asked the worried man. "No," whispered the child. "Then what are the police and fireman doing there?" Still whispering, the young voice replied with a soft giggle, "They are looking for me." It would be pretty hard for the "rescuers" to find this child as long as the child keeps hiding from them. The child has to leave his hiding place and come out into the open for the fireman to find him. Today's feast invite us to come out of our closet to meet Jesus like the wise men. Today's celebration of the Epiphany is one of the oldest feasts in the Church, older even than the celebration of Christmas. The word epiphany is from the Greek word that means "to show oneself." The main focus in the Roman Catholic Church on the Epiphany is the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, symbolized by the story of the Magi. God came to this world. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word became Flesh and made his dwelling among us". Feast of Epiphany is the manifestation of God's love for every one rich or poor, learned or illiterate for people of all nations, salvation for all men and women in the world. God came to be with us. The feast of Epiphany tells us that we need to go to God as well. It's not one way but two ways traffic. God sent His Son Jesus, and made His presence through him, and invites us all to be with him through Jesus our Saviour. Marco Polo journeyed to India and China; Christopher Columbus journeyed to America; Armstrong journeyed to the moon. They all undertook daring adventures. Likewise, the shepherds and the wise men, as narrated in the Gospel, journeyed to find the newborn babe Jesus. Leaving the security of their homeland, wise men ventured forth into a strange country in order to find the Saviour. From the gospel account we could conclude to different categories of people reacting to the appearance of the star. Many, perhaps, didn't even look up and notice anything new. Others in passing may have seen the star, but were preoccupied with themselves or their work and forgot about it. Some like Herod were upset and afraid: the star seemed to announce threatening news for them. Still others may have seen the star but didn't know what it signified or pointed to. The chief priests and the teachers of the law recognized the meaning of the star, but didn't follow it. The wise men saw, recognized and followed the star till it led them to the Christ Child. On seeing the child, "they prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Now to which category of people do we belong? Or let us ask ourselves what prevents you and me to go to Christ our Saviour? We do notice something of Herod in us. King Herod was a selfish man. He loved power position, name and fame. He would do anything to have these. He killed not only the innocent children; he killed his wife Marianne and her parents and brother. He killed two of his own sons to safe guard his position as King. Something of Herod is in us i.e., selfishness, lust for power and position that prevents often from making our journey to Christ our Saviour. We also sometimes turn to behave like the scribes and teachers of the law. We have sufficient knowledge of Jesus. But we don't make any effort to follow him. We have people who are preoccupied with many things in the world, but do not have time to come for Mass and other church activities. We need to come out of ourselves, our selfishness, pride, jealousy, indifference, being crazy for power and position, name and fame and make the spiritual journey to worship Christ our Saviour. It would be pretty hard for the "rescuers" to find the child as long as the child keeps hiding from them. The child has to leave his hiding place and come out into the open for the fireman to find him. It will be hard for God to offer us Salvation, if we keep ourselves hiding in the darkness of sin. Like the wise men, let us begin our spiritual journey to meet Christ our Saviour following the teachings of the Church which is our star.

*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.*