

**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 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.

**St John the Baptist Primary School**

School Enrolments are now being taken for 2022 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>



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

**Remembrance:** Beverley McMahon, Sara Selim.

**Anniversary:** Sid Flakelar, Fatima Fawzy, Noel John Carson, Bill Findlayson.

**Recently Deceased:** Veronica McFarlane, Mate Lovric, Antonietta Maurer, Roy Attard, Anna Camilleri.

**Sick:** Linda Italiano, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Joyes, Kiliti Na'ati, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, 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.



**Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services**

1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy.

**Free Call:** 1800 032 225

100% Australian Owned Family

Operated Company.

**Meet your local finance expert**

- Home and Car Loans
- Business Loans
- SMSF Loans
- Personal Loans

Amanda Lawer Liberty Adviser  
0478 055 609



**\$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 45 51 158 426 | Australian Credit Licence 408042) (LND) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LND.

**Tony Tanti**  
**Aged Care Specialist**  
1300 661 424  
admin@tfs.com.au

**CALVARY FUNERALS**  
LOW COST FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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

OUR FAMILY  
*Caring For Your Family*



**Hardwick's on Blackwall**

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

**Café and catering services**  
Ph 0422 561 439



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



**1st Sunday of Lent**

**21<sup>st</sup> February 2021, Psalter Week 1, Year B**



Dear Friends! A mother camel and her baby are talking one day, and the baby camel asks, "Mumma why have we got these huge three-toed feet?" The mother replies, "To enable us to walk across the soft sand of the desert without sinking." "And why have we got these long, heavy eyelashes?" "To keep the sand out of our eyes on the trips through the desert" replies the mother camel. "And Mumma, why have we got these big humps on our backs?" The mother, now a little impatient with the boy replies, "They are there to help us store fat for our long treks across the desert, so we can go without water for long periods." "OK, I get it!" says the baby camel, "We have huge feet to stop us sinking, long eyelashes to keep the sand from our eyes and humps to store water. Then, Mum, why the heck are we here in the zoo?" Modern life sometimes makes one feel like a camel in a zoo. And like camels in a zoo, we need sometimes to go into the desert in order to discover who

we truly are. Lent invites us to enter into this kind of desert experience. On the first Sunday of every Lent, we find Jesus in the wilderness. He is in the desert without food, without shelter. He is tempted by Satan. We have three accounts in the gospels of Jesus' temptation. The one in Mark, which we have just read, is the shortest—only two verses. But its brevity does not reduce its meaning. I think the most important detail about this gospel is that if Jesus is in the desert, he did not choose to go there. Mark says that immediately after his baptism, the Spirit drove him out into the desert. Being in the wilderness was not a part of Jesus' plan, but nevertheless he found himself there in barrenness and isolation. This detail invites us to ask whether we can locate deserts in our own lives. Are there barren circumstances in which we find ourselves and into which we have not chosen to come? Perhaps these barren places are caused by the financial situation in which many of us find ourselves: fearing for our jobs, dealing with reduced income, worrying about our future. We didn't choose this situation, but here we are, and there doesn't seem all that much we can do about it. Perhaps there is a barren place in our life caused by sickness, either physical or emotional. We find ourselves coping with disease either in our own lives or in the lives of someone that we love. We didn't choose to have this evil in our lives. But here it is, and we have to face it. Maybe we are dealing with a desert experience because of a failure in a relationship: a fiancé who rejected us, a marriage that came to an end, the loss of a friend. We didn't choose that these relationships fall apart. But they have, and now we find ourselves in barrenness and loss. Since we are human, we will be tempted. We will be lured to make decisions that are not the best choices for ourselves or for others. We do not need to be embarrassed about temptation. Everyone experiences it. Jesus himself was tempted, as is made clear in today's gospel. It is, however, important to know how to deal with temptation — how to make choices that will truly benefit us rather than hurt us. Temptation is really about freedom, having the freedom to say no to those things that will harm us and the freedom to say yes to those things that will help us. This is why it is important to cultivate the right orientation towards temptation. You see often we approach temptation and the season of Lent which begins this week by placing too much emphasis on what is negative. We centre too much on sin. What Lent is about is not so much saying no to sin, as saying yes to the Kingdom of God. The freedom that we are looking for is not freedom *from* our faults, but rather freedom *for* God's purposes in our lives. The more we can understand what freedom is *for*, the easier it will be to avoid temptation in our lives. As you and I approach this Lenten season, our emphasis should not be simply on what we seek to avoid, but rather on the goodness that will result if we can in fact resist it. We might decide to resist the temptation to criticize, to judge, to be jealous, or avoid over-eating, drinking or smoking. As we do these things, we will find more energy and power if instead of simply seeing these things as faults to avoid, we can realize that by resisting them we can build a life that is more thankful, more positive, more joyful and healthier. If we seek to avoid temptation, we must emphasize that which is most positive and most powerful. Power comes from the goodness that our actions generate. The freedom that really moves us is not the freedom *from* sin, but the freedom *for* God's Kingdom. Let us keep this freedom in mind as we proceed into this Lenten season. In this holy time, we should ask ourselves not "how can I say no to sin," but "how can I say yes to God?"

*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:

**Adoration:** As the Blessed Sacrament can not be left unattended during Lenten Adoration on Fridays, we are looking for volunteers who can spare an hour sit in the church to supervise. There is a roster at the back of the church for you to nominate a time slot..

**Housie Volunteers:** We are looking for some volunteers to be rostered on either monthly, fortnightly or weekly to assist with operating our weekly Housie session. This is a great outreach from the parish to our local community and is a significant weekly contributor to the parish finances. Experience in retail, dealing with customers or office work would be helpful, but not essential. Duties include some or all of the following (depending on your level of interest) setup/packup, helping on floor, selling tickets, completing required paperwork, calling numbers etc.. Contact Rob on 0427990818, or leave your details with the parish office.

**Bus Drivers:** We are still requiring volunteers to driver for weekend Mass. Please contact the Parish Office to register your interest.

**Cleaning Roster:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Reg Harrington. Laurie Jarvis, Anna Jarvis, Rano Spiteri.

**Readers Roster:** Available from Servers Sacristy **We are requiring more readers. If you are interested please contact Dorothy on 4341 7610**

**Liturgy Committee Meeting:** Our next LCM meeting will be Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

**Divine Will Cenacle:** During Lent we will meet every Thursday following Morning Mass and Rosary. Please bring the book "The hours of the Passion".

**Catenian Association :** Their next dinner/meeting will be Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February at Davistown RSL. Parish Representatives are Brenda Sweet and Ken Stewart. All Parishioners are welcome to come along.

**St John the Baptist Primary School:** School enrolments for 2022 are now starting. For more information please contact the school. 4341 0884.



### Lenten Schedule:

Both will be held every week throughout Lent

Starting 19<sup>th</sup> February, **every Friday** there will be Adoration at 10am (all day) after Church cleaning is completed, followed by Way of the Cross at 3:30pm then Mass at 4pm.

Starting 24<sup>th</sup> of February, **every Wednesday** will be Way of the Cross at 6:30pm followed by Eucharist 7pm.

**Lenten Program:** Bishop Anthony has put together a Lenten program for our Diocese. Lenten booklets are available from the gathering table, for those wanting to form a discussion group or for individual reflection.

*Thank you!*

A big thank you to the anonymous donor who has donated the full amount for the electronic votive candle stand.

All proceeds from this weekend's third collection will go towards other initiatives going on around the Parish.

Our next task will be purchasing and installing 2 new, larger (85 inch), Sony screens. \$3780 per screen plus installation costs of around \$2000.

This project will cost a considerable amount of money so your donations will be much appreciated.



### Top Reasons to Become a Catechist:

- You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
- Your Baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
- Children more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus and need to encounter good role models of faith.
- You have much to share with those you'll teach, and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
- The Walking With Jesus resource offers interesting lessons, relevant background information for the catechist and modern PowerPoint presentations with stories and songs to engage the students.
- You'll be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
- You'll be helping the children deepen their relationship with Jesus. (You'll be evangelising!)
- You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old Tradition that changes lives.
- You will receive training to give you the necessary knowledge about how Special Religious Education is organised and a chance to develop your teachings. This training is presented locally, online or via Zoom by the friendly CCD staff offering training sessions
- It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."

There is an opportunity for a person who likes working with children to be a catechist each Friday at Umina Public School, teaching 23 children in Year 5. All the children will have their own Walking with Jesus student workbook and you, as their teacher, will have a teacher's manual with all the lessons planned for you.

Are you willing to become a catechist and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ as St John the Baptist did? If you are, or would like to know more about this ministry, contact Michael Tebbutt on 0407 218 677.

### Reading 1

### Gn 9:8-15

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: "See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals that were with you and came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth." God added: "This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings."

### Responsorial Psalm

**R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

For you are God my Saviour.

**R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

Remember your mercy, O lord,  
and the love you have shown of old.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

**R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor.

**R. Your ways O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

### Reading 2

### 1 Pt 3:18-22

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation

### Mt 4:4b

R. Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ  
One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes forth  
from the mouth of God.

R. Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

### Gospel

### Mk 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

### 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.

Thank you for your generous contribution.

*Please consider putting the majority of your donations in the 2nd collection as this is where it is the most needed.*

### 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: No longer mandatory.**

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