



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15th August 2021

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

FEAST DAYS

16 Aug: St Stephen of Hungary

19 Aug: St John Eudes

20 Aug: St Bernard

21 Aug: St Pius X

PARISH OFFICE

Open Mon, Tue, Thu

8.30am—3.00pm

Wed & Fri

9.00am—4.00pm

Phone 02 4341 1073

Email:

woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY

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Administrator

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest

Fr. A Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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Follow Us:

Please click the link below for our live streaming of the 9.15am Mass each Sunday »



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCngqSKPKgwQrGeh7Jv4M5-g>



<https://www.stjohnthebaptistchurch.woywoy>



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Dear friends, Due to the NSW Government stay-at-home order for all of greater Sydney, commencing 6pm Saturday 26 June 2021. Bishop Randazzo has decreed that all Churches be closed during this period.

Since this is at the request of Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, the obligation for the faithful to participate in Sunday Mass (can. 1247) is lifted for the people of Broken Bay for the duration of this stay at home order.

Therefore, there will be **NO Masses** during this time. We will update you of any changes as they arise.
For any assistance, please contact the **Parish Office** on **4341 1073**.

MISSION and VISION

Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL through:

Worship and Liturgy; Outreach; Our Parish School; Hospitality; Adult and Child Faith Formation

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.

The Assumption of Mary

is "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory", a celebration of the "freedom of spirit", an unfettering of the mind, body and soul from the trappings of materialism, worldliness, anxiety, low self-esteem, depression and a life of sin that are the deceptions of the evil one.

However, these freedoms can slowly pull away from us, if we do not pay careful heed to sustaining and nurturing the foundations that fortify these freedoms.

In recent times, concerns have been raised by intelligentsia, watchdogs and activists about the steady erosion of public institutions that are fundamental to the ethos of democracy. The covert diminution of the checks and balances of democracy will prove detrimental to the progress of this nation and the glorious future of its citizens who have demonstrated their mettle, not just here, but across the world.



A look at the world map throws up an alarming picture of large-scale public protests happening in dozens of countries across the world. They are just some of the countries where people's anger has reached boiling point. While some may say that we live in the 'free world', the fact of the matter is that many basic freedoms which are due to the very dignity of human beings are being steadily throttled using internal mechanisms, under the guise of democratic process.

In reality today, there is a widening gulf between the true nature of democracy and the reality in which it is lived out. However, lived realities should never lead us down the road of an infinite pessimism.

The Assumption of Mary gives us a stellar foresight into the "fruits of freedom" that the Risen Christ has won for each one of us. In spite of being situated in an extremely patriarchal society with many constricting challenges to deal with, Mary refused to be 'locked down'. Her courageous YES was the result of an authentic freedom of heart and mind which she had cultivated by being nailed to the Word of God. Her 'freedom' is explicitly and joyfully manifested in the words of the Magnificat.

Mary's Assumption is pregnant with meaning. It is also a sign and confirmation of who she was.

In 1Corinthians 15:20, St Paul speaks of Jesus' Resurrection as the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Jesus' Resurrection is not an isolated event, but one that includes all of humanity, and extends through time. Seen through that lens, Mary's Assumption is the "second fruits", when she partook of the divine gift unleashed at Easter. This is the same hope and promise that we look forward to.

The Assumption is Mary's privilege, but it is also our promise. In the context of Covid19 with restrictions that we are living today, the Assumption of Mary gives us a brilliant insight into how we can raise ourselves from the gloom, insecurity, uncertainty, anxiety and a feeling of hopelessness that has permeated our lives today.

Mary was lifted up from the corruption of this world, due to her fidelity to the will of God, humble faith and quiet discipleship. A tree that is planted by streams of living water (Psalm 1), a branch that remains firmly in the Vine (Jn 15) can never wither. Mary perfectly shared in the Incarnation, life and death of her Son.

The Assumption of Mary reminds us that we may be 'locked in', but we are not 'locked out'.

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

National Day of Prayer in this Time of Pandemic – Sunday 22 August

An ecumenical National Day of Prayer has been organised for Sunday 22 August, calling Australia to come together in prayer in light of the current COVID-19 crisis.

The theme is 'Lord have mercy', as we make this verse from Ps. 123 our own: "**Our eyes look to the Lord our God till He shows us His mercy**" (Ps. 123:2).



A Prayer Call on Zoom, from 9am to 9pm on Sunday 22 August, will feature Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Participants can join for as long as they wish.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rebrand of CWF to Pastoral Works Broken Bay

We are delighted to announce the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) is rebranding to **Pastoral Works Broken Bay** from July 2021.

The purpose of the new name is to better reflect the authentic, life-giving pastoral work you are helping to support, and provide a name that uniquely connects it to our Diocese of Broken Bay.

Pastoral Works Broken Bay will play a vital role in building on the **six Pastoral priorities** for the Diocese, including giving vital support to life-changing ministries, nurturing families, and parish communities.

Each year, about 20,000 families and friends - those in hospitals, schools, parishes, and the wider community - will be assisted through the generous support of parish communities to Pastoral Works Broken Bay.

Thank you for your support of this important and historic initiative for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

My prayer is the change from CWF to Pastoral Works Broken Bay enables us to reach further and wider in helping our local community, and more deeply connects us to the mission of Jesus.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL,

Bishop of Broken Bay

August Appeal

At this time, we appreciate support that can be given, no matter how big or small. Our ministries continue to operate and provide vital services. We encourage donations at your parish website or www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks.

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Collection envelopes for Masses will be available when parishes re-open.

Thank you for helping to renew and rebuild lives.

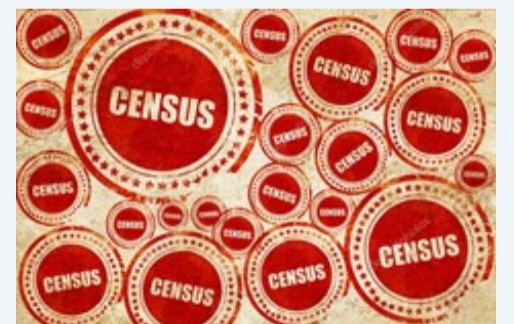
Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.



Parish Census

Dear All,

We will soon be updating our records and we kindly ask for your help. As you can appreciate, this is a large task for our parish.



A letter will be sent shortly, outlining why a parish census is being done and what details we need from our parish community members. We ask you to please advise all changes to your details, where requested.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
CELEBRATING
75 YEARS
WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH
 2021



Father William (Bill) John Meacham came to Woy Woy Parish in November 1982, after 10 years as Chaplain to NSW Prisons. Father Meacham went to school at Marist Brothers' Kogarah and then attended St Columba's Seminary in Springwood and St

Patrick's College, Manly. He was ordained on 8th March, 1958. Soon after arriving in Woy Woy, Father Meacham dedicated the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. During his stay in Woy Woy, he accomplished the participation of parishioners in various parish work and in 1984, with the help of a parishioner, converted a small classroom, into a Chapel dedicated to Mary MacKillop. He organised the building of a new library at St John the Baptist Primary School, which opened on 17 March, 1991 and with the help of parishioners and Father Aubrey Collins, organised the Parish Mission in 1993. Father Meacham received an Australia Day Award from Gosford City for Work in the Community, in 1990.



Some of the priests assisting Fr Bill have been, Fr Vince Berne, Fr Michael Slattery, Fr G Risdale, Fr Frank Furfaro, Fr John Harcombe, Fr Julian Porteous, Fr Brian Moloney, Fr Ferdi Fuhlendorf, Fr Chris Williams, Fr Peter Brown, Fr 'Phil' Vergara, Fr Aubrey Collins M.S.C. and Fr Geoff Bugden.

"Rev William John Meacham (Fr Bill) was born to this life on 1st February 1933 and was born to eternal life on 1st June 2016" - from Mass of Thanksgiving booklet.

Source: St John the Baptist Golden Jubilee 1946—1996 by Maureen MacMahon

Safeguarding Message

Children and young people identify clergy, staff and volunteers as being very important in helping them feel safe in their Parish community. Research shows when adults are engaging, trustworthy and involved children and young people feel safe in



Divine Will Cenacle

The next meeting is scheduled for after 8.30am mass on September 2nd in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome. Please contact Veronica Walsh 0432 987 368.



St Vincent de Paul - help available

While some of our outreach services are unable to get out within communities to provide their usual support, we've been finding new ways to ensure help is there for those who need it. Our staff and volunteers have recently distributed 900 snack packs, 250 self-care packs and 130 hampers through a range of services, including many of our local support hubs. Help is here for those who need it right now, to find out more about what support is available head to

[https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/News/NSW/COVID-19 Support/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/News/NSW/COVID-19%20Support/)

You can still contact **Vinnies Support Centres** by phone for assistance: **WOY WOY—PH: 4341 7535**



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works




Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

CatholicCare can help with Coles or Woolworths vouchers.
Times are tough. You might have lost work due to the lockdown, or you might be finding it hard to pay the bills or to put food on the table. Please call CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2600 or email them at info@catholiccaredbb.org.au.

They are here to help our parish families.
Please note this support is able to be offered due to Government funding so they will require ID and some documentation to access assistance but they can walk you through the requirements.



Keep Us In Your Prayers of your charity pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: James Filewood

Anniversary: Francis Brian Morrison

Remembrance:

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, Heather Joyce, Lisa Ryan, Hanaa El Khatib, Sheila Houghton, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfgram, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Jones, Kiliti Na'ati, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Pat Savage, Ernie Mullins, John Mitchell, Donna Vella, Ken Joyce, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Anne Singleton, Janice Green, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Karen Chorazyczewska, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Larry Cresswell, Andrew Muggs, Roger Mitchell, Daphne McNab, Marie McNamee, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame



One community of the Church, helping our families grow.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab



God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she laboured to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One."

Responsorial Psalm: 45:10, 11, 12, 16

R. The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.



Reading II: 1 Cor 15:20-27

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary is taken up to heaven;
a chorus of angels exults.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 1:39-56

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said:



"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August

- The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

1st collection: goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests.

2nd Collection: Funds the operational management of the Parish

You can donate Bpoint, which will take you to our Website for secure online payments.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/woywoyparish>

Please note our bank account details have changed.

Since we are not having regular collections at Mass, if you are able to donate to cover the continuing costs of the parish, you can contribute directly to the parish account.

Name: St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy

BSB: 062 784 Account no: 10000 1742

Thank you for your generous contribution.

thank you

"Strive to see God in all things without exception.

Do not smother yourself...

*if you start smothering yourself with a host of cares and longings and wishes...
you will be disabling yourself from serving God with all your heart"*

- St. Francis de Sales

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