



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

5th September 2021

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

FEAST DAYS

8 Sept: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9 Sept: St Peter Claver

OUR PARISH OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED.

Please phone 02 4341 1073 or 0407 469 530 for assistance
woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY

0438 631 327

Administrator

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

Assistant Priest

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

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

Parish Admin Assistant

Cath Peters



Sunday 21st November 2021

Celebrating 75 years of St John the Baptist Woy Woy Parish. We are planning some wonderful celebrations for this day.

Parishioners are encouraged to provide stories and photos of milestones from the last 25 years of our parish community. What changes have you noticed? What events were you involved in? Please send your stories and photos to the Parish office - Woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

These stories will be added to our Parish history.

We are also preparing commemorative coffee mugs for the families of our Parish. Once they have been delivered we will let you know how you can collect yours.

MISSION and VISION

Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL through:

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

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>

 <https://www.stjohnthebaptistwoywoy>



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.

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.

Vox Episcopi - The Voice of the Bishop

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Over the past few weeks, I have heard and seen some of the struggles and worries that are being shouldered in our community of the Church. I have been asked why I don't speak out more and defend the Church, especially with reference to the closure of our church buildings.

I understand the burden and would simply ask that at all times when we engage in this conversation, that we maintain a sense of respect and charity towards each other. There is never any need to vent publicly on social media, nor is there justification to mail anonymous and abusive letters. This is the behaviour of uneducated, uncharitable, and pusillanimous people. It is directly opposed to the teaching of Jesus who said, "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Sledging and sniping is certainly undignified behaviour from someone who professes to be a disciple of Jesus and a member of His Church.

It is rather naïve to think that angry public demonstrations and rude letter writing campaigns are the best way to have a voice in our society today. By all means, as citizens, each one of us has the right and the duty to make known our concerns about our community and society, but always in charity and with respect. Our civic leaders are dealing with a once in a century pandemic. No one has the perfect road map to navigate our way through this time. Mistakes will be made, but much good will also be achieved. Certainly, communication between Church and State can be improved, but to presume that no conversation is happening is simply false and misleading.

I am very mindful that the negative impact of this situation is not only physical and emotional, but also spiritual. As your bishop my greatest concern is your spiritual wellbeing. A small number of people have demanded that I reopen our church buildings. To do so at this time would place vulnerable people at risk. I am not prepared to do that. Mass is being celebrated throughout the Diocese on a daily basis by myself and the priests. They are not private Masses, as Mass is never a private affair. When the Mass is celebrated, the whole Church celebrates, and every member of the Body of Christ is present at the altar of sacrifice through the communion of saints. To argue otherwise is to misunderstand the very nature of the Church and the mystery of the Mass. In the ritual offering of the bread and wine, the priest gathers up and offers the prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of every member of the community of the Church.

My brothers and sisters, I urge you to remain strong in these challenging times. As soon as is reasonably possible, I will reopen the churches throughout the Diocese, however, in the meantime, I would entreat you to ensure that you have done everything reasonably possible to ensure that you are fortified against the COVID virus. Each member of the community must take responsibility for his or her own actions in caring for the whole community of the Church and of society.

As the community of the Church, it is important that we focus on our spiritual life by creating meaningful engagement with God and with each other, despite the lockdown limitations. I encourage you to continue to pray, to make spiritual communion, to read the Scriptures, and to sanctify each day through the power of the Holy Spirit.

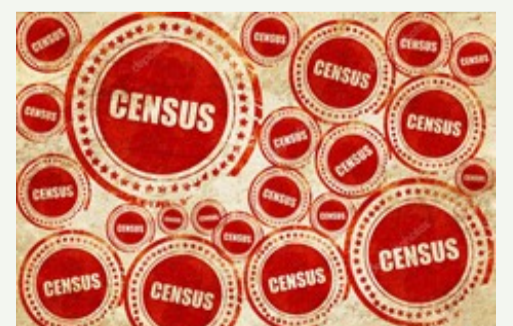
My words this week may seem rather direct. I mean no offence. My prayer is for your wellbeing and that of your families and loved ones. Together we must endure the sufferings of this time and unite them with the sufferings of Christ on the Cross. In the communion of the Holy Spirit, we are one in the Body of Christ. +Anthony

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



HOUSIE HISTORY 17-7-14

The Catholic Parish of Woy Woy was established in 1946, and soon after in the early 1950's (most likely around 1954) the Parish Priest Dr Walter Baker decided to start a Housie in order to raise much needed funds and also provide a social night out for the locals. It was held in a very basic building with thatched roof located opposite the existing Ettalong Cinema. Most of the of the funds raised over the years were used in developing the parish and school and some also allocated to build a new Housie Hall and after the land was donated, the new St Mary's Hall was opened on the corner of Ocean View Rd and Murray St in 1967. Housie was held every Saturday night (and sometimes midweek during summer holidays) with pretty much the same format at St Mary's Hall for 45 years. With the decision to build the new Catholic Church at Woy Woy, parish owned properties needed to be sold in provide enough funds for the new church and adjacent parish centre to be built. The sale of St Mary's hall was the last property to be sold and by January 2010 developers had purchased the property. The Housie then had to start looking for a new home. It was decided to move to Peninsula Community Centre, which offered a central location on the Peninsula, air conditioning and excellent facilities. The plan to move however was put on hold as the developers at Ettalong had no plan to develop for a few years, so the Housie leased the old hall back. In January 2013, the developers gave notice to vacate the property and a program was quickly put into place by the team to fit the new hall out with all the required items – portable foldup tables, foldup selling stations, sound and visual equipment (with particular emphasis in improving the overall experience) . In February 2013 moved Peninsula Community Centre 93 McMasters Rd Woy Woy. A dedicated team of Parish Volunteers operate the Housie and never miss a Saturday night. Mercia Bannigan (now deceased) was onboard from the start in 1954 right up until the late 2000's and explained to the team over the years how in the early days the tickets came in long sheets, they used to sell the tickets for each game one at a time out on the floor, the old (very long) table for sorting these old tickets was set up in the back room at St Mary's Hall and crayons for marking off the tickets were kept on permanent trays on the players tables. The technology has improved over the years with the tickets now in book format and new computerised calling machines, ticket checking and now even some players use electronic tickets and pads (pets). 2014 marked 60 years continuous service.

Robert Graham, Woy Woy Catholic Parish Housie.



Catechist Corner

"I have given them the teaching
you gave to me" John 17:8

Here is the link for the
SRE Learning From Home lessons.

<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>



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 access the bulletins click

[here.](#)

To access free online Children's liturgy of the Word videos click [Heidi Witte YouTube.](#)

Attention all kids!



News from St John the Baptist Primary School

HBL (Home Based Learning) Free Friday

“Free Friday for Wellbeing” has been introduced to give the students an opportunity to catch up on any outstanding work they haven’t completed throughout the week, which will hopefully reduce the pressure during the week. It is also a chance for students, and the family, to relax a little, to get outside and take in the fresh air, enjoy some fun activities away from a device and spend quality time with family. The mental health and wellbeing of students and families must remain a focus and be developed to become a strong foundation during this challenging time of lockdown and HBL.

Kinder Yana Transition Program

We are excited to be welcoming our 2022 Kinder children to our Kinder Yana Transition Program. This program comprises of six sessions which run from 9.30am to 11am for both the children and their parent/s. Due to the current lockdown we have postponed the first three sessions, which normally occur in Term 3 (now) till Term 4. These sessions are followed up by one final meeting at night with parents only. In this meeting you will find out about the details of the first couple of weeks of starting Kinder. Throughout the transition program we aim to have:

1. The students, and their parents, feel comfortable in the school by getting to know one another, the teachers and the school site. The teachers know the children and their strengths and challenges, ready for when they begin school. Families who have enrolled and been accepted have been emailed updates on the Kinder Yana Transition Program. Our Yana Transition Program is designed to be engaging and creative. The Kinder teachers set up a range of activities to enhance the children’s receptive and expressive language skills;
2. fine and gross motor skills along with social skills.

If you are still considering enrolling your child for 2022 please call us on 4341 0884 or email sjbww@dbb.catholic.edu.au for a personal tour of the school with the Principal, Mrs Davies. [Click here for enrolment forms](#)



PPC Diocesan Gatherings

The current Covid situation has led to unique challenges for our parishes. At the same time, innovative ideas and new ways of connecting are being offered. Questions are being asked about how we can plan for better outcomes, and how we can better evangelise and reach out.

To better support parish leaders at this time, two gatherings have been organised in coming months for all PPC members.

The purpose would be to:

- Meet each other, make connections, and support each other
- Share parish good news stories and initiatives
- Discuss challenges being faced at the current time, and strategies that could help
- Share and discuss updates on the Evangelisation Broken Bay Pastoral Mission
- Keep abreast of other upcoming events or initiatives

All Parish Pastoral Counsellors of the Diocese are welcome to attend. Please register for each session separately on the links below.

Date: **Wednesday 15 September**

Time: 7:00pm – 8:15pm

Zoom Link: <https://bbcatholic.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwuduCorDgvHNCwTF4Mv0mPEG60vTHqjf16>

Meeting ID: 983 1902 3564



SJ Around the Bay, St Vincent De Paul and Jesuit Refugee Service are hosting a webinar on the refugee crisis. Please see below for a parish bulletin notice which could be included, particularly in the lead up to Migrant and Refugee Sunday on 26 September, 2021.

In the wake of the tremendous difficulties currently being faced by those in Afghanistan and by Afghans currently in Australia on temporary visas.

SJAB (*Social Justice Around the Bay*), **St. Vincent de Paul**, Northern Sydney / Central Coast Regional Social Justice Committee and **Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS)** are holding a Webinar titled:

Hope Out of Horror – Seeking Refuge in Australia **Thursday, 23 September, 7.00pm – 8.00pm**

This is a chance to hear the stories of those seeking Refuge and Asylum in Australia and to join a cry to Canberra to:

- 1. Offer Permanent Protection to all Refugees**
- 2. Enable access to Family Reunions for Refugees**
- 3. Offer a Safety Net, including Medical and Financial Assistance to those in need of refuge**

REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS ESSENTIAL

To register click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/stories-of-hope-and-courage-seeking-refugee-in-australia-tickets-166888717647>



First Plenary Council Assembly Moving Fully Online

At long last, starting 3 October 2021, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council. Due to the current climate the format of the assembly has evolved from a large gathering, to smaller hubs and now to a fully online gathering with one person per device. While not ideal, and not what we had hoped, the national

team will continue to assist and support the members and delegates so that they may participate as effectively as possible. While many may question why we are proceeding with the Plenary Council at this time; the desire to fulfil Christ's mission, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, is part of the thinking in moving ahead. It is precisely the challenges that people are now facing, the isolation and disconnect, that we are hoping the Church will be able to address. Please continue to pray for the Plenary Council, the members and delegates as they prepare to fulfill their role in the coming months.

You can keep abreast of all the latest news, access the Instrumentum Laboris and sign up to the Plenary Council Newsletter by heading to the National website:

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>



Major earthquake hits Haiti— Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Haiti who have been devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured.

Homes, churches and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground. To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.



Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities

A Guide to Supporting & Engaging, Listening and Communicating with Children and Young People

This year the Safeguarding Offices of the Diocese of Broken Bay, Archdiocese of Sydney, Diocese of Parramatta and have collaborated on the development of a significant resource for all Catholic communities.

The resource is a publication which addresses Children and Young Peoples Participation in Catholic Communities: A guide to supporting & engaging, listening, and communicating with Children and Young People.

To show our support for National Children Protection Week our resource will be launched online **Wednesday 8 September**.

To access the guide go to the www.bbcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-month-2021

For more information contact:

safeguarding@bbcatholic.org.au or P 8379 1651



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY



Supporting & Engaging | Listening | Communicating

BB35
CELEBRATING
35 YEARS
DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY



THE YEAR
OF ST JOSEPH
& THE FAMILY
2021

One community of
the Church, helping
our families grow.



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@catholiccaresdbb.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.*



St Vincent de Paul Society provides assistance to those in need for food.



Our Conference members are all Parishioners. If you or someone you know is doing it tough call 4341 7535. One of our members will telephone you within 24 hours and provide assistance with Woolworths Food Vouchers. If the need is urgent, you can call Pat on 0403 672 077 or Peter on 0425 358 376 any day including week-ends.

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

Recently deceased: Judy Ann Baytch, Catherine Daphne McNab

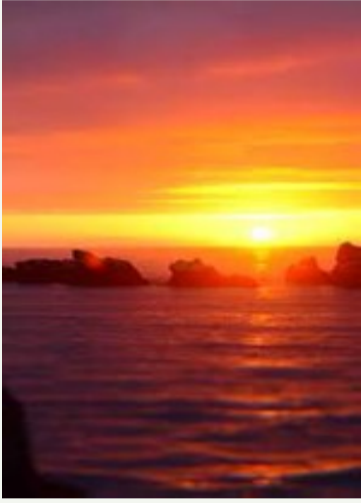
Anniversary: Remembrance:

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 Marie McNamee, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: Is 35:4-7a

Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.



Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!

Reading II: Jas 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here, please, " while you say to the poor one, "Stand there, " or "Sit at my feet, " have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

Alleluia: Cf. Mt 4:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel: Mk 7:31-37



Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation.

The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself". Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

Laudato Si (2015) 236



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September
- An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

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>

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.



Divine Will Cenacle Please continue prayers your own home throughout September. We will provide an update for October meeting closer to the date. Please contact: Veronica Walsh on 0411 719 272



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Tony Tanti
Aged Care Specialist
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Woy Woy Your Family

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4/115 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy

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

 **Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services**

1/39 Victoria Road,
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02 4341 1073
for more information on advertising here.