

WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

"He must increase, I must decrease" (Jn 3:30)

The NATIVITY of the LORD 25th December 2021

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from the Parish Office. The Parish Office will be closed from COB Friday 24th December 2021, returning Tuesday 4th January 2022. We look forward to catching up with you then. Triona and Cath

Dear Parishioners and well-wishers

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth... I wish each one of you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year – 2022. We live in a different kind of world today, one less predictable and certain, more awash with fear and division. A heightened sense of anxiety prevails about the frailty of health and fatality of life. A seemingly unending pandemic and a debilitating toxic ecosystem caused by a lack of care for creation add to this ominous situation of the darkness of sin. There is a deep longing for the true fullness of life - which is found in a life with God in whose image we have been made. This life that needs to be infused within us is His saving grace that ushers into a lasting life of peace. The essence of the Christmas story that the Angels herald is about this gift of the glory of God: "Glory to God and Peace to people of goodwill."

"Emmanuel" – God with Us! Our thoughts and prayers this Christmas are with those who are unable to be home with us this Christmas, and especially with our 'brothers and sisters who are struggling to cope this year with the pain of loneliness, suffering, grief and loss of employment.

I find the message of the angel on the first Christmas night to the terrified shepherds, "Do not be afraid," deeply consoling this year: "Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared with the whole people." How much we need to hear those words at this time – "Do not be afraid." The pandemic has left us



uncertain about the future, weary of all the ongoing restrictions, confused by changing messages, nervous – frightened even – about the talk of waves of new variants like the Omicron. It is only natural that we yearn for good news; we search for a glimmer of hope; we long for the promise of a brighter future.

We meet Jesus today in all those who live in precariousness. Jesus is born poor, not because of the negativity of the innkeepers. Jesus is born poor by divine choice. Jesus is born poor to tell us who God is. Many have experienced one of the harshest years of their lives. The Christian community celebrates the joy of Christmas, going to any length of sacrifice to embrace those who suffer from the warmth of the God who cares and heals. The Voice of an angel- "Do not be afraid". The Saviour is born today, who is "Immanuel" God is with us. He would bring us glad tidings in due course of time when we are attuned to His message of hope and Love. Once again I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year – 2022.

Fr Timothy msfs

75th Anniversary Celebrations

Thank you to everyone for making our 75th Anniversary celebrations so successful last Sunday.

We would particularly like to thank the Very Rev Dr David Ranson and other priests who have served our community. To the servers, readers and choir for their thoughtful preparation and selfless service.



We also thank members of the Parish pastoral council who gave their time to set up the tables, seating and shade canopies: the sausage sizzle, games and thanksgiving speeches.



To everyone who brought food and drink to share with others and to all who stayed and shared in the celebrations, we thank you. And to Joe and Rose Mondal from Bakers Delight Umina, who provided the bread and rolls .



We hope you all enjoyed yourselves!!!

You can watch our 75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Eucharist on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyMN_0GxKII or through our channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCngqSKPKgwQrGeh7Jv4M5-g>

Our 75th Anniversary booklet— "**Then and Now**" will be published shortly. We will let you know when copies are available. Plus, we still have plenty of our 75th Anniversary commemorative coffee mugs available to purchase for \$5 from the Piety Store or contact the Parish Office.



READERS for 1/2 January 2022:

Sat 5pm—Jane Somerville & Marie Andrews
Sun 7.30am—Joel Bajo & Veronica Jordan
Sun 9.15am—Michael Dixon & Killiti Na'ati
Sun 5pm—Anna Jarvis & Kris Atkin

SERVERS for 1/2 January 2022:

Sat 5pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh
Sun 7.30am—Kevin Glacken & Paul Nolan
Sun 9.15am—Bernie French & Joesie Cameron
Sun 5pm—Greg Lalor

CLEANERS for 31 December 2021:

Christine French
Maria Owen
Elena Egan
Laila Dawe



COVID-19 REGULATIONS:

WE REMIND YOU THAT from Friday 24 December 2021:

- Electronic check-in is mandatory, as is sanitising, mask wearing and physical distancing
- please ensure you are seated 2m² from anyone outside your family bubble, and you stand on the stickers provided when queueing for Communion.
 - It is your responsibility not to enter the church if you have a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath. If you wish to take Communion on the tongue, please ensure that you are at the end of the priest's queue.

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Reading II: Heb 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: *You are my son; this day I have begotten you?* Or again: *I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?* And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Alleluia

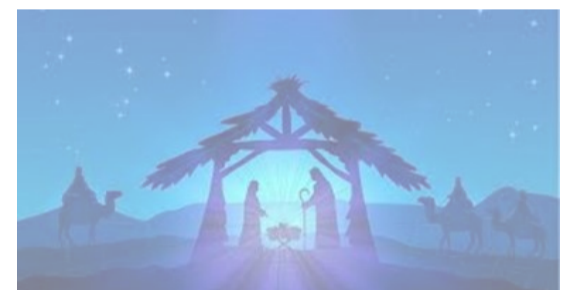
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.
For today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.



Youth Ministry News

Merry Christmas to the Youth and Young Adults of our parish here at St. John the Baptist. And I thank everyone who came to support our youth this year, despite the stormy journey of COVID. Where do we go from here? Oliver Shepherd has volunteered to help direct the Youth



Ministry Team with Leaders to lead the youth. Recruitment for leaders for Youth Ministry Team to actively run youth group activities is now open to everyone but must be 18 years of age and over.

Anyone interested please contact Oliver. There will also be an Advisory Youth Group Committee to support and advocate the ongoing youth ministry and their activities. Anybody interested in this committee is welcome to apply, especially those who have youth ministry experiences. Those who are interested in nurturing and empowering young people to become disciples of Jesus Christ

today, foster personal and spiritual growth of our sons and daughters. And to draw them to actively participate in the ministry of the Church. You are welcome to be an advocate for youth and young adults. Have a blessed Christmas everyone and a very prosperous happy new year. **For more information, please contact**

Oliver Shepherd 0430 302 086 or Kiliti Naati on 0412731979.

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

Recently deceased: Mary Sharkie, Fr Jim Esler S.M., Margaret Mary Byrne,

Anniversary: Margherita Bugeja, Tom Fauvette,

Remembrance: Peter Whiteman, Noelle Davidovic, James and Elizabeth Carr, Joan and Patrick Fitzgerald, Fae and Jim Casey, Rose and John Doherty, Bryan Moroney, Mary Dolan, Peter Grima Wanda Grima Adam Meany, Fortana family & Grima family, Paulina and Umiliano Menezes, Bruno & Sergei de Souza, Lucy & Dioginho de Souza, Oscar de Souza, Theresa d'Souza and the Menezes and de Souza families,

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, 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, Maria Arundell, Larry Cresswell, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Head, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, Jim Matthews



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December:

For Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

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