

# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

**28th November 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT—Year C**

## FEAST DAYS

30 Nov: St Andrew

03 Dec: St Francis Xavier

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Administrator

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

### Assistant Priest

Fr. A Lourduwamy M.S.F.S.

### Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

### Parish Admin Assistant

Cath Peters

## MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday : Morning prayer  
at 8.15a.m. followed by the  
Eucharist at 8:30am.

Saturday: Morning prayer at  
8.45a.m. followed by the  
Eucharist, adoration and  
confession. Evening at 5pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am & 5pm

## MISSION and VISION

*Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL  
through:*

*Worship and Liturgy;*

*Outreach;*

*Our Parish School;*

*Hospitality;*

*Adult and Child Faith Formation*



## The History of the Advent Wreath

REV. WILLIAM SAUNDERS

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to

lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

## CONFIRMATION

**Please pray for all our candidates receiving Confirmation,  
Sunday 28th November 2021**

**May the Holy Spirit come upon them and guide them with  
sincere discernment throughout their lives.**



 CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF BROKEN BAY  
**COVID-19  
UPDATE**

## COVID-19 REGULATIONS

**WE REMIND YOU THAT: Electronic check-in is mandatory, as is sanitising, mask wearing and physical distancing**  
- please ensure you are seated 2m<sup>2</sup> 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.

- ◆ A reminder that all groups will continue to meet online [if possible] until December 15.

*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.*

## 75th Anniversary Celebrations

We are continuing our plans for some wonderful celebrations for this day, and more details will be shared shortly.

Thank you to those who have sent through their stories and photos. They are much appreciated.

A commemorative booklet is currently being finalised for printing and sharing with our Parish community. It will remain a great story of St John the Baptist Woy Woy history for decades to come.

We are so excited to announce our 75th Anniversary commemorative coffee mugs have



**Parish Census** Thank you to all who have returned their completed Parish Census forms. We have received so many but there are still many more to come. You can now collect a blank Parish Census Form from the Church Gathering Area. Please place completed forms in the Census Forms box or email to [Woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au). Please share with others, so we can connect with them and share exciting parish news with them, in a timely manner. **THANK YOU**

**Remembrance for Beverley McMahon 28th November.** Once a Parishioner at St John the Baptist Church Woy Woy, Beverley McMahon originally grew up in Ryde and most of her working career was located in Manly NSW and Sydney. As most of Beverley's friends who knew her during her adult career as a music teacher, musician and composer still live on the Northern Beaches and in Sydney and are all reaching an age in their late 80's - early 90's it is for their consideration that this year for Beverley's Anniversary a special small, Memorial Plaque blessed by Father Timothy has now been installed at Manly NSW East Esplanade. If you happen to be visiting the area, please feel free to relax in the surroundings of where the small Memorial Plaque is located which is on a table on the edge of the pedestrian footpath of East Esplanade overlooking Cabbage Tree Bay, Sydney Harbour and Manly Ferry Wharf. The table is located very close by to Manly Yacht Club which is a club where Beverley was a regular feature pianist. Beverley's Memorial Plaque is in an ideal location for a picnic too with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. (Mostly, it is just a good place to find some Peace from the chaos in the world right now...you won't even need to sign in with a QR code!)



**Hour of Grace** will be held 12noon -1pm, Wednesday 8 December, St John the Baptist, Woy Woy Church.

An hour of personal prayer in which to place all your requests before the Lord Jesus on this final day of the Year of St Joseph.



## Catechist Corner

*HOW ARE THEY TO CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW ARE THEY TO BELIEVE IN HIM OF WHOM THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD? AND HOW ARE THEY TO HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER? SO, FAITH COMES FROM WHAT IS HEARD, AND WHAT IS HEARD COMES BY THE PREACHING OF CHRIST.*

**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 search <https://thekidsbulletin.com/> To access free online Children's Liturgy of the Word videos search [Heidi Witte YouTube](#)

### FOLLOW US

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

<https://www.stjohnthebaptistchurch.woywoy>

<https://wwwst.johnthebaptistwoywoy>

### READERS for 4/5 December 2021:

Sat 5pm—Jane Somerville & Lola De Souza

Sun 7.30am—Isaak Giunter & Joel Bajo

Sun 9.15am—Gemma French & Choir

Sun 5pm—Youth Group

**\*\*\* Please collect your roster from the Servers' Sacristy \*\*\***

### SERVERS for 4/5 December 2021:

Sat 5pm—Paul & Vincent Cavanagh

Sun 7.30am—Kevin Glacken & Jose Torres

Sun 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Joesie Cameron

Sun 5pm—Laurie Jarvis

### CLEANERS for 3 December 2021:

Pam Hickey

Veronica Jordan

Rano Spiteri

Amanda Gray

**\*\*\* If unable to work on your appointed day, please swap or arrange a replacement \*\*\***

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Reading I: Jer 33:14-16

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The LORD our justice."

## Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

## Reading II: 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen. Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

## Alleluia: Ps 85:8

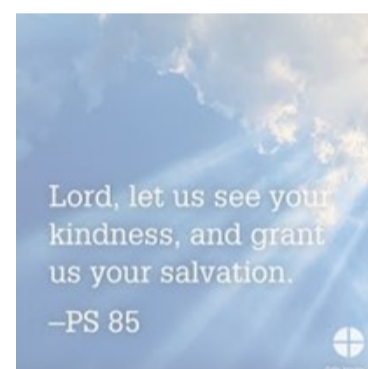
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel: Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.



A friendly Invitation to attend our secular Franciscan Mass to be celebrated by Father Joseph Nguyen OFM from Sydney at 11am, Our Lady of the Rosary The Entrance Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December followed by a Christmas BYO everything Picnic Lunch get together at The Waterfront Park The Entrance. Bring a warm jacket if attending the picnic. Further information please contact Sandra Petith Central Coast OFS Fraternity

## Youth Ministry News

Where do we go from here?

It has been a while since our last get together - as Covid 19 dictates. We are still recovering and hopefully everyone is well and ready for the Advent season.

We are planning to hold a Christmas Thanksgiving night for the Youth Helpers and the youth members on the evening of the 12th December after Evening Mass.

Please book with Oliver Shepherd 0430 302 086 or Kiliti Naati on 0412731979 for Catering purposes and preparations of program.



**PASTORAL WORKS** Broken Bay



### November 2021 Appeal

St Edmund's College is one of the five beneficiaries of Pastoral Works Broken Bay.



The College supports 120 students with disabilities such as intellectual, sensory impairment or autism, providing skills and experience for them to fully engage in life.

Your generous donations help with vital fee assistance to families in our Catholic community so that their children can access the services offered by St Edmund's.

Watch the attached short film to see the amazing impact your donations support <https://youtu.be/3r5BE26o2H4>.

To donate, complete the collection envelope in your parish, or visit [www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks).

**Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.**



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

**Recently deceased:** Miguel Deliverio, Ross French Snr

**Anniversary:** Thomas and Annie Peachey, Margaret Wahlin

**Remembrance:** Harry Ferguson, Eileen French

**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



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November:**

***People who suffer from Depression***

*We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.*

**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 also donate via Bpoint, which will take you to our Website for secure online payments.

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

**Name:** St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy

**BSB:** 062 784 Account no: 10000 1742

*Thank you*

**Sr Pat Barton RSM ran groups for older women in the parish some years ago. Can anyone elaborate?**

**Call Ann on 43428627 or email [ahook619@gmail.com](mailto:ahook619@gmail.com)**

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL**

**Tony Tanti**  
**Aged Care Specialist**  
 1300 661 424  
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