

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

St John the Baptist Primary School

School Enrolments are now being taken for 2021 school year. Enquiries - School Office

P: 02 4341 0884 E: www.sjbwoywoy.dbb.org.au

Follow us:

Website

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/woywoy>

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<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptist.woywoy>



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.

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

Remembrance: Bugeja, Catania, Grima & Edgcombe Families, Francis Brian Morrison, Tirso, Renato, Matilde & Angelita Carpio, Sela Wolfram Oliveti.

Anniversary: Richard Alexander Culmer, Peter Hope.

Recently deceased: Archbishop Philip Wilson, Chris Williams, Fr Alwyn Zothansanga MSFS.

Sick: Moya Joyes, Kiliti Na'ati, Susie Simmons, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Hanaa El Khatib, 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 Chorazyczewska, 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

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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 65 51 158 426 | Australian Credit Licence 408042) (LND) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LNS.



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church



4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

31st January 2021, Psalter Week 4, Year B



There is an old story about some linemen who were busy putting up telephone poles through a farmer's fields. The farmer ordered them off his land, whereupon they showed him a paper giving them the right to plant poles wherever they pleased. Not long afterward a big and vicious bull charged the linemen. The old farmer sat on a nearby fence and yelled: 'Show him yer papers, darn ye, show him yer papers!' To many Christians, Jesus' authority is only a paper authority. His word is something we study for inspiration, but we really don't believe that what Jesus teaches applies to our situation.

Jesus enters with a new teaching and a new authority. The man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit needs something new. The evil spirit that possesses him has robbed him of his freedom and of his joy. The man has probably concluded, "I'm

done. This spirit will continue to enslave me for the rest of my life." But then Jesus speaks and the spirit cries out. The man begins to understand that what he thought was the end was only a pause. Jesus drives out the demon, and the man enters into a new life.

When you and I feel that we have come to the end of our rope, that nothing new can happen, today's gospel encourages us to hope that God can move us forward.

When we are dismayed because of the bad decisions made by our children or our grandchildren, we say, "Things could have been so well if they had used money responsibly, if they married somebody else, if they avoided alcohol and drugs. But now they are finished. They have no future." This gospel asks us to believe that God can still surprise us. God can still move the people we love beyond their mistakes.

When we are devastated because we have lost someone that we love in death, and the hole in our heart is so huge that we are certain we will never recover, this gospel encourages us to believe that God can still save us, still move us to a new place.

Pete was a retired sailor. His best friend was his pet parrot. One day the parrot began to cough and cough and cough. Pete became worried. He began to think that the parrot was dealing with second hand smoke, because Pete smoked a pipe and its smoke routinely filled up the house. So Pete took the parrot to a veterinarian. Pete paced back and forth in the waiting room as the vet worked on the diagnosis. After a whole battery of tests the vet came out and said, "Pete, your parrot is fine. His lungs are perfectly clear." "But what about the cough?" Pete objected, "It is constant." The vet said "He's imitating you. Make an appointment with your doctor and get your lungs checked."

We all influence one another. Consciously or unconsciously people learn from our example. In that learning, our actions speak louder than our words. This truth is included in today's gospel. I wondered if you noticed it as the gospel was being proclaimed. All the people in the story are amazed by Jesus' teaching, and yet the story never tells us what Jesus is teaching. It does not give us any words of Jesus. What it gives us instead is Jesus' powerful expulsion of a demon. What impressed people about Jesus was not his teaching but his deeds. Not his words but his actions. If we are going to follow Jesus, then we need to be conscious of our actions and how they influence others.

This is particularly important for parents and grandparents because they are always telling their children and grandchildren what to do. But what do their children and grandchildren see in their actions?

What do the people we work with see in our actions? Can they perceive in what we do and how we treat one another that we consider them valuable? What do our actions say to our friends? Can they see in the things we do that we are people who respect life, who care for those in need, who treat other with fairness? Or are our friendship relations just a matter of entertainment and pleasantries?

What we do influences others. It influences them for good or ill. Our actions either display our enthusiasm or our negativity, our commitment or our cough. Words are important but actions make the difference. On this day as we hear of Jesus' great action in the gospel, we should follow him and be aware that our actions matter and in the choices that we make, in the time we invest, in the people that we love. That is how we make a difference. Small and selfish actions lead others astray, and actions of generosity and justice build the kingdom of 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.



Welcome

A big welcome to Bishop Anthony who will be joining our Parish to celebrate 9:15am Mass this Sunday 31st January. We look forward to his guidance and blessings.

Parish News:

Word of God Sunday: The Australian Bishops have determined that, in Australia, the Sunday of the Word of God will be celebrated on the first Sunday in February each year. In 2021, this Sunday 7 February.

Visits: For those Parishioners who would like Confession and Communion in the home or a House Blessing please call the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

Divine Will Cenacle: This month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 4th February in the Leo Mahon Room after morning mass. All welcome.

Cleaning Roster: 5/02/21 - Amanda Gray, Cheryl Sillick, Linda Potestas, Rano Spiteri.

Australian of the Year

Congratulations to Australian of the Year, Grace Tame who helped lead the fight to overturn a law preventing sexual assault survivors from speaking out. Watch Grace's acceptance speech – "Hear me now" - <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-26/grace-tame-australian-of-the-year-speech-in-full/13091710>

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"

Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from, 8th December 2020, to 8th December 2021.

A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power." Pope Francis encourages all of us to pray together daily:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Bulletin notice:

Caritas Australia invites you to be part of their Project Compassion Virtual Immersions via Zoom during each week of the Lenten season. These digital engagements will focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour across Australia. Please register at <http://lent.caritas.org.au/virtualimmersions>

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.

Cash Housie:

Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.30pm, every Saturday night. 51 Games

A set of 6 costs \$50 and additional tickets can be added on paper or to your electronic tickets. Prizes in first 2 books are all \$100 and pink games \$150, then last book all \$200 prior to the \$2000 Jackpot (reverts to \$1000 if not won within calls). Ticket sales from 6.30pm. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818 or

wwcphousie@hotmail.com or

<https://www.facebook.com/woywoybingo/>

New Session:

Tuesday nights at Everglades Country Club, Dunban Rd Woy Woy. 7.30PM, 23 games only \$10 for a set of 6 tickets. Paper tickets and pets available.

Attention all kids:

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 learn more click <https://thekidsbulletin.com/about/>

To access the bulletins click <https://thekidsbulletin.com/tag/the-kids-bulletin/> or access free online Children's liturgy of the Word videos click <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg9euOFmsu-xX7S2tCcNA> or search Heidi Witte- YouTube.

Reading 1

Dt 18:15-20

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

Responsorial Psalm

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Come ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;

let us kneel before the God who made us,
for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

"Harden not your hearts as at Meriba,
as on that day your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my works"

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Reading 2

1 Cor 7:32-35

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

Alleluia

Mt 4:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light;
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death,

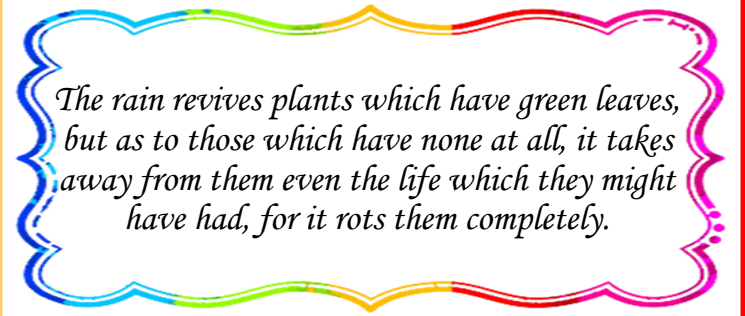
light has arisen.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mk 1:21-28

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.



*The rain revives plants which have green leaves,
but as to those which have none at all, it takes
away from them even the life which they might
have had, for it rots them completely.*

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: Masks are Mandatory. For Children under 12 they not compulsory but are strongly encouraged.

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