

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnthebaptist.woywoy>**Keep Us In Your Prayers OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:****Remembrance:** Paulina Menezes.**Anniversary:** Fran Ward, Jack Papallo, Rosa la Grazia.**Recently deceased:** Johanna Wilkinson.**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**

1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy.

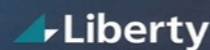
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0478 055 609**\$300 donation to a local community centre****For St John's parishioners or their friends who settle a home loan by 30 April 2020. Amanda will donate \$300 to a local community centre. Approved applicants only. Lending criteria apply. Amanda Lawer has access to a panel of lenders through Liberty Network Services Pty Ltd (ABN 65 51 158 426 | Australian Credit Licence 408042) (LMS) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LMS.**WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH
St John the Baptist Catholic Church****5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
7th February 2021, Psalter Week 1, Year B****Sunday of the Word of God**

The opening words, *Aperuit illis*, of the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis instituting the Sunday of the Word of God are taken from the 24th chapter of St Luke's Gospel, where the risen Lord "opens the minds" of the disciples to understand the Scriptures — here the Old Testament — in the light of his suffering, death, and resurrection. Like the two disciples on the way to Emmaus, as described earlier

in the same chapter, their hopes for the future had been dashed by what had so suddenly happened to Jesus. Here, on the first Easter Sunday evening, he meets them exactly where they are emotionally and helps them to understand the Scriptures in a way that incorporates the reality of what they had so recently experienced. As in the case of the disciples on the Emmaus road, the vast gap between their previous hopes and what had happened disappears as Jesus expounded the Scriptures in a new way. Doubtless, they too could say, "Were not our hearts burning within us ... while he was opening the Scriptures to us?" (24:32).

This, presumably, is exactly what Pope Francis hopes might be the experience of the faithful of our own time as they listen to a life-giving exposition of the Word of God, Sunday by Sunday. In line with the teaching of Vatican II, he speaks of the proclamation of the Word as "inseparable" from the Sacraments (§8). In note 2, he speaks of the sacramentality of the Word as analogous to the presence of Christ in the consecrated bread and wine, recalling the Apostolic Exhortation of Benedict XVI *Verbum Domini* (§ 56).

We can relate this to the Scripture readings for today (5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B). The First Reading (Job 7:1-6, 6-7) and the Gospel (Mark 1:29-39) complement each other.

Job — admittedly in rather extreme degree — gives utterance to the experience of so many human beings: Life is short, and much of it is misery and pain. The Gospel describes a typical "day" in the healing ministry of Jesus. After the more "domestic" healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, Jesus addresses the mass of human suffering and affliction that gathers outside the house in the evening following as the Sabbath ends.

This is the Word in action, rather than in teaching, as earlier in the day in the synagogue (1:21-28). It is, in a sense, the sacramental counterpart to the proclamation of the Word of which Pope Francis speaks in his Letter.

The prominence of exorcisms in the account raises for homilists the problem of how to explain this kind of activity to hearers of the Gospel today. The Gospel attributes to demonic possession many conditions that modern medicine would ascribe to various psycho-physical pathologies. It does so out of a desire to portray all Jesus' activity — whether teaching, healing or exorcising — as a life-and-death struggle with the powers opposed to God for the freedom and enhancement of human life. The demonic is ultimately about all the things that hold us captive in various ways and separate us from God.

Finally, the Gospel describes Jesus "escaping" to a lonely place to commune with his heavenly Father in prayer. He taps into the ultimate source of his ministry, which is the will of the Creator to give life to the world. Wherever Jesus speaks or acts, it is always God's creative Word saying in our darkness, "Let there be life. Let there be light" (John 1:1-5; see Gen 1:3).

In this way, the Gospel and the First Reading can come together in a fruitful "opening up" of the Word. No single figure experienced that opening up more dramatically than the Apostle Paul. So counter was the proclamation of the Crucified to his understanding of the hopes of Israel that, for a time, he vigorously persecuted the Church of God.

On the Damascus road the face of the Crucified was revealed to him as none other than the Son of God (Gal 1:16; 2 Cor 4:4-6). In the Second Reading (1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23), Paul gives powerful utterance to the commission he then received to proclaim that discovery worldwide at any cost. He needs no remuneration other than the privilege of being enlisted in such service. Pope Francis clearly wants all believers to catch something of Paul's enthusiasm for sharing the Good News contained in the living Word of God.

by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

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.

Parish News:

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.

Cleaning Roster: Friday 12th February - Kathleen Cullen, Pam Hickey, Reg Harrington, Veronica Jordan

Parish Finance Committee: Our next PFC meeting will be Tuesday 9th February at 7pm.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: Our next PCC meeting will be Thursday 11th February at 7pm.

Cash Housie:

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

Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818 or wwcphousie@hotmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/woywoybingo/>

New Session:

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

Paper tickets and pets available.

We can give different perfections to our actions according to the variety of motive, ends and intentions we have I doing them

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.*

Top Reasons to Become a Catechist:

- You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
- Your Baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
- Children more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus and need to encounter good role models of faith.
- You have much to share with those you'll teach, and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
- The Walking With Jesus resource offers interesting lessons, relevant background information for the catechist and modern PowerPoint presentations with stories and songs to engage the students.
- You'll be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
- You'll be helping the children deepen their relationship with Jesus. (You'll be evangelising!)
- You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old Tradition that changes lives.
- You will receive training to give you the necessary knowledge about how Special Religious Education is organised and a chance to develop your teachings. This training is presented locally, online or via Zoom by the friendly CCD staff offering training sessions
- It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."

There is an opportunity for a person who likes working with children to be a catechist each Friday at Umina Public School, teaching 23 children in Year 5. All the children will have their own Walking with Jesus student workbook and you, as their teacher, will have a teacher's manual with all the lessons planned for you.

Are you willing to become a catechist and announce the Good News of Jesus Christ as St John the Baptist did? If you are, or would like to know more about this ministry, contact Michael Tebbutt on 0407 218 677.

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.

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Reading 1

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

Praise the Lord for he is good;
sing to our God for he is loving:
The Lord is good and upright,
to him our praise is due.

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles,
he heals the broken hearted binding up their wounds.
He fixes the number of the stars;
he calls each one by name.

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can not be measured.
The Lord raises up the lowly;
he humbles the wicked to the dust.

R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

Reading 2

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mt 8:17

Gospel

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him

pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

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/UCfg9euOFFmsu-xX7S2tCcNA> or search Heidi Witte- YouTube.

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>

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 front 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.