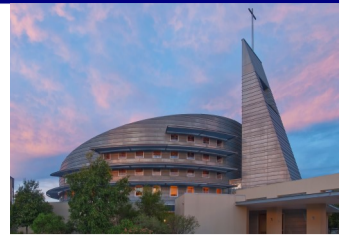




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



4th December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

6 December — St Nicholas

7 December—St Ambrose

8 December—The Immaculate
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9 December—St Juan Diego

Cuahtlatotzin

10 December—Our Lady of Loreto



Today's First Reading, as with that of last week, features one of the classic expressions of messianic hope taken from the prophet Isaiah (11:1–10). This time, however, there is a significant difference.

Whereas last week's reading expressed the hope in more general terms, today's reading – at its beginning and at its end – focuses that hope more precisely upon a saving figure who is to come from the house (literally, "the stock") of Jesse, that is, from the royal house of David. So the longing is now more strictly "messianic" in that it centres upon the coming of an ideal king of David's line, who will personally inaugurate

the messianic age.

MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm

Sunday - 7.30am, 9.15am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday: Morning prayer at 8.15am
followed by the Mass at 8.30am

Saturdays & Public holidays - 9.00am

Healing Mass

First Friday of the month during Mass at
4.00pm

Reconciliation/Confession

Friday -9.00am

First Friday of the month - 3.30pm

Saturday - 9.30am and 4.30pm

Sunday - 7.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday evenings from 7pm - 8pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon, Tues, Thurs—8.30am—3.00pm

Wed and Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Divine Will Cenacle

Thursdays 9.15am -10.30am

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings from 6pm - 7pm

Marian Bowyer - 0432 882 776

PARISH CONTACTS

Administrator

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

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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DEEP INTIMACY—What is to give this figure his unique quality is the fact that he is to be empowered, in manifest ways, by the spirit of the Lord. Among the many gifts the spirit will bestow upon him is "knowledge of the Lord". We should understand knowledge here in the full biblical sense implying not merely intellectual awareness but deep personal intimacy.

As the text goes on to suggest, it is out of this deep awareness of God and God's will for human beings that the ruler will be able to institute true justice in the Land, with a particular bias towards the cause of the poor.

The text then moves into a justly famous sequence describing the harmony in the natural and animal world that will attend the messianic age. It virtually amounts to a restoration of the original vision of Eden. All comes to a climax in the magnificent statement that the whole country will be filled "with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea".

HOPE FOR THE NATIONS—In a way that catches up the vision of the nations streaming to Zion in last week's reading, the text ends with an affirmation that Israel and her ruler so established will stand as a "signal" to the nations of the world, who will seek out her wisdom. Christian interpretation will find prefigured here the role of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God, the one "in whom the nations will place their hope" (Matt 12:21; see Rom 15:12).

The Second Reading, from Romans 15:4–9, has Paul addressing Gentile believers in Rome as the beneficiaries of this role traced out for Israel's Messiah. Across differences in community living that may arise, they are to "accept" ("welcome") one another, conscious of the fact that in the person of Israel's Messiah, God has reached out beyond Israel to include them in the community of salvation. In the words of Isaiah quoted in Matthew's Gospel (12:21) Jesus is the Messiah in whose name "the Gentiles will place their hope" (Isa 42:4) The acceptance Gentile believers have received from God and the hope that it has brought into their lives should lead them to be accepting and tolerant in their turn. What Paul has specifically in mind is tolerance in bearing with members of the community who were more scrupulous in the matter of observing the food laws and other Jewish rituals (see Rom 14:1–23).

The Gospel, Matt 3:1-12, presents us with the appearance and preaching of John the Baptist. John's message, "Prepare a way for the Lord", virtually states the theme of the entire season of Advent. Nonetheless, it is not all that easy simply to take John's words and proclaim them as Christian Gospel today. Jesus hardly filled the role of preacher of end-time doom that John sketches out for him here. More of this next week!

CONVERSION OF HEART—What is essential and truly preparatory to Jesus' proclamation of good news is John's summons to conversion of heart. The "way" that Isaiah wanted prepared in the wilderness is one that must be prepared in the wilderness of the human heart. The good news will then find a hearing when at last it is proclaimed.

The greatest obstacle to conversion of heart is complacency – a complacency that especially stems from privileged status ("We have Abraham for our father") and a sense that one is different from the despised outsiders and so can rest secure. Jesus will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire". That is, he will seek to catch up human lives into the fire that is God's love, communicated through the Spirit (Rom 5:5). But only hearts that are truly repentant and converted will be able to be grasped within a "baptism" of this kind. John's baptism with water is a preparatory rite of conversion, readying human hearts for the entrance of this message about God's love, the true "knowledge of the Lord" that Jesus will impart.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/second-sunday-of-advent-year-a>

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.



We offer sincere thanks to Cath Peters for her stellar work while at the Parish Office. She is not disappearing and will continue to be a valued Parishioner and member of the PPC.

Thank you to our Christmas decoration working bees for all their efforts last weekend.

Thank you to the PPC members and volunteers who catered for the Diocesan Deanery Meeting at the Parish this week.



SJB Parish committee and volunteer Christmas dinner — Sunday 11th December at midday

Come together to celebrate our year and share gratitude for what we have. Please add your details to the sheet on the table in the Gathering Area.



We warmly welcome those who will be Baptised this weekend: *Albie Lambeth and Penny Dibley*.

Funeral Announcement: The life of Janice Green will be celebrated at 3pm on Monday, 5th December at the Rose Chapel, Palmdale. We offer our sincere condolences to Janice's family and friends.



Fr Timothy will present Brown Scapulars at 9.15am Mass on 4th December. Please contact Emma Baker on 0404 339 668 for further information.

Hour of Grace

An hour of quiet prayer from 12noon until 1pm on Thursday 8 December at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy.



Children's Liturgy of the Word continues on Sundays during the 9:15am Mass. For more information contact Christine French on 0431 765 401.



Over the next few weeks parishes in the Diocese will be holding our Pastoral Works Broken Bay November Appeal. Pastoral Works

Broken Bay is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community in Broken Bay. We have two major Pastoral Works appeals each year – November and May. Where does your donation go and who does it help? The key focus for our Pastoral Works appeals will be the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Practitioners. Whatever your donation it will make a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donation envelopes will be available in your parish which can be completed and returned to the parish or you can go online by scanning the QR code and visiting

bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks



CLEANERS for 9 December 2022:

Mimi Lambert **Peter Smith**

Elena Egan **Maria Owen**

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

READERS for 10-11 December 2022:

Sat 5pm — Paul Rutherford & Jane Somerville

Sun 7.30am — Dorothy Fulton & Jose Torres

Sun 9.15am — Virginia Burton & Michael Dixon

Sun 5pm — Lorena Lalor & Kristina Aitken

SERVERS for 10-11 December 2022:

Sat 5pm—Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo

Sun 7.30am—Jose Torres & Paul Nolan

Sun 9.15am — Bob Wilson & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sun 5pm — Laurie Jarvis or Pia Savea

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

- ♦ We would appreciate more **Readers**, particularly for 5pm Saturday and Sunday.
- ♦ **Welcomers** are sought to greet parishioners and visitors for each weekend Mass.
- ♦ Church cleaners required. Please contact Christine French on 0431 765 401.



How can YOU support OUR parish???

SHRINES OF OUR LADY PILGRIMAGE

A 15 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE: FRANCE, PORTUGAL & ITALY PARIS, LISIEUX, LOURDES, FATIMA, ASSISI, ROME, ROTONDO, VENICE, MILAN

TOUR CHAPLAIN: FR TIMOTHY RAJ MSFS

DEPARTURE: 2nd May 2023 & RETURN 18th May 2023

INDICATIVE COST

\$8,490 per person / 21- 30 Pilgrims

\$7,990 per person / 31-40 Pilgrims

Single supplement \$1,890 per person

- ♦ Flights will be confirmed only at the time of booking with a deposit.
- ♦ Please contact Parish Office for more details—4341 1073



*Christmas Mass Times 2022
St John the Baptist Parish*

<p>Dec 24th: Christmas Eve 5:00 pm - Church 5:30 pm—SJB School Oval <i>21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy</i> 8:00 pm - Church 10:00 pm - Church</p> <p>Dec 25th: Christmas Day 7:30 am - Church 9:15 am - Church</p> <p>Dec 26th: Boxing Day 9:00 am</p>	<p>Dec 27th: Public Holiday 9:00 am</p> <p>Dec 31st: New Years Eve 9.00 am Mass followed by Thanksgiving Adoration 5:00 pm Vigil</p> <p>Jan 1st: New Years Day 7:30 am, 9:15 am, 5:00 pm</p>
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**16TH
DECEMBER
7PM**

@ St Patrick's
Church Gosford,
Shrine of JPPI



THE SHRINE OF ST POPE JOHN PAUL II PRESENTS...

**MERCY
NIGHT**

AN ENCOUNTER EVENING

CONFESSION | ADORATION | PRAISE & WORSHIP
| VENERATION OF RELICS & PRAYERS THROUGH
THE INTERCESSION OF JPPI

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 11:1-10

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71 (72):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Reading 2: Rom 15:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: *Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.*

Alleluia: Lk 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



Our new Diocesan Advent resource is now available.

Written by Fr David Ranson, it offers reflections based on the Gifts of Christmas that are represented by the Advent candles, these being Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. You may wish to use this resource for small groups during Advent, or it is also suitable for individual reflection. The resource can be accessed on the [Diocesan webpage](#). For further information, please contact Pina Bernard at pina.bernard@bbcatholic.org.au or 0432 682 239.



Cash Housie !!!

Saturday nights 7.30pm
50 games at Peninsula
Community Centre,
93 McMasters Rd, Woy Woy.



Proceeds benefit our parish.

For more information, please contact
Robert Graham on 0427 990 818.

Upcoming Dates:

3rd December – Mini Marathon

17th December – Mini Marathon

24th December – Closed

31st December – Closed

7th January – Mini Marathon

All other dates are normal sessions

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

Recently deceased: Janice Green

Anniversary: Margaret Wahlin, Bronia Clara Leonard

Remembrance: Mary Scarf, Larry Sheil

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfgram, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Jones, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Pat Savage, John Mitchell, Donna Vella, Ken Joyce, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Alchin, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, James Matthews, Doreen Arahill, Theresa Mitchell, Anita Servi, Jean Pierre, Michael Tannous, Charles Lawson, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Vince Weigold, Lola DeSouza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Christine Semark, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilai, Loraine Wanless, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, Jack Rogan-Clark, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt Ernie Mullins, Stan Page, Alexandra Carrol.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer non profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

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 for your generous contribution.

Thank You

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