



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



30th January 2022 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time—C

FEAST DAYS

31 Jan — St John Bosco
2 Feb— The Presentation of the LORD
3 Feb — Sts Blaise & Ansgar
5 Feb—St Agatha

PARISH CONTACTS

Administrator

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

Assistant Priest

Fr. A Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

Parish Admin Assistant

Cath Peters

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MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

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

First Friday: Confession 3.30pm
Healing Mass 4pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 7—8pm



Feast of The Presentation of The Lord Jesus

The various names, meanings, and traditions overlapping in today's Feast churn like the crystals in a kaleidoscope, revealing one image and then another with every slight rotation of the tube. The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple is, rotate, also the Purification of Mary. But, rotate, it's also known as the Meeting of the Lord in the Christian East. And, rotate, it's also the Feast of Candlemas, marking forty days after Christmas, the end of that liturgical season. The multiple names and meanings of today's Feast have given birth to surprisingly broad and varied cultural expressions. The biblical account of the Presentation is the source for the "two turtle doves" in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," for the sword piercing Mary's Immaculate Heart in Catholic iconography, for the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the rosary, and for the Canticum prayed by all the world's priests and nuns every single night of their lives. The Presentation is even the remote source of the frivolous American folkloric tradition of Groundhog Day.

Behind all of these names and meanings are, however, a few fundamental theological facts worth reflecting upon. The Lord Jesus Christ, forty days after His birth, in keeping with the biblical significance of the number forty and with Jewish custom, was presented in the temple in Jerusalem by His parents, Mary and Joseph. Saint Luke's Gospel recounts the story. After the Presentation, Jesus was to enter the temple again as a boy and later as an adult. He would even refer to His own body as a temple which He would raise up in three days. Jesus's life was a continual self-gift to God the Father from the very beginning to the very end. His parents did not carry their infant Son to a holy mountain, a sacred spring, or a magical forest. It was in His temple that the God of Israel was most present, so they brought their son to God Himself, not just to a reflection of Him in nature.

The extraordinarily beautiful temple in Jerusalem, the very building where Jesus was presented by His parents, was burned and destroyed by a powerful Roman army under the future Emperor Titus in 70 A.D. It was never rebuilt. A tourist in Rome can, even today, gaze up at the marble depictions of the sack of the Jerusalem temple carved on the inside vaults of the Arch of Titus in the Roman Forum. Christianity has never had just one sacred place equivalent to the Jewish Temple or the Muslims' Kaaba in Mecca. Our faith is historical, yes, but it has a global reach which does not allow it to be planted in just one culture or just one location. Christ is destined for all cultures and all times. Every Catholic church with the Blessed Sacrament is a Holy of Holies, which fully expresses the deepest mysteries of our faith. There is no strict need to go on pilgrimage to Rome or to Jerusalem once in your life. But you do have to go on pilgrimage to your local parish once a week for Mass. Every Catholic church in every place, not just one building in one place, encompasses and transmits the entirety of our faith. God's hand must have been involved in the headship of the Church migrating from Jerusalem to Rome in the first century. Our Pope does not live in the historical cradle of the faith he represents, because Saint Peter saw no need to remain in Jerusalem in order to be faithful to his Master. The Church is where Christ is, Christ is in the Holy Eucharist, and the Holy Eucharist is everywhere.

We go to church, as the Jews went to their one temple or to their many synagogues, because God is more God in a church. And when we experience the true God, we experience our true selves. That is, we are more us when God is more God. God is interpreted according to the mode of the interpreter, when He is sought in a glowing sunset, a rushing waterfall, or a stunning mountain. In nature, God is whoever the seeker wants Him to be. In a church, however, God is protected from misinterpretation. He is surrounded and protected by His priests, saints, sacraments, music, art, and worship. In a church, God is fully clothed, equipped, and armored. He can't be misunderstood. So we go to find Him there, to dedicate ourselves to Him there, and to receive Him there in His Body and in His Blood.

Lord Jesus, as an infant You were brought to the temple by Your parents out of religious duty. Help all parents to take their duties to God seriously, to inculcate their faith in the next generation by their words and by their actions, so that the faith will be handed on where the faith is first learned—in the family and in the home.

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/february-2-presentation-of-the-lord-feast/>

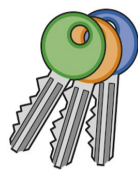
COVID-19 REGULATIONS: From Friday 24th December 2021, the following will apply:



- No density limits will apply in Places of Worship.
- COVID-19 Safe Check-in REMAINS mandatory in Places of Worship, funerals, memorials or gatherings afterwards
- Face masks are **mandatory for indoor locations** including Places of Worship, for all people over the age of 12.

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 Key & Swipe Register: For insurance purposes, the parish keys & swipe register is being updated. Any persons who hold keys or a swipe to any parish buildings or property, kindly contact the parish office by email stating your name, contact details and which keys/swipes you have. Anyone holding keys/swipes which are no longer required please return to the parish office as soon as possible.



BACK TO SCHOOL

A very warm welcome and welcome back to school for the children of our parish.

In 2022, may you dream big, work hard, play fair and surround yourself with those who love you and support your growth.



Pastoral Discernment Central Coast Project

On the 31st of October, Bishop Anthony launched the Central Coast Pastoral Discernment Project. As a member of our Parish Pastoral Council, Fr Tim has invited me to facilitate the St John's the Baptist consultation process. Fr Tim and I invite you to learn about the project through the following opportunities. The first is to watch the project video which can be found via the following link. <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/our-faith/pastoral-discernment-central-coast>. You can also find printed copies of the project's promotional brochure on the welcome desk in the Church foyer, as well as on the project webpage. Our final suggestion is to read Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Letter, see link below. This letter outlines Bishop Anthony's six key pastoral priorities for our Diocese, which the project aligns to. <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/about/bishop/pastoral-letter-jesus-christ-our-beginning-and-end/pastoral-letter-jesus-christ-our-beginning-and-our-end>

We are planning to meet with interested parishioners on Friday the 4th of February following 4.00 pm Mass. Supper will be provided afterwards. We will also meet on Saturday the 5th of February after morning mass and adoration. Lunch will be provided afterwards. These are repeated sessions so you are invited to attend only one of these. I look forward to facilitating this exciting new initiative in our community.

God Bless, – Rosie Na'ati 0421780957



Pray for Tonga

Tonga is reeling after a violent underwater volcano eruption triggered tsunamis, destroyed telecommunications and blanketed the country in ash and rock.

Roads, bridges and homes are damaged. Water supplies have been contaminated by volcanic ash and saltwater.

Tonga needs your support urgently. Give now to help with emergency response.

Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific or call 1800 024 413 toll free to make your donation.



The funds raised will be used to provide immediate and longer term assistance through Caritas Tonga.

MISSION and VISION

*Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL through:
Worship and Liturgy; Outreach;
Our Parish School; Hospitality;
Adult and Child Faith Formation*

SERVERS for 5/6 February 2022:

Sat 5pm—Paul & Vincent Cavanagh
Sun 7.30am—Peter French & Paul Nolan
Sun 9.15am—Bernie French & Joesie Cameron
Sun 5pm –Laurie Jarvis

READERS for 5/6 February 2022:

Sat 5pm—Lola De Souza & Jane Rutherford
Sun 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton & Joel Bajo
Sun 9.15am—Don Matheson & Olga Mhilli
Sun 5pm—Peter Smith & Lorena Lalor

CLEANERS for 4 February 2022:

Amanda Gray *Cheryl Sillick*
Linda Potestas *Rano Spiteri*

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

VOLUNTEERS

Eucharist Ministers in the Community

Phoebe Glacken 4341 6324

Bus Drivers

Vince Wiegold 4341 1073

Catechists

Michael Tebbut 0437 440 169

Church Cleaners

Christine French 4342 4548

Readers

Dorothy Fulton 4341 7610

Music Ministry

Lyn Dwyer 0417 659 526

Baptisms

Brenda Sweet 4341 1073

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. But do you gird your loins; stand up and tell them all that I command you. Be not crushed on their account, as though I would leave you crushed before them; for it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass, against the whole land: against Judah's kings and princes, against its priests and people. They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Reading II: 1 Cor 12:31–13:13

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Alleluia: Lk 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.



Please keep in your prayers : Pray for peace and justice for the people of Ukraine.



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

Recently deceased: Marie McNamee, Sandra Conor Chua, Elma Daroya Vander May, Fr Michael Butler

Anniversary: Richard Alexander Culmer, Edward Luxford, Stefania Bellinska

Remembrance: Peter Whiteman, Socorro Francisco Tadlas

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, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame, Maria Arundell, Larry Cresswell, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Alchin, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, James Matthews, Clare Gleeson, Margaret Gibson, Dawn Torrens, Jackie Asic, Fay Alchin

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January:

True Human Fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



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.



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