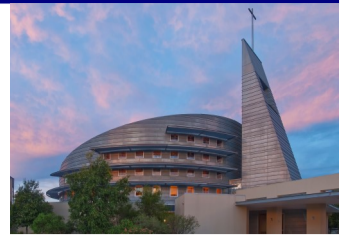




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



25th December 2022 The Nativity of the Lord

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

25th December—Nativity of the Lord
26th December—St Stephen
27th December—St John
28th December—The Holy Innocents, martyrs
30th December—The Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph
1st January—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

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

P: 02 4341 1073

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Dear Parishioners, friends, benefactors and well-wishers,

Christmas is a great time of celebration – but forget not Christ.

"If Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world during this Christmas, but is not born in my heart, what does it profit me?" Alexander Pope.

A speaker asked: Is there anyone who has the courage to take a lighted candle into a dark room?

Everyone lifted up their hands without giving a thought, saying it is very simple and too easy.

Again, the speaker asked for a volunteer to prove it. When the person with a lighted candle reached the door of the dark room it dawned on him that the room will not be dark anymore once the lit candle enters the room.

At Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world continues to radiate and dispel the darkness and the light comes to us in the mystery of the Eucharist. He knocks at our door to enter and eat with us. If we welcome God into our hearts and allow Him to dwell there, history changes. For once Jesus dwells in our heart, the centre of life is no longer our ravenous and selfish ego, but the One who is born and lives for Love. It is He, our Lord Jesus Christ, who invites us to allow Him to dwell in our hearts. With His help we can make a new beginning as individuals, as family, as a Parish and as a community.

As Pope Francis reminded us in *Fratelli tutti*, Jesus Christ was born among us. To save us. To show us an authentic way to live. And to call us to continual conversion and everlasting life.

The Christmas season generates in us **HOPE, LOVE, JOY AND PEACE** throughout Advent. The Nativity gives us the LIGHT, JESUS CHRIST who is the source of these graces and who enables us to overcome darkness and dark aspects of our life. Let us discover and become aware of the dark or shadowy aspects in us, in society and the struggle to overcome these obstacles. With God's grace we pray that he may help to eradicate them from society with the power he has given to us. Come to Jesus this Christmas day and truly experience His Lasting Peace, unending Joy and boundless Love.

If Christ is born in us we are no more in darkness.

'You are the Light of the world'. (Mt.5:14)

Let us be a tiny lamp to brighten the lives of others in a little way.

I wish you all **A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A JOYOUS NEW YEAR—2023**

Fr Timothy msfs

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 Office: The Parish Office will be closed from COB on Friday, 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday, 3rd January 2023.

Christmas Offering: Christmas offering envelopes are available with proceeds going to the Clergy Fund. Please give generously.

Sharing Wisdom: Mon-Fri, 9-13 January 2023—Leo Mahon Room at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy. Discussing God's wisdom in Scripture, the wisdom of G.K.Chesterton, the wisdom of the Saints in their writings and prayers and also learning some wisdom from each other. There is no cost. Morning tea from 9.15am. Start at 9.45am sharp. Finish at 12noon. Each morning will be different. Attend as many or as few mornings as you are able to.

Divine Will Cenacle will take a break and resume on 12th January.

Piety Stall: The Piety Stall is closed and will reopen 07/01/23.

Cash Housie !!!

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



Important dates:
24th December—
Closed
31st December—
Closed
7th January—Mini
Marathon

Proceeds benefit our parish.

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

Christmas Mass Times

December 26th: Boxing Day
9:00 am

December 27th: Public Holiday
9:00 am

December 31st: New Years Eve
9.00 am Mass followed by
Thanksgiving Adoration
5:00 pm Vigil

January 1st: New Years Day
7:30 am, 9:15 am, 5:00 pm

WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

REGISTRATION UPDATE

- The excitement is certainly building as we continue to plan and prepare for WYD23 to Lisbon next year!
- Places for Over 18's on the full pilgrimage have reached capacity.
- We have a number of spaces on the Direct Pilgrimage 29 July to 11 August
- It's not too late to let us know that you'd like to journey with us on the Direct pilgrimage.
- Register to secure your place: <https://bit.ly/wyd2023bbc>

CLEANERS for 6 January 2023:

Linda Potestas **Elena Egan**
Maria Owen **Laila Dawe**
*** if unable to work on your appointed day,
please swap or arrange a replacement***

SERVERS for 31 Dec/1 Jan :

Sat 5pm—Paul Cavanagh and Vincent Cavanagh
Sun 7.30am—Jose Torres and Paul Nolan
Sun 9.15am—Bob Wilson and Hanaa El Khatib
Sun 5pm—Pio Savea or Allan Moore

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

- ♦ We would appreciate more Readers for weekend Masses. Please contact Fr Timothy directly or the Parish Office 4341 1073.
- ♦ Welcomers are sought to greet parishioners and visitors for each weekend Mass.



“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew.”
St Francis de Sales

SHRINES OF OUR LADY PILGRIMAGE

A 16 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE
FRANCE, PORTUGAL & ITALY PARIS, LISIEUX, LOURDES, FATIMA,
ASSISI, ROME, ROTONDO, VENICE, MILAN

TOUR CHAPLAIN: FR TIMOTHY RAJ MSFS

DEPARTURE: 1st May 2023
RETURN: 18th May 2023

INDICATIVE COST
\$8,590 per person/21-30 Pilgrims
\$8,190 per person/31-40 Pilgrims
Single supplement \$1,790 per person



- ♦ For those who have paid a deposit or registered an interest - there will be copy itineraries and registration forms available for collection on the table in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ For further information please contact Parish Office 4341 1073.
- ♦ Flights will be confirmed only at the time of booking with a deposit.

FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—PETRA, BETHLEHEM,
JERICHO, MASADA, SEA OF GALILEE, JERUSALEM

TOUR CHAPLAIN: FR SALAS MUTTATHUKATTIL MSFS

DEPARTURE: 21st May 2023
RETURN: 3rd June 2023

Enquiries: tel 02 9774 3662/email
stcpanania@hotmail.com



Reading 1: Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, Your God is King!"

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-6

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Reading 2: Heb1:1-6

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my son; this day I have begotten you?

Or again:

I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?

And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says:

Let all the angels of God worship him.

Alleluia:

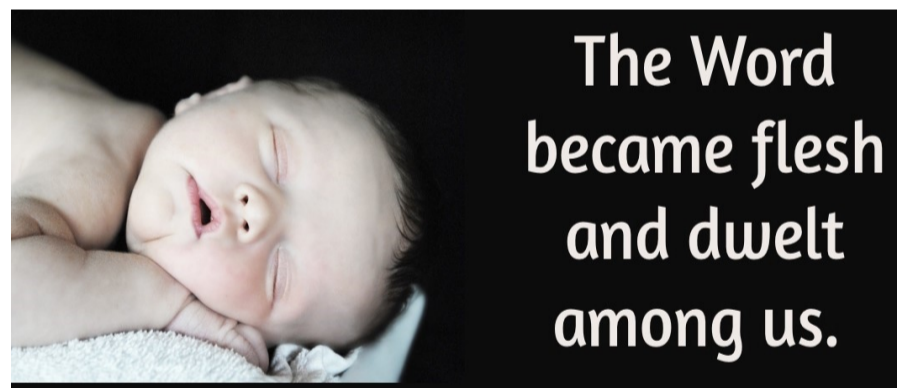
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel: Jn 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

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

Recently deceased: Fr Jim Joseph Knight

Anniversary: Margherita Bugeja, Tom Fauvette

Remembrance: Terri Hall, Bruno & Sergei de Souza, Faela & James Casey, Mary Dolan, Bryan Moroney, Rose & John Doherty, Noëlle Davidovic

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 co-operation.

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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