



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



30th July 2023
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016**

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

31 July—St Ignatius Loyola

1 August—St Alphonsus Liguori

3 August—St Dominic

8 August—St Mary of the Cross

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

Nursing Home Masses:

Hillview House—3rd Thurs of the month 10am

Peninsula Village—4th Thurs of the month 10am

BlueWave—2nd Fri of the month 9.30am

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 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon—Fri - 8.30am—3.00pm

Divine Will Cenacle

Thursdays - 9.15am -10.30am

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

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

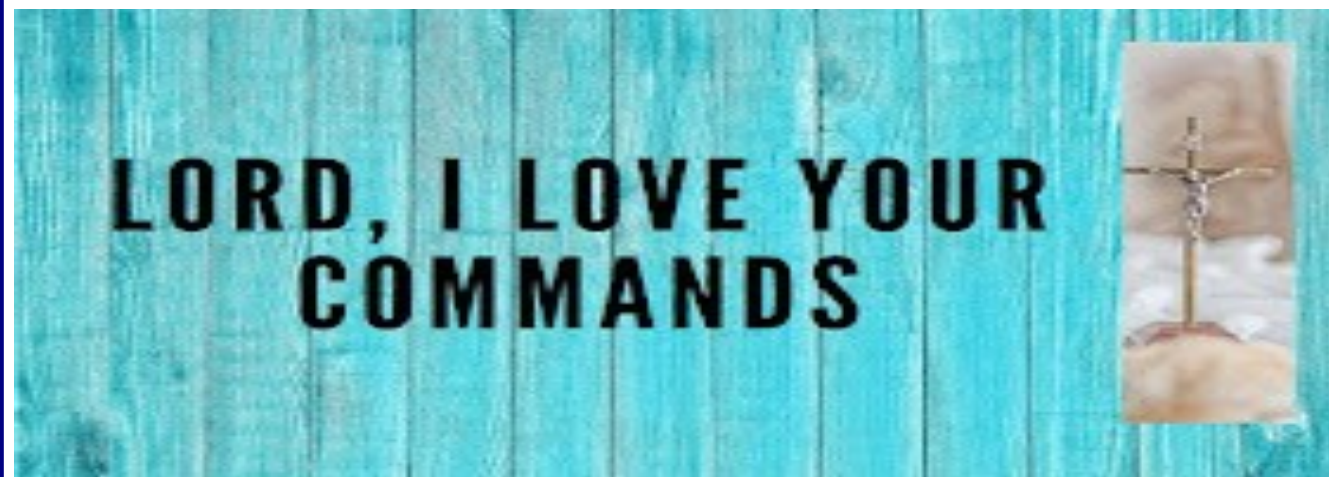
For three Sundays, the gospel readings have been parables about the kingdom of heaven. We have heard the Parables of the Sower, Weeds and Wheat, Mustard Seed, Yeast, Buried Treasure, Precious Pearl, and Dragnet. What I find interesting about the telling of the first two parables is that after each one it appears that Jesus provides an explanation for their meaning. However, the Dominican Scripture Scholar, Barbara Reid, OP, reminds us that before the parables were written down, they were told and retold by people who added details according to the circumstances and situations in which they lived. First century story tellers used allegories to connect features of Jesus' parables with their own political, religious, and community happenings. Barbara goes on to say that people usually see God as the sower in the first parable. It is God, the farmer, who throws the word out to good people as well as to bad people. The parable is an illustration of God's all-inclusive love for human beings.

In the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds, the early Christian community recognized Jesus as the landowner. The field is the world, the good seed is the children of God, and the weeds are evildoers. The parable is an illustration of God's love for those who endure in a world of evil through their persistent patience and their enduring faith.

With all this said, we come to the Parable of the Buried Treasure and the Parable of the Precious Pearl. These two parables are found only in the Gospel of Matthew and they belong with each other as did the first two parables. The usual interpretation of these two parables is that Jesus is both the hidden treasure and the precious pearl. As we go through life, we are the unnamed person and the merchant who first seek Jesus and then someday find Jesus. It is up to us to sell all that we have to possess him.

But I suggest to you that because God and Jesus are the central characters of the Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds, when it comes to the Parable of the Buried Treasure and the Precious Pearl, God is the unnamed person who is preoccupied with purchasing the field. God is the merchant who is infatuated with obtaining the precious pearl. In other words, God spends hours admiring the two prizes. God dreams about the two valuables all through the night. Most importantly, God tells Jesus that for the buried treasure and the precious pearl no cost is too great, not even his life. This makes us the valued treasure. This makes us the precious pearl. How then are we promoting the kingdom of heaven through who we are and what we do?

<https://www.dominicancenter.org/17th-sunday-ordinary-time/>



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.

Cleaners for 4th August: Cheryl Sillick, Anne-Marie Young, Mabel Torres, Jo Salter.

Readers for 5th & 6th August:

Saturday 5.00pm— Kate Bravo & Marie Andrews

Sunday 7.30am— Joel Bajo & Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am— Don Matheson & Maryrose Barlow

Sunday 5.00pm— Peter Smith & Kris Aitken

Servers for 5th & 6th August:

Saturday 5.00pm— Paul Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am— Peter French & Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am— Bernie French & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm— Laurie Jarvis, Pio Savea, Allan Moore

Safeguarding Team: Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.



Cash Housie at Peninsula Community Centre, Saturdays 7.30pm, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

Divine Will Cenacle: The Divine Will Cenacle meetings continue each Thursday after morning Mass. All welcome. Feel free to join in any week.

World Youth Day Pilgrimage: Our Broken Bay pilgrims reached Northern Italy safely on 22 July. By 29/30 July they will be in Rome. On 31 July they fly to Lisbon and the rest of the week will be full of World Youth Day activities. Further info www.CavanaghArt.com.

A Voice to Parliament: Supporting a Voice to Parliament is an act of reconciliation," Senator Patrick Dodson. Further information and resources are available in the gathering space for your to consider, including a prayer from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council taken from the Catholic Church's website on the Voice: <https://indigenousvoice.church/>. Please feel free to take these resources home.

Home Communion: If you would like to receive Communion at home please contact the Parish Office.

Catechist volunteers: We have been blessed with many gifts and one we treasure dearly is our gift of Faith. A new term has begun in the schools and the small band of catechists are working very hard. There are five catechists and one assistant covering all the classes for Catholic students in the four primary schools. That is a total of 16 classes which means the catechists are teaching multiple classes each time they go into a school. We are looking for more people who would be prepared

to make a gift of their time and their talents to the Catholic children in the public schools and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them.

We, the catechists pray that you will feel the Holy Spirit whisper in your hearts the call to become a catechist and share the load that few are currently bearing in sharing the Good News of Jesus with the children. Be one of the chosen here at St John the Baptist, Woy Woy. For more information, contact Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169.




THANK YOU!

To all our parishioners and friends who have donated to the Diocese Pastoral Works Broken Bay, the pastoral charity of our Catholic community.

Your kindness and generosity will make a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish and the wider community.

Pastoral Works Broken Bay also supports:

St Lucy's School	St Edmund's College	Ephpheta Centre
K-12 students with disabilities	7-12 students with disabilities	Catholic deaf community

If you donated via the Good Giving app, use this QR Code to access a tutorial to get your donation statement for the 2022/2023 financial year.



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)



Pastoral Care and Hospital Chaplaincy





CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Please help us fundraise for CatholicCare's homelessness services across the Diocese

Donor envelopes available during Mass
Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 August.

There is no place like home—but for many, having a home is not a reality. The causes may be diverse, but the impact is the same—a loss of dignity and a sense of hopelessness. A donation drive will take place during Homelessness Week on 5th and 6th August.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

Responsorial Psalm: 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130

R. Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

For I love your command more than gold, however fine.

For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them.

The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Reading 2: : Rom 8:28-30

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

Keep Us In Your Prayers— pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Peter Coyne

Anniversary: Phyllis O'Regan, Jim, James & Grace Filewood

Remembrance: Fr Maurice O'Connor SSC, Rene Glase, Florencia Potestas

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, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, 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, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Vince Weigold, Lola DeSouza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Christine Semark, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilar, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, Jack Rogan-Clark, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Serge Fauvette, Roger Lambert, Ron Manning, Ken Dixon, Maria Lourenco, Doris Coleman, Alice Lynn, Dianne Smyth, Gail Smith, Roy Cutrone, Wendy Cohen, Bill Hunt, Patricia Quinn, Alan Ball, Betty McDermott, Jacki Asic



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August

For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives

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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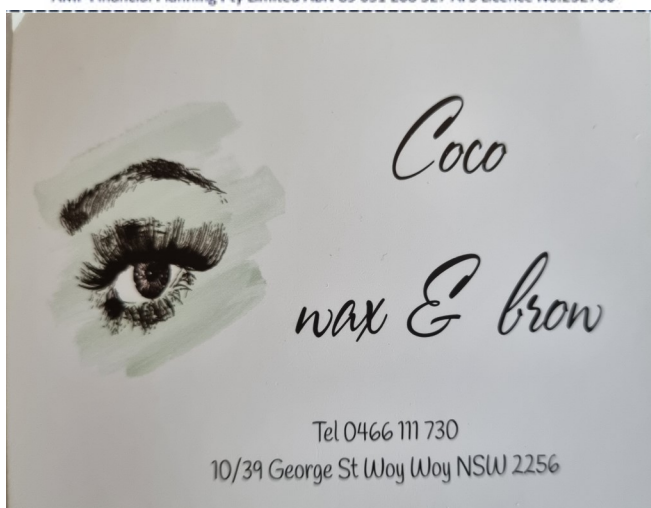
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LUNCH TUESDAY TO SATURDAY (11.00am to 2.30pm)
DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY & SUNDAY (4.30pm to 9.30pm)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

34 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy-NSW 2256, Tel: 02 43398225, www.spices29.com.au