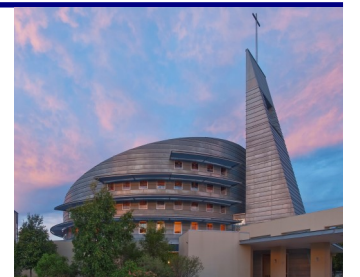




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



3rd December 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

4 Dec—St John Damascene

6 Dec—St Nicholas

7 Dec—St Ambrose

**8 Dec—The Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

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.

Assistant Priest

Fr. Alex Peter M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

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This Sunday we begin a new season in the liturgical calendar of the Church. Today, we begin the great Season of Advent. There are two messages that we will hear over the next four weeks. One message and set of values will come to us from the media and the shops. We will be told that we will have to move faster, stay busy, queue longer in the shops and spend more money on those 'must have' presents so that we will have the 'perfect' Christmas, as if such a thing exists. We will be told and sold the idea that unless we buy more and more and surround ourselves with all the trappings of Christmas, we won't be happy. This most definitely is 'fake news.' However there is a very different message and set of values that will be offered to us through the gospels, the prayers and the liturgy of Advent. We are being asked to prepare a way for the Lord, to stay awake, to make a straight a path for the Lord and to get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This most definitely is 'Good News!'

The message of Advent is an invitation and it is also a challenge to us. We are called to be looking forward, to be ready, to be prepared and we are asked to wait in joyful hope. Waiting is not something that we are usually good at these days. Our modern world tells us to move faster in so many ways. We have smart phones, emails and microwave ovens that all 'help' us to get through our busy days. However Advent asks each of us to do the very opposite. During these sacred days of preparation, we are being asked to take some time to be still and silent as we prepare ourselves deeply for Christmas. While we can't simply ignore the shops, the media and the advertisements over the next few weeks, neither can we ignore the words and message of Jesus in today's gospel; *"Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come... what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"*

If we get too caught up in the shopping and spending, there is the danger that we will miss what Advent is really about. This is what the call to 'stay awake' means. We are asked not to miss the next four weeks of Advent. We are asked to prepare and get ready as best we can as followers of Jesus. It would be so sad, that if after the shopping and all the other preparations, we missed Advent and its joyful and hopeful message.

In what ways can I prepare a way for the Lord this Advent as I get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas?

Michael Moore OMI

<https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-1st-sunday-advent/>

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 Christmas Dinner: There will be a Christmas gathering dinner for Parishioners in the Walter Baker Hall on Friday, 15th December at 6.00pm. Please register your attendance on the list in the Gathering Area. The Parish bus will be available for people who require transport. If you need transport, please add your name to the bus list in the Gathering Area.



Pastoral Works Broken Bay: Envelopes are now available for the Pastoral Works Broken Bay collection, which will be held next weekend.

Piety Stall: Columban and Josephite Calendars priced at \$10, are now available for sale in the Piety Stall.

Blessing: Fr Timothy will bless the Jesse Tree after 9.15am Mass this Sunday, 3rd December.

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



We warmly welcome Jackson & Georgette Rose who will be Baptised this weekend.

Cleaners for 8th December: Anne-Marie Young, Tom French, Elena Egan, Maria Owen.

Readers for 9th & 10th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville & Rose Mondal

Sunday 7.30am—Mabel Torres & Isaak Giunta

Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron & Colleen McCormack

Sunday 5.00pm—Sarah Hagarty & Marian Bowyer

Servers for 9th & 10th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Bernie French

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm—Darrin Patterson

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.

Bakers Delight Umina—Christmas Fundraising

Opportunity: Bakers Delight Umina would like to offer the Parishioners of St John the Baptist Church the opportunity to purchase fruit mince tarts and lemon tarts. For every 6 pack of fruit mince or lemon tarts you order, Bakers Delight Umina will give \$2.00 to St John the Baptist Church. Fill in the details on the form located in the Gathering Area and bring it together with full payment to Bakers Delight Umina by Monday, December 11th.

Parish Vocations Mass: Fr Sam French will celebrate 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 10th December.

Church cleaners: Church cleaners required. Contact Christine French 0431765401.

Parish Vocations Volunteers Wanted: The Broken Bay Vocations Team is seeking your help to nurture a culture of vocations in our local Church. As a Parish Vocations

Volunteer, you could play a vital role in promoting vocations awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish. If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued. To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts.



Remembrance: We thank God for the gift of Vince Wiegold who was a dedicated Parishioner and volunteer for many years. Vince was farewelled on Friday. Grant him eternal rest, O Lord, and may your light shine upon him forever. Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.



Know our Patron St. Francis de Sales—continued: Among St Francis de Sales’ private papers collected after his death by St. Jane Frances de Chantal, there are many striking references to the Visitation's special calling to dwell in the Heart of Jesus and to love and imitate the two special virtues of His Heart, meekness and humility. "Learn of Me that I am meek and humble of Heart." In his sermons, too, St Francis refers to the Heart of our Saviour and to the sacred Wound in His side. With the wisdom of hindsight, the reader can see how God in His Providence had chosen St Francis de Sales to be, as it were, His "precursor," a preparer of hearts in anticipation of the great forthcoming revelation of His own Divine Heart. The saintly bishop has left a description of an occasion in 1613, the feast of the Holy Shroud, when he was invited to be one of the prelates who exposed the holy relic for the veneration of the faithful. (It had been moved to Turin, Italy in 1578.) In a letter to St Jane Frances de Chantal, he wrote: "A year ago, about this hour of the day, I was at Turin, exhibiting the Holy Shroud in the midst of a great crowd. Several drops of sweat, falling from my face, dropped upon the Holy Shroud itself, and thereupon, within my heart, I uttered this prayer: 'O Saviour of my life, deign to mingle my unworthy sweat with Thine and infuse into my blood, my life, and my affections the merits of this sacred moisture.' My dear Mother, the Prince Cardinal was angered because my sweat fell upon the Holy Shroud, but it came into my mind to tell him that our Saviour was not so nicely sensitive, and that He only shed His own sweat and blood in order to mingle them with ours, so as to give them the price of eternal life. And so may our sighs be joined with His that they ascend before the Eternal Father like the smoke of fragrant incense." As a spiritual director, St Francis de Sales was for a time the confessor of Blessed Marie of the Incarnation (Madame Barbe Acarie). This saintly woman was a wife, mother of six children, Parisian hostess, mystic, and foundress of five Carmelite convents. (To be continued.)



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm: 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mk 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

First Sunday of Advent
Mark 13:33-37

Waiting for the Lord



Keep us in your Prayers—pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Dr John Connelly, Anne Davis, June Everett, Michael Walter Garnett, Charles Grima, Ellen Harris, Theresa Zinck

Anniversary: Beverley McMahon, Margaret Wahlin, Fr Robert Young, Conv Franciscan

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfram, 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, Lola De Souza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Christine Semark, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilar, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, 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, Alan Ball, Betty McDermott, Marie Sourini, David Pragasam, Vicki Pirie, Beau Burt, Joel Lloyd, Belinda Cochrane, Ken Stewart, Caterina Shinoda, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

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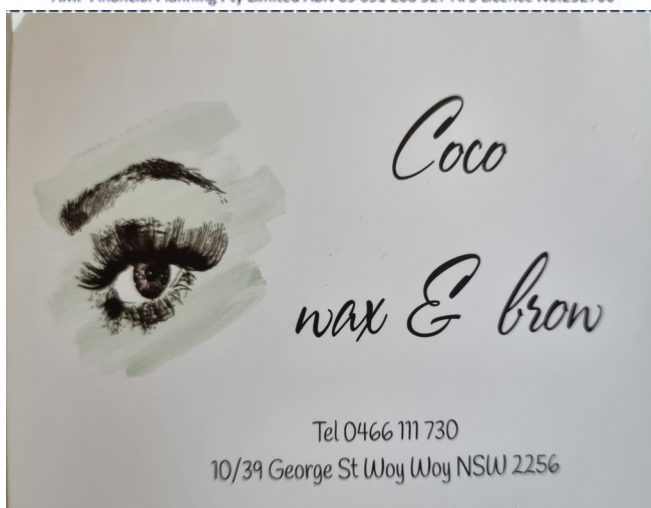
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LUNCH TUESDAY TO SATURDAY (11.00am to 2.30pm)
DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY & SUNDAY (4.30pm to 9.30pm)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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