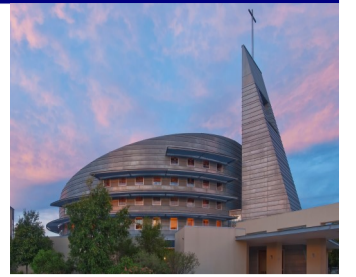




# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



17<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of  
The Fransalians since 2016

## FEASTS & MEMORIALS

21 Sept—St Matthew

27 Sept—St Vincent de Paul

29 Sept—Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

## 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.

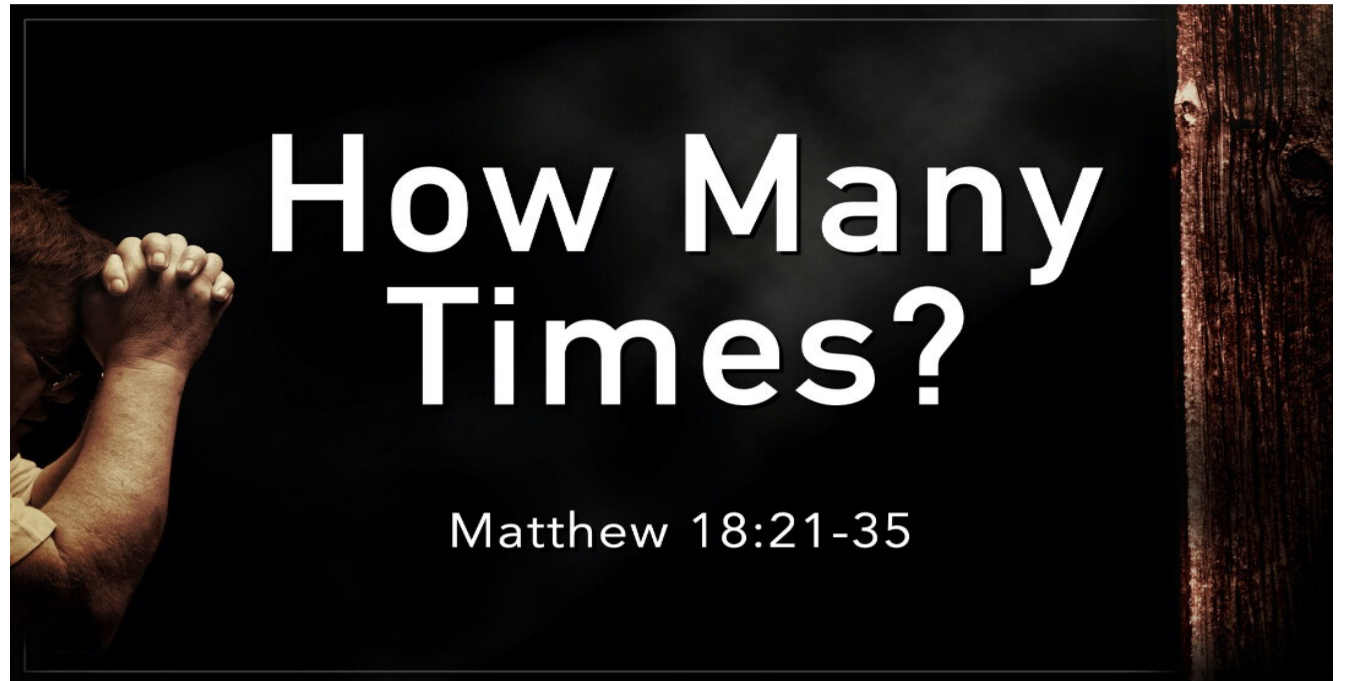
### Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



### God's Generous Grace and Equality

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity—the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/24th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection/>

*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.*


**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Group:** The RCIA group is now meeting on Sundays after 5.00pm Mass upstairs in the Parish Office Boardroom.


**Cleaners for 22<sup>nd</sup> September:** Reg Harrington, Andrew Hopkins, Lana Berg, Rose Kissing.

**Readers for 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September:**  
 Saturday 5.00pm—Kate Bravo & Maryrose Barlow  
 Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Guinta & Veronica Jordan  
 Sunday 9.15am—Colleen McCormack & Michael Dixon  
 Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor & Kris Aitken

**Servers for 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> September:**  
 Saturday 5.00pm— Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo  
 Sunday 7.30am— Jose Torres & Steve Hopley  
 Sunday 9.15am— Bob Wilson & Hanaa El-Khatib  
 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.

 **Baptism:** We warmly welcome Wyatt Austen-Fozzard, Parker Curnoe McLean & Riley Hollands who will be Baptised this weekend.

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

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** Planned Giving envelopes for the coming year are available to collect from the table in the Gathering Area. If you would like to contribute to the Parish via Planned Giving envelopes please contact the Parish Office.

**Ever Wondered Why People Become Catechists?** If you have ever wondered why people give up some time each week to prepare lessons and then go to the local government school, either a primary or secondary school, to teach the students there about the Catholic faith? For more information go to: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/evangelisation/ccd> You will hear some answers. To find out more about this ministry, contact Michael Tebbutt by phone or email. Mobile: 0437 440 169 or Email: [Michael.Tebbutt@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Michael.Tebbutt@bbcatholic.org.au).

**El Shaddai Prayer Group:** The next El Shaddai prayer group meeting will be held between 12pm and 4pm on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, in the Walter Baker Hall.

**Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for volunteers for some of our Ministries. Please contact the Parish Office on 4341 1073 if you can spare some time.

**Taizé Prayer Evening:** Holy Spirit Church, Kincumber will host a Taizé Prayer Evening on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 6.30pm. Taizé prayer is evening prayer and meditation for all Christian faiths. All are welcome for an evening of Christian meditation in a candlelit Church. Enq. Del 0432 477 507.



A new document produced by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry encourages Catholics to “preach all the Gospel, to all the world, all the time”. The document reflects on the proclamation of the Gospel, drawing on recent Papal teaching and referring to well-known Gospel parables. Copies are available in the Gathering Area.

Please join us for

# Together

Gathering of the people of God

7pm, Friday 29 September at  
**Hornsby Cathedral Parish,  
 Queen of Peace Catholic Church**  
 18 Stuart Ave, Normanhurst NSW

Together is an ecumenical prayer vigil in Rome on 30 September to pray for the Synod on Synodality. Preparations are being led by the Taizé community.

Prayers will also be held around the world and in Australia on the weekend of 29 September to 1 October.

We'd love you, your family, school or parish to get involved in this ecumenical event.

Please contact: Roslyn Rajasingam  
[roslyn.together2023@gmail.com](mailto:roslyn.together2023@gmail.com)  
 or 0449 160 710

Coffee available from 6pm.










[www.together2023.net](http://www.together2023.net)

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 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

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**Reading 1: Sirach 27:30 – 28:7**

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbour; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

**Responsorial Psalm: 102:1-4, 9-12**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

He will not always chide, nor does he keep his wrath forever. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us.

**Reading 2: Rom 14:7-9**

Brothers and sisters: None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**Alleluia:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.

**R. Alleluia.**

**Gospel: Mt 18:21-35**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

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

**Recently deceased:** Moyna Clarke, Mike Morris

**Anniversary:** Luzveminda Etcuban

**Remembrance:** Reg, Patricia & Paul Hogan

**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, Lucrecia Nunes-Rebelo, Marie Sourini, David Pragasam, Vicki Pirie

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September**



**For people living on the margins  
We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.**

**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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Come and enjoy delicious culinary delights that will take you on a journey into the magical world of Indian Cuisine. Our chefs capture the aromatic flavours and present to you the tastiest dishes from the country with great heritage and flamboyant culture.

**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](http://www.spices29.com.au)