



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



14th January 2024
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

17 Jan—St Anthony, abbot

21 Jan—St Agnes

24 Jan—St Francis de Sales

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 10.30am

Peninsula Village—4th Thurs of the month 10.00am

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

Parish Priest

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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TRANSFORMATIVE ENCOUNTER

Although the liturgical season of Ordinary Time begins this week, today's reading continues with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, which concludes the Christmas season. Today's reading from the Gospel according to John immediately follows John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. Having been baptised by John, Jesus begins to gather followers. The first followers sought out Jesus because of the testimony and witness of John the Baptist.

We are familiar with the title that John the Baptist uses for Jesus—the Lamb of God. We hear it weekly at the fraction rite during Mass. For those who heard John the Baptist, however, this title recalled key themes from the Old Testament. It alludes to the paschal lamb offered as a sacrifice when God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, the event that is commemorated by the Jewish Passover celebration. The designation also recalls the prophet Isaiah's description of the suffering servant of Israel. In using this name for Jesus, John the Baptist predicts Jesus' passion and death and the new interpretation of Passover that will begin with Jesus' Last Supper.

We learn in today's reading how Jesus' first followers were gathered. The first two, Andrew and another man, were followers of John the Baptist. After hearing John's testimony, they became followers of Jesus. During their time with Jesus, the details of which are not specified, Andrew and the other follower came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon, to Jesus. Immediately, Jesus gave Simon a new name, calling him Peter, which means "rock" in Greek. The renaming of Simon to Peter is reported in all four of the Gospels.

In the exchange between Andrew, the other disciple, and Jesus, we see an example of the usual pattern for first-century Jewish rabbinical schools. Jews sought out rabbis and established themselves as disciples of a particular rabbi. Jesus appears to have been unique in that he sought out individuals, inviting them to be his followers. In the passage that follows, John's Gospel tells us how Jesus took the initiative in calling Philip and Nathanael.

Jesus asks Andrew and the other disciple, "What are you looking for?" This is a telling question, and one that we might often ask of ourselves. John the Baptist testified to Jesus' identity, the Lamb of God, using the framework of the Old Testament. Andrew, Simon, and the other first disciples were looking for the Messiah, whom they also came to know as the Son of God. What do we look for and what do we find in Jesus?

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-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.

Parish News: The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th January at 7.00pm.



Pastoral Works Broken Bay: Envelopes are available this weekend for the Pastoral Works Broken Bay Fund. The collection was postponed last month. The shortfall for the current financial year stands at \$28,759.

The Feast of St Francis de Sales is celebrated on the 24th of January. We will have a Novena in his honour during every Mass starting 15th January. On the Feast Day, Mass will be celebrated at 8.30am and 6.00pm. After the 6.00pm Mass, there will be a light supper in the Walter Baker Hall. All welcome. Please register your name on the list in the Gathering Area for catering purposes.

Volunteer Readers and Acolytes: We are looking for Readers and Acolytes for Sunday Masses. If you are interested, please register your name and contact details on the list on the table in the Gathering Area.

Lost property: There was a watch found in the car park last week. Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

Sit n Chat: January's meeting is scheduled for the 15th. If you would like to join the group please call Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Cleaners for 19th January: Veronica Jordan, Tom French, Reg Harrington, Jo MacMillan.

Readers for 20th & 21st January:

Saturday 5.00pm—Leonie King & Marie Andrews

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta & Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Colleen McCormack & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer & Lorena Lalor

Servers for 20th & 21st January:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French & Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Hanaa El-Khatib & Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Charles Kivunja

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 Audrey Walker who will be Baptised this weekend.



Congratulations to Sean Stefani and Melissa Page, who will celebrate their Marriage at St John the Baptist this Saturday. May God bless them both on their special day. We wish them a lifetime of love and happiness together.



Cash Housie at Peninsula Community Centre, Saturdays 7.00pm, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

El Shaddai: The next El Shaddai meeting will be held Sat, 27th January from 12.00pm-4.00pm in the Walter Baker Hall.

Parish Census: We are in the process of updating our records and we kindly ask for your help. You can now collect a blank Parish Census Form from the Gathering Area of the Church. Please place completed forms in the Census Forms box or

email to woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au. If you have submitted a form in recent times and your details haven't changed there is no need to complete another one. We also ask that you please share with those who are not currently on our distribution list, so we can connect with them in a timely manner and share Parish news with them. Thanks.



Funeral Announcement—Serge Fauvette:

Serge's life will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Church on Wednesday, 17th January at 11.00am. We offer our sincere condolences to Serge's family and friends.

Know our Patron St Francis de Sales: St Francis de Sales was a 16th-century Catholic bishop and theologian, known for his deep spirituality and writings on the Christian life.

Birth and Early Life: St Francis de Sales was born on August 21, 1567, in the Château de Thorens, Savoy (now Thorens-Glières, France). He came from a noble and devout family. His father, François de Sales, was Lord of Boisy, and his mother, Françoise de Sionnaz, was a devout Catholic.

Education: Francis de Sales was born into a noble family. His father, François de Sales, wanted him to pursue a career in law and politics, but Francis felt a calling to the priesthood from a young age. He was sent to Paris to study at the Collège de Clermont and later to the University of Padua, where he obtained a doctorate in law.

Decision to Enter the Priesthood: Despite his legal studies and his father's wish, Francis de Sales continued to feel a strong pull towards the religious life. After a profound spiritual experience, he decided to dedicate himself fully to God. He was ordained a priest in 1593.

Mission in Chablais: St Francis de Sales is perhaps best known for his missionary work in the Chablais region. He used his gentle and persuasive preaching style to win back many to the Catholic faith. His approach was characterised by kindness and respect for others' beliefs.

Bishop of Geneva In 1602, St Francis de Sales was appointed as the Bishop of Geneva, a city that was predominantly Calvinist. His approach to leadership emphasised patience, understanding, and dialogue rather than force. He worked tirelessly to restore Catholicism in the region and gained a reputation for his compassion and gentleness.

Founding of the Visitation Order: St Francis de Sales, along with St Jane Frances de Chantal, founded the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary in 1610. The order focused on the virtues of gentleness and humility.

Writings: St Francis de Sales is also known for his writings on spirituality. His most famous work, "Introduction to the Devout Life," is a classic guide to Christian living. He also corresponded extensively with people seeking spiritual advice, leaving behind a wealth of letters and other writings.

Death: St Francis de Sales died on December 28, 1622, in Lyon, France. He was canonised as a saint by Pope Alexander VII in 1665. St Francis de Sales is remembered as a gentle and compassionate spiritual guide, emphasising the importance of love and humility in the Christian life. His teachings continue to influence Christian spirituality, and he is recognised as a Doctor of the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me and heard my cry. He put a new song in my mouth, the praise of our God.

R. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here, Lord, am I.

R. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depths of my heart.

R. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed. You know it, O Lord.

R. Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Alleluia:

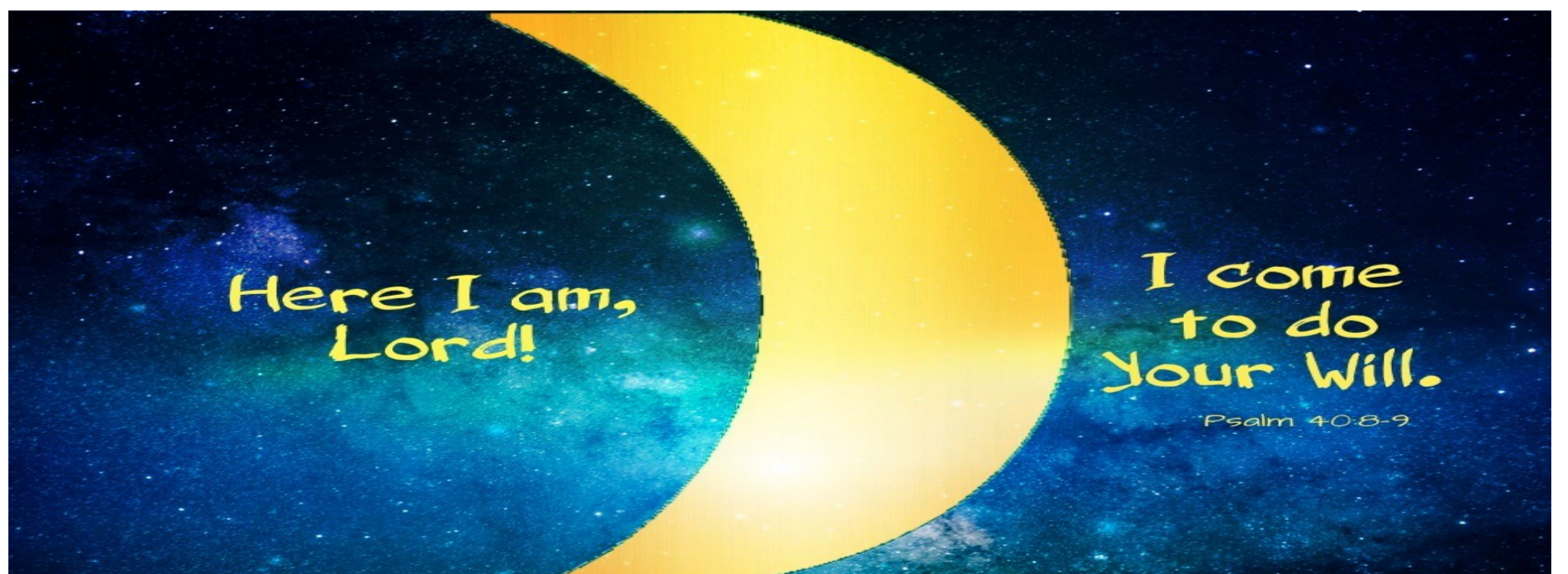
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Jn 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.



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

Recently deceased: Tony Ayers, John Chalker, Serge Fauvette, Rodney George, Tracy Hickey, Christine McCarthy

Anniversary:

Remembrance:

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, 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, 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, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark, Helen Tiltins, Shirley Brinkworth



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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

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