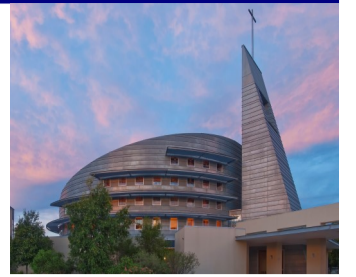




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



10th December 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

11 Dec—St Damasus I

12 Dec—Our Lady of Guadalupe

13 Dec—St Lucy

14 Dec—St John 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 10.30am

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



Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptised. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptising, and they each emphasise the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptised with water, but that the one who is to come will baptise with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-advent-cycle-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.

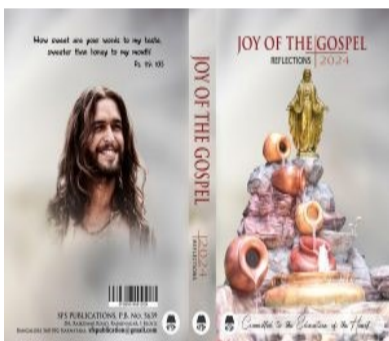
Parish Christmas Dinner: There will be a Christmas gathering dinner for Parishioners in the Walter Baker Hall on Friday, 15th December at 6.00pm. Please register your attendance on the list in the Gathering Area. The Parish bus will be available for people who require transport. If you need transport,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

Thanks: Many thanks to all who were involved in decorating the Church so beautifully in readiness for Christmas.

Thanks: Many thanks for all your prayers and support since Charlie passed away. It is much appreciated—from Rita Grima.

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

Catholic Mission: Catholic Mission would like to thank all who contributed to their recent appeal. A total of \$2,167 was raised.



Piety Stall: Joy of the Gospel, Daily Reflections priced at \$15 is now available for sale at the piety stall. **Columban and Josephite Calendars** \$10 each; **Vinnies Christmas cards** available in packs of #10 including envelopes \$2

each.

Cleaners for 15th December: Reg Harrington, Andrew Hopkins, Linda Potestas, Maria Wickens.

Readers for 16th & 17th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Wendy Whiteman & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton & Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Christine French & Colleen McCormack

Sunday 5.00pm—Peter Smith & Lorena Lalor

Servers for 16th & 17th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French & 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.

Funeral Announcement: Dr John Connelly's life will be celebrated at St Kieran's Catholic Church, 349 Condamine Street, Manly Vale on Tuesday 12th December at 11.00am followed by burial at Point Clare Cemetery at 2.30pm.



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. To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts.



St John the Baptist, Woy Woy Parish



Christmas Mass Times 2023

<u>December 24th: Christmas Eve</u>	<u>December 26th: Boxing Day</u>
5.00 pm - Church	9.00 am
5.30 pm - SJB School Oval	
21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy	<u>December 31st: New Years Eve</u>
8.00 pm - Church	4.00 pm - Adoration
10.00 pm - Church	5.00 pm - Mass
<u>December 25th: Christmas Day</u>	<u>January 1st: New Years Day</u>
7.30 am	9.00 am
9.15 am	
No evening Mass	

Know our Patron St Francis de Sales—continued: The congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales was founded in France in 1838 by the Servant of God, Fr Pierre Mermier under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales and it had a humble beginning. The political disturbances in the country, especially the French Revolution had its impact in the spiritual realm too as it left the people in a deep spiritual crisis and indifferent towards their religious duties. Sensing the signs of the time, Fr. Mermier took upon himself the task of a spiritual renewal in his people by preaching parish missions. This special apostolate in turn gave rise to a community of preachers gathered around Fr Mermier. His firm missionary zeal was amply clear from his slogan "I want missions." The newly formed community of missionaries, consisting of six members, began to live together at La Roche-sur-Foron in 1834. Realising the need to give a formal shape to the team, Fr. Mermier went ahead with the plan of forming it into a religious society. A rule of life was drawn up by him in 1836 and the community moved into a new house, La Feuillette at Annecy. Monsignor Pierre Joseph Rey, Bishop of Annecy who was a source of constant support and inspiration to the missionaries, conferred the canonical approval on the young congregation on 24th October, 1838 and entrusted it to the care and patronage of St. Francis de Sales.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace. Peace for his people that fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reading 2: Pet 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Alleluia:

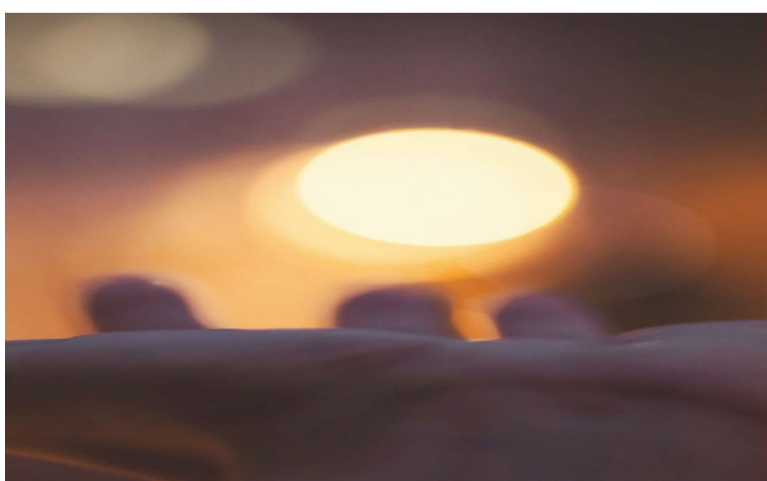
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."



**From Darkness
Into Light:
Announce *Peace***

Mark 1:1-8

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

Recently deceased: Dr John Connelly, Marian Glancy, Michael Steer

Anniversary:

Remembrance: Nelson Kan

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, Helen Tiltins



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 You



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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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