



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



5th March 2023 2nd Sunday of Lent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

Lenten Programme

Way of the Cross &

Mass:

Each Wednesday at
3.30pm and each
Friday at 6.30pm
followed by Mass at
7.00pm and reflection
afterwards.



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

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

As in all three cycles for Sundays of the year, the Gospel for this Second Sunday of Lent features the mysterious episode of the Transfiguration (Matt 17:1-9).

It is not easy, however, to see the principle behind the choice of the remaining two readings: the Call of Abraham (Gen 12:1-4) and a brief extract from the Second Letter to Timothy (1:8-10). It may be that all have to do in some sense with 'vocation' or 'calling'.

CALL OF ABRAHAM

The call of Abraham in the **First Reading** marks the second great development in the Book of Genesis after the Primeval history (Genesis 1-11). Following the lapse of the first human pair (Genesis 3), the intervening material (Genesis 4-11) has been nothing else than a record of ever-increasing sin, violence and dehumanisation, culminating in the great flood (Genesis 7-9).

Here creation literally goes into reverse and would have done so irrevocably had it not been for God's preservation and blessing of Noah. The building of the Tower of Babel (11:1-9) represented a futile effort on the part of human beings acting independently of the Creator to restore their status and dignity. The call of Abraham marks the beginning of a vast divine project to achieve what the people of Babel wanted but could not realise because of the evil inherent in the human heart.

Let us note key elements of the call. First, Abraham must 'leave' his father's house, his family and his country, and all the security they provide. From now on his security will rest simply in God's promise to create from him 'a great nation' and (what the people of Babel wanted) 'a great name', one so famous that it will become a byword for blessing among all the peoples of the earth.

The text is also open to the sense (see the NRSV) 'in you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed' – the understanding that has prevailed in most subsequent interpretation, including that of the New Testament. The sense is that the blessed existence originally intended by the Creator for human beings and the earth (Gen 1:1-2:3) but frustrated by human sin, will come to realisation through what is now beginning with the call of Abraham and his trusting response.

PATTERN FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE

We are all in some sense inheritors of the 'call' of our ancestor Abraham. Particularly in this season of Lent, we are called to sit lightly to the conventional securities offered by this world, to rest, rather, in a promise and vision of 'blessedness' held out by God.

The **Second Reading** from 2 Timothy goes along with this in its brief summary of Christian life and vocation. We are the people who 'rely on the power of God, who has saved us and called us to be holy (that is, people especially close to God), not because of anything we ourselves have done (cf. the futile efforts of the people of Babel) but by God's own grace'. This 'grace,' determined since the beginning of time, has now been realised in the 'appearance' (Greek: 'epiphany') of Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

It is probably the word 'appearance' that has led to this text from 2 Timothy being associated with the Gospel of the Transfiguration. Here we have an 'appearance' of Jesus truly unique in the accounts of his earthly life.

In the biblical tradition whiteness signals closeness to God and God's heavenly court, a closeness confirmed here by the presence of two figures, Moses and Elijah, known from the biblical record to be enjoying heavenly existence (Deut 34:6; 2 Kgs 2:11). Shortly before this episode, Jesus has for the first time revealed to the disciples that the Son of Man is destined to suffer and be killed (16:21).

As represented by Peter, they simply cannot square this suffering destiny with their knowledge of him to be 'the Messiah, the Son of God' (16:16, 22-23). Jesus' glorious transformation and the Father's voice from heaven ('This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!') communicates with divine authority that these two truths must be held together: Jesus is God's beloved Son and he is, as he has said, going to fulfil his messianic vocation through suffering and death.

The disciples (specifically Peter) want to 'hold' the messianic moment ('Let us build three tents ...'). From now on, precisely as God's beloved Son, Jesus is to tread the path to Jerusalem as the Messiah who came, 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (20:28). It is with this deepened sense of his vocation – and ours – that we are invited to continue with him our Lenten journey to Jerusalem.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-notes-2-lent-year-a>

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.



New tap and go machines: There are #2 new Commbank tap and go machines in operation. All donations will be split one third for the Clergy Remuneration Fund and two thirds for the operational management of the Parish.



Lenten Program 2023: Copies of the Diocesan Lenten Program, Jesus: Our Light and our Life, Becoming One in Christ, are now available on the table in the Gathering for use in your Lenten groups. **Way of the Cross each Wednesday at 3.30pm and each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection.**

Nursing Home Masses: Fr Timothy is celebrating Masses according to the following schedule:

Hillview House: 3rd Thursday of the month at 10.00am. Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Timothy directly if you have time to help with this Mass and distribute Communion to residents at the Home.

Peninsula Village: 4th Thursday of the month at 10.00am.

BlueWave: 2nd Friday of the month at 9.30am.

Welcome to all our new Parishioners. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to complete a census form, making sure you include any Parish community groups you wish to get involved with. Forms are available on the table in the Gathering Area.

Sacramental Programme 2023—important dates:

First Communion: Sat 29th & Sun 30th of April at 11am

Confirmation: Sun 2nd July

Reconciliation: Fri 17th November

Further details on information nights and preparation classes to follow.

Thank you: The Hall and Lee families would like to thank the Parish community for the love and prayers offered to Bridie and Chris Lee on the occasion of their recent wedding at St John the Baptist. Your support is deeply appreciated.

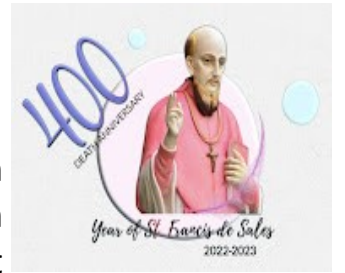
Position Vacant: Special Needs Student Transport Assistant Job in Copacabana/Narara area. Position available for assistance transporting a student with special needs to and from school 5 days a week. Further details available at:

<https://www.seek.com.au/job/61885492#sol=8b59cf608230f7e4b58c194c74887976da8e7333>

Fransalian Column:

Excerpt from an Apostolic Letter 'Totum Amoris Est' of Pope Francis

On this anniversary of the fourth centenary of his death, I have given much thought to the legacy of Saint Francis de Sales for our time. I find that his flexibility and his far-sighted vision have much to say to us. Partly by God's gift and partly thanks to his own character, but also by his steady cultivation of lived experience, Francis perceived clearly that the times were changing. On his own, he might never have imagined that those changes represented so great an opportunity for the preaching of the Gospel. The word of God that he had loved from his youth now opened up before him new and unexpected horizons in a rapidly changing world.



That same task awaits us in this, our own age of epochal change. We are challenged to be a Church that is outward-looking and free of all worldliness, even as we live in this world, share people's lives and journey with them in attentive listening and acceptance. That is what Francis de Sales did when he discerned the events of his times with the help of God's grace. Today he bids us set aside undue concern for ourselves, for our structures and for what society thinks about us and consider instead the real spiritual needs and expectations of our people. In our own time too, it is helpful to revisit some of the crucial decisions he made, so that we for our part can respond to today's changes with the wisdom born of the Gospel.

The first of those decisions was to reinterpret and propose anew to each man and woman, in his or her specific condition, the beauty of our relationship with God. The ultimate reason and practical purpose of his *Treatise* was to illustrate to his contemporaries the attractiveness of the love of God. "What", he asks, "are the 'cords' that God's providence uses to draw our hearts to his love?" Echoing the words of the prophet Hosea (11:4), he defines those ordinary means as "cords of humanity, charity and friendship". "Clearly", he writes, "we are not drawn to God by chains of iron, like bulls or oxen, but by invitations, enticements and holy inspirations; these are the *cords of Adam and of human kindness*, rightly befitting the human heart, which is naturally free". By those same cords, God brought his people forth from slavery, taught them to walk and held them by the hand, like fathers and mothers with their children. His was not the way of external imposition, despotic and arbitrary power, or violence, but that of a persuasiveness that respects our human freedom. "The power of grace" – Francis continues, surely thinking of the many life stories he had encountered – "does not constrain the heart but attracts it. Grace possesses a holy violence, not to violate our liberty but to guide it to love. Grace acts strongly, yet in such a pleasing way that our will is not overwhelmed by so powerful a force; while pressing us, it does not oppress our liberty. Consequently, we are able, before all its might, to consent to or resist its promptings at our pleasure".

To be continued next week.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Gen 12:1-4

The LORD said to Abram:

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.

"I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you."

Abram went as the LORD directed him.

Responsorial Psalm: 32:4-5, 18-20, 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Reading 2: 2 Tim 1:8-10

Beloved:

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel
with the strength that comes from God.
He saved us and called us to a holy life,
not according to our works
but according to his own design
and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began,
but now made manifest
through the appearance of our saviour Christ Jesus,
who destroyed death and brought life and immortality
to light through the gospel.



Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."



**Second Sunday of Lent
4th & 5th March**



Tereesa is a Gamilaroi woman from Western Sydney who struggled with homelessness while raising her four children. Through the Baabayn Young Mums and Bubs Group, Tereesa was able to reconnect with her culture and create a better future for her children.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Keep Us In Your Prayers of your charity pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Ken Stephens, Tony Christoffelsz, Jerome Parker

Anniversary: Alan French, Sid Flakelar, Bill Finlayson, Mark Church, Lucy Laura de Souza

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, Ken Joyce, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Mary Wood, 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, Charles Lawson, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Vince Weigold, Lola DeSouza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Christine Semark, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilair, Caterina Zdilair, Loraine Wanless, 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, Susie Simmons, Chris Dowling

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March



We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS


Aged Care & Retirement Planning
Free Initial Meeting
1300 661 424
www.tfs.com.au

Anthony Tanti Pty Ltd trading as Tanti® Financial Services ABN 18 070 533 836 is an Authorised Representative and Credit Representative of AMP Financial Planning Pty Limited ABN 89 051 208 327 AFS Licence No.232706

CALVARY FUNERALS
 LOW COST FUNERAL DIRECTORS

1300 663 753 **OUR FAMILY**
 1/77 Rawson Rd *Caring For Your Family*
 Woy Woy

Simplicity Funerals
PREPAID FUNERALS AVAILABLE
 Woy Woy 4344 2333
 2/1 Blackwall Rd
 Available 24 hours, 7 days a week

Hardwick's on Blackwall
 (Opposite corner to our church)
 4/115 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy


Café and catering services
Ph 0422 561 439


Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services
 1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy.
 1800 032 225
 100% Australian Owned Family Operated Company.


Spices 29
 GOAN INDIAN RESTAURANT

Come and enjoy delicious culinary delights that will take you on to 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