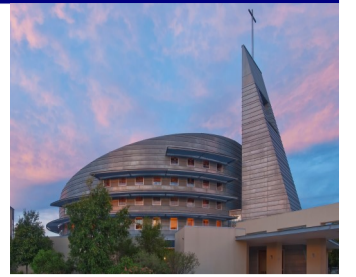




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



5th November 2023
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

10 Nov—St Leo the Great

11 Nov—St Martin of Tours

15 Nov—St Albert the Great

*16 Nov—St Gertrude & St Margaret of
Scotland*

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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HUMILITY AGAINST HYPOCRISY

My sisters and brothers in Christ, how do we treat other people in our lives? What do we think about immigrants? What about the people whom we don't like? Do we ever think about all of these people in terms of what Jesus has taught us? Do we think about these people in terms of what our Catholic Church teaches us? The first reading today is from the Book of the Prophet Malachi. What wonderful images he uses in his writings! Today, however, he is very strong: "If you don't listen to me, I will make your life awful!" This is often how God acts in our lives. Our lives become so awful that finally we think of the Lord and wonder what He wants of us and if we are being faithful. Malachi asks us "Why then do we break faith with one another, violating the covenant of our fathers?" This is a message for all of us, even today. Do we keep the covenant of the Lord? Are we faithful to the teachings of Scripture and of the Church? If we are not faithful, why??

The second reading is from the First Letter to the Thessalonians. One important point in this reading is this: "In receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God." This is so important for each of us to understand! We speak in human words and yet we can receive the word of God. This is particularly true when we read the human words of the Scripture and by faith believe that God is revealing Himself. Today many people no longer believe that Scripture is God's revelation. We Catholics believe with our whole being that the Scriptures are the Revelation of God.

The Gospel today is from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Here we encounter this teaching: "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." We should always keep this teaching in our hearts and in our minds. We must seek to serve one another, not dominate one another. We should seek to proclaim this word of God in the way we live and relate to one another. The more humble we become, the more possible it is for God's word and God's presence to be known by others. Jesus gives us the example of those who try to follow the Law but only put burdens on others. It is clear that our challenge is not to judge others nor to tell others what to do. Our challenge is to live the word of God in such a way that others are drawn to God.

<https://christdesert.org/2017/11/31st-sunday-ordinary-time-cycle-2017/>

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: Fr Alex will be looking after the Parish while Fr Timothy is on leave from 6th November to 15th November. We wish Fr Timothy safe travels. He will be meeting with his MSFS congregation in Indonesia.

Candidates for First Reconciliation: Please keep the children in your prayers as they continue their preparations to celebrate the Sacrament on Friday, 17th November at 4.00pm.

Save the date: To celebrate both the Dedication of St John the Baptist Church and The Feast of Christ the King, there will be a morning tea after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 26th November and a soup night after 5.00pm Mass that evening.

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

Vinnie's Christmas Appeal: There is a Vinnies Christmas Appeal this weekend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Cleaners for 10th November: Laila Dawe, Jo Salter, Tom French, Christine French.

Readers for 11th & 12th November:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford & Jane Rutherford

Sunday 7.30am—Phoebe Glacken & Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Michael Dixon

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer & Peter Smith

Servers for 11th & 12th November:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Bernie French

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Hanaa El-Khatib

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.

Offering Mass for our Beloved Dead during November:

"Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." St Monica to St Augustine.

In the Catholic Church, Holy Mass offered for departed souls is a crucial and deeply rooted practice. This religious observance is known as a "Requiem Mass or a Mass for the Dead." The importance of offering Mass for the departed souls can be summarised as follows:

Prayer for the Deceased: The primary purpose of the Requiem Mass is to pray for the souls of the departed. We believe in purgatory, a state where souls may undergo purification before entering heaven. Mass for the Dead is a way to intercede for these souls, asking God to grant them mercy and admission to heaven. CCC 958 states, 'it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins'. Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.

Spiritual Support: It offers comfort and support to the grieving family and friends of the deceased. It allows them to express their faith, seek solace, and remember the deceased in a sacred context.

Community and Communion: The Mass for the Dead is a communal act of worship. It unites the living members of the Church in prayer and solidarity with the deceased. It emphasises the idea that the Church is a community, both on Earth and in the afterlife.

Eternal Memory: Through Mass for the Dead, the Church keeps the memory of the deceased alive. It's a way of acknowledging the continued connection between the living and the deceased.

Redemption and Forgiveness: We believe that the Mass can have a redemptive effect on the souls in purgatory. Through Mass, the sins of the departed may be further forgiven, and their time in purgatory may be shortened.



Funeral Announcement—Patricia

Quinn: Pat's life will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Church on Friday, 10th November at 11.30am. Pat was a valued member of our Parish Choir and we offer our sincere condolences to her family.

Divine Will Retreat: There will be a Divine Will day retreat on Saturday 18th November from 9.00am to 3.00pm at Holy Spirit, Kincumber. The retreat will be led by Fr Hugh Thomas CSsR. All welcome. Further details to follow.

Day out at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on Thursday, 16th November 11.00am. Cost is \$25 including lunch (Sandwiches, fruit platter, brewed coffee and tea). Travel by train or car-pool from Woy Woy. Enquiries to anne.bailey@bbcatholic.org.au/0497 063 517. Register by Tuesday, 7th November.

Fransalians at Prayers (Teaching of Our Founder): Community of at least two Missionaries or two Brothers, or at least two Missionaries and one Brother, or two Brothers and one Missionary at the shrine.

Every Friday:

There is an exercise in honour of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. On this same day a Way of the Cross is held several times in private or in public. Two Stations of the Cross, one within the Church and the other outside.

First Friday:

An exercise in honour of the Sacred Heart is held in public every first Friday of the month.

Morning Meditation:

The subject of the morning meditation is repeated in a loud voice at 5.00am in winter and in summer at 4.30am.

Novena to the Holy Family:

Every year, the novena to the Holy Family, before or after the feast. "Another novena to our LADY OF SORROWS at one of the two feasts in honour of the Mother of Sorrows.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Mal 1:14 – 2:2, 8-10

A great King am I, says the LORD of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations. And now, O priests, this commandment is for you: If you do not listen, if you do not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, I will send a curse upon you and of your blessing I will make a curse. You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction; you have made void the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts. I, therefore, have made you contemptible and base before all the people, since you do not keep my ways, but show partiality in your decisions. Have we not all the one father? Has not the one God created us? Why then do we break faith with one another, violating the covenant of our fathers?

Responsorial Psalm: 131

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty; I busy not myself with great things, nor with things too sublime for me.

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted my soul like a weaned child.

Like a weaned child on its mother's lap, so is my soul within me.

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Israel, hope in the LORD, both now and forever.

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Reading 2: 1 Thess 2:7-9, 13

Brothers and sisters: We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us. You recall, brothers and sisters, our toil and drudgery. Working night and day in order not to burden any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly, that, in receiving the word of God from hearing us, you received not a human word but, as it truly is, the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe.

Alleluia:

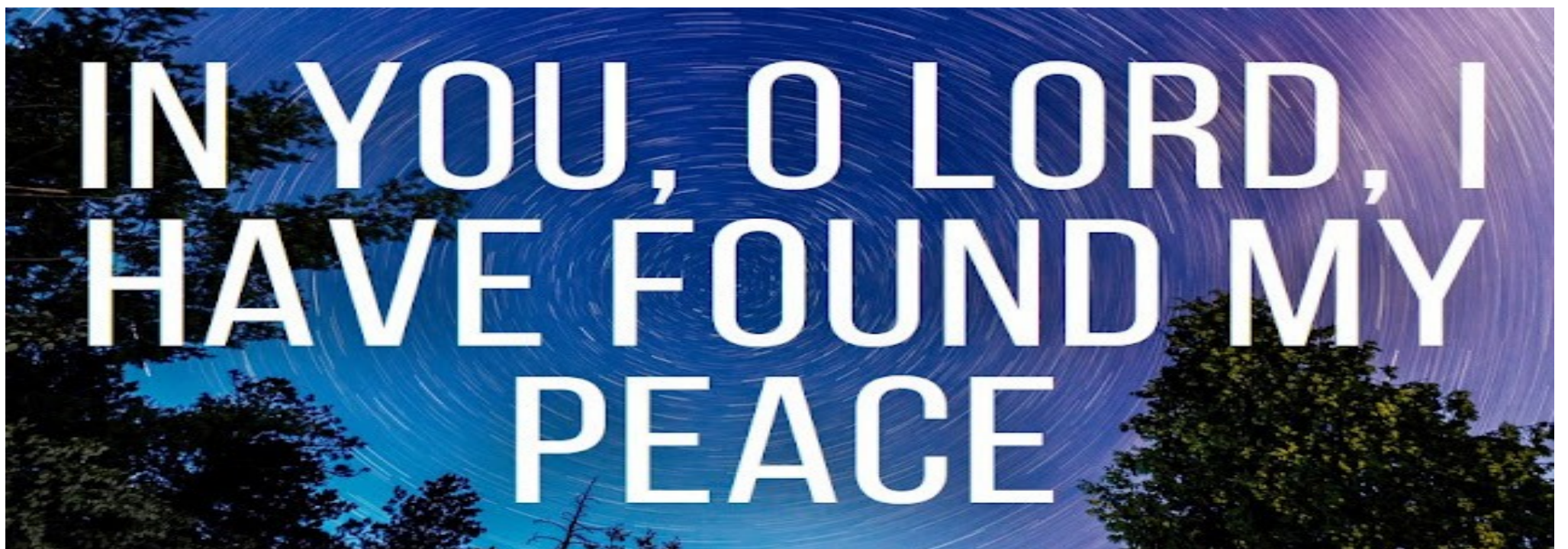
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 23:1-12

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honour at banquets, seats of honour in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."



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

Recently deceased: William Hayden, Patricia Quinn

Anniversary: Patrick Hennessy

Remembrance: Reg, Pat & Paul Hogan, Mate Lovric

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 De Souza, 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, 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



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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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