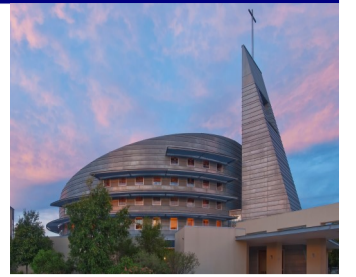




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



12th November 2023
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

15 Nov—St Albert the Great

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

17 Nov—St Elizabeth of Hungary

22 Nov—St Cecilia

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.

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STAY AWAKE AND BE PREPARED

All three readings this Sunday find some unity around the theme of the right attitude to adopt towards the future. Matthew's Gospel devotes a long section to this theme, culminating in the three parables that make up chapter 25. Today's Gospel, features the first of these parables, the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids (literally, "virgins"). Interpretation of the parable has to deal with the problem that our knowledge of the wedding customs of the time is not secure and some details seem unrealistic. The story seems to presuppose a wedding custom whereby unmarried young women, who have been waiting with the bride at her family's house, go out to meet the bridegroom when he arrives to take her to his own house. When his arrival is announced, they go out to meet him with blazing torches and escort the couple back to his house, where the marriage feast has been prepared and the guests are waiting for their entry. The lateness of the hour leads to sleepiness on the part of the waiting women. But what shame for five of the bridesmaids who, when the bridegroom is said to be well on the way, are not in a position to carry out their welcoming role! Their torches have gone out during the long wait and there is no oil to rekindle them.

Despite the concluding warning, "Stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour", it is not falling asleep that is reprehended. All ten bridesmaids, both the wise and the foolish, fall asleep. The difference between them is that the former have made sure to have sufficient oil to rekindle their lamps when they are roused, while the foolish have not taken this precaution. Their absence on the errand to buy it frustrates the whole purpose of their role when at last the bridegroom appears.

The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids represent members of the Church, who, as so often in Matthew, are of mixed quality. The oil represents the kind of good deeds that Jesus commends — "justice, mercy and faith" and which will be so graphically illustrated in the concluding parable of the Great Judgement. The five foolish bridesmaids represent the kind of believers depicted towards the close of the Sermon on the Mount: those who cry out, "Lord, Lord" but have no good works to accompany this confession of faith. The wise may "sleep" (in death) before the coming of the Lord but when he does come they will go out to meet him with the "lamps" of their good works shining. Thus the final warning about "staying awake" because neither "the day or the hour" is known really means, in the light of the parable, "Be prepared", rather than "stay awake". The parable, and the Gospel as a whole, remind us that the words of dismissal at the Eucharist, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord", are no perfunctory conclusion to the rite but a programme for living the twin commandment of love of God and love of neighbour. Those who take them to heart have always with them the "oil" required for salvation; they can "sleep" without anxiety about being caught short by the Lord's sudden arrival.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-notes-32-sun-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.

Thanks: A most grateful thanks to all who were involved in the Working Bee and the All Souls Evening Mass. Your continued support is invaluable.

Thanks: A total of \$3,866.15 was collected for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal last weekend. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

Morning tea: 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 Sun, 26th Nov and a soup night after 5.00pm Mass that evening.

Expressions of Interest—Advent Reflection: If there are any gentlemen interested in forming a group for Advent reflection please contact Allan Moore on 0492 988 168.



Discover the profound spiritual journey of Advent and Christmas with **The Sign: Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2023**—Daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (3 December 2023) through to the Baptism of the Lord (8 January 2024). Copies available now at the Piety Stall for \$5 each.



We warmly welcome Coen Holloway who will be Baptised this weekend.

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

Cleaners for 17th November: Maria Wickens, Andrew Hopkins, Cheryl Sillick, Mabel Torres.

Readers for 18th & 19th November:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta & Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Colleen McCormack

Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken & Lorena Lalor

Servers for 18th & 19th November:

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.

Remembrance Day: The Flanders poppy has long been a part of Remembrance Day, the ritual that marks the Armistice of 11 November 1918. During the First World War, red poppies were among the first plants to spring up in the devastated battlefields of Northern France and Belgium. In soldiers' folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades soaking the ground. The sight of poppies on the battlefield at Ypres in

1915 moved Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae to write the poem "In Flanders fields." In 19th century English literature, poppies had symbolised sleep or a state of oblivion. In the literature of the First World War a new, more powerful symbolism was attached to the poppy – the sacrifice of shed blood. Today we remember all those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in war, by laying down their lives for their friends, as Christ did for us; "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Offering Mass for our Beloved Dead during November: 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. Stations of the Cross, one within the Church and the other outside.

Know our Patron (MSFS) St. Francis de Sales: St. Francis de Sales, the Holy Bishop, founder, and Doctor of the Church, is known throughout the Church for his great sanctity, learning, theological knowledge, gentleness, and understanding of the human soul. Through these marvellous gifts he converted and guided innumerable souls to God during his own lifetime and re-converted 70,000 from Calvinism. He continues to direct many souls through his spiritual writings and published sermons. Today St. Francis de Sales is known as one of the great figures of the Catholic Counter-Reformation and of the 17th-century rebirth of Catholic mystical life. St. Francis was born in 1567 in the castle belonging to the de Sales family in Thorens, Savoy, located in what is now southeastern France. His mother, Françoise, was only 14 years old when Francis, her firstborn, came into the world. This maternity was a dangerous one, the labour was long and difficult, and it was marvelled that both mother and child did not die. It is most noteworthy that a month before the birth Françoise had consecrated her unborn child to Our Lord in the presence of the Holy Shroud, which at that time was kept in the Sainte Chapelle in Chambery, France. (To be continued)



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Wis 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her and found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire; Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting by his gate. For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care; because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her, and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.

Responsorial Psalm: 62:2-8

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth,
parched, lifeless and without water.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see
your power and your glory,
for your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall
glorify you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Thus, will I bless you while I live;

lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name. As with
the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied, and
with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

I will remember you upon my couch, and through the
night-watches I will meditate on you:

You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I
shout for joy.

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Reading 2: 1 Thess 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

KEEP WATCH
BECAUSE NO ONE KNOWS THE DAY
OR THE HOUR OF CHRIST'S RETURN

MATTHEW 25:1-13

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

Recently deceased: Patricia Quinn

Anniversary: Peter Grima, Fr Frank Ferrie SSC

Remembrance: Jane Caruana, Iris, Jack, Stella & Elise McMahan, Edward & Mini Johnson, Kelina Gauci

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>

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Thank you for your generous contribution.

Thank You



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FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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