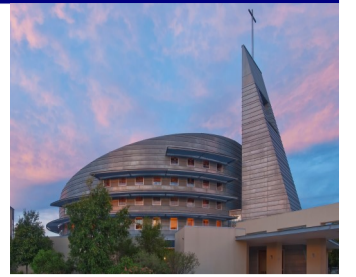




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



17th December 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

**Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016**

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

21 Dec—St Peter Canisius

23 Dec—St John of Kanty

25 Dec—Nativity of the Lord

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

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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Today, the third Sunday of Advent is called 'Gaudete Sunday' which means 'Joy' or 'Rejoice'. The opening antiphon for today's liturgy asks us to Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near. Today, on our Advent Wreath we light our pink candle to mark this day of joy.

St. Paul's advice and encouragement from the first reading today gives this third Sunday of Advent its traditional name Gaudete Sunday. Joy is the central message of our readings and prayers this Sunday, and indeed the whole of Advent and the celebration of Christ.

One of the most well-known Christmas carols is 'Joy to world.' The words to this carol were written by Isaac Watts in 1719. At Christmas it will be sung all over the world. The music for it comes from Handel's 'Messiah.'

The first words that Mary hears when she is told that she is going to be the mother of Jesus are, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured.' Mary is to be filled with joy because God has called her by her name and her son will be the long awaited Messiah. When she goes to see Elizabeth her cousin, she breaks into song, singing out loudly, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour'. Mary does not keep her good news or her joy to herself, she freely shares with Elizabeth and the whole world. When the angels appeared to the shepherds they heard this life-giving message, 'Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy.' The good news of Jesus' birth is meant not only for the shepherds, it continues to be good news for each of us today.

Up until recently we prayed these words after the Our Father, 'as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Although no longer used, this is still the central message of Advent. We are called to wait for the birth of Jesus and we are to wait in hope joyfully. As we wait, we are not to be afraid, anxious or worried. Why? Because, as the opening antiphon tells us, 'The Lord is very near.' Like Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, today each of us is asked to be a person of joy and we are asked to share that joy with others. There are many people, some of whom we may even know, who have little reason to be joyful at this time of the year. As Mary did with Elizabeth, may we follow her example and share our joy with all those we meet during these last few days of Advent. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

<https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-3rd-sunday-advent/>

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.

St John the Baptist, Woy Woy Parish



Christmas Mass Times 2023

December 24th: Christmas Eve

5.00 pm - Church
 5.30 pm - SJB School Oval
 21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy
 8.00 pm - Church
 10.00 pm - Church

December 25th: Christmas Day

7.30 am
 9.15 am
 No evening Mass

December 26th: Boxing Day

9.00 am

December 31st: New Years Eve

4.00 pm - Adoration
 5.00 pm - Mass

January 1st: New Years Day

9.00 am



2nd Rite of Reconciliation: The 2nd Rite of Reconciliation is available at three Central Coast Parishes next week:

Holy Cross Kincumber, Tues 19th Dec at 7.00pm, **St Patrick's Gosford**, Wed 20th Dec at 7.00pm and **St John the Baptist**

Woy Woy, Thu 21st Dec at 7.00pm.

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

Thanks: Many thanks to Joe and Rose Mondal from Bakers Delight Umina for donating all the bread supplies for the Parish Dinner on Friday.

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.



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

Cleaners for 22nd December: Reg Harrington, Andrew Hopkins, Linda Potestas, Maria Wickens.

Readers for 23rd & 24th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Kate Bravo & Jane Rutherford
 Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan & Joel Bajo
 Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Dawn Torrens
 For Christmas Eve evening Masses please refer to Christmas roster.

Servers for 23rd & 24th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh
 Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan & Jenny Fitzgerald
 Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French & Joesie Cameron
 Sunday evening—See Christmas schedule



Baptism: We warmly welcome Emilia Patmore Morales and Esmeralda Stewart who will be Baptised this weekend.

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.

Church cleaners: Church cleaners required. Contact Christine French 0431 765 401.

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. Many thanks.

Know our Patron St. Francis de Sales: The mission plan of Fr Mermier included foreign missions too and he expected Rome to entrust his little congregation with a mission in Africa. But contrary to the expectation, the vast mission territory of Visakhapatnam, in India was entrusted to the MSFS in 1845. Accepting the challenges, Fr Mermier prepared his best six men to be set out for the new mission. The pioneering team consisting of Fr Jacques Martin, Fr Joseph Lavorel, Fr Jean Marie Tissot, Fr Jean Thevenet, Bro Pierre Carton and Bro Sulpice Fontanel bid farewell to their confreres and homeland and boarded the ship on 8th June 1845 and arrived at Pondicherry after three months, on 8th September. The missionaries rendered their services from the four mission centres of Visakhapatnam, Yanam, Kamptee and Aurangabad. Fr Mermier, realising the urgent needs of the Visakhapatnam Mission left no stone unturned in finding finance and personnel for the same. Gradually the Congregation began to extent its missionary work to other countries as well.

In 1862, Fr Mermier, the holy founder, left for his eternal reward, leaving all his confreres grief stricken. Many of the missionaries who came to India learned many Indian languages and some of them were so proficient that they wrote many books in many of these languages. They worked hard, facing all the difficulties. Sickness, inclement weather and hard work took away the lives of many young, zealous missionaries. (To be continued)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favour from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on all those who fear him.

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant rememb'ring his mercy

R. My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

Reading 2: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

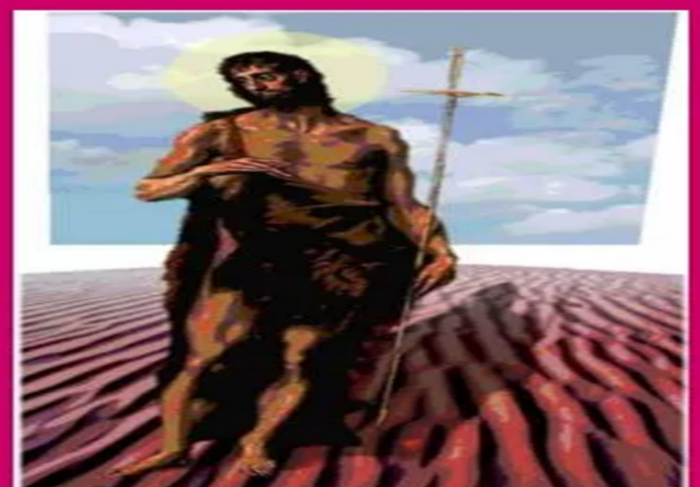
R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptise with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognise, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptising.

**Third Sunday of
Advent
John 1:6-8.19-28**

*There stands among
you – unknown to
you – the one who is
coming after me.*



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

Recently deceased: Dr John Connolly, Mavis Green, Patricia Quinn, Gloria Soler, Vincent Wiegold

Anniversary: Ann Culmer

Remembrance: Allen Edgecombe, Phyllis O'Regan,

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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DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY & SUNDAY (4.30pm to 9.30pm)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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