



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



12th March 2023 3rd 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.**



Some development experts from Europe came to a very remote village in Africa to provide some infrastructure that would add value to the lives of the villagers. There was only one Well in the whole village and so the development experts proposed to build a borehole or a dam and run pipes that will go to each house. The villagers had a different opinion; they preferred the central village Well to the dam or borehole. They spoke about how much they cherished the Well, because it was the point of contact; the Well was

a common meeting place and it was around this well they get information about upcoming events in the village; it was around the well that the women tell stories and get news about births and deaths, marriages. In short, the Well was the fulcrum on which the village rotates. The people were emotionally attached to the Well and were not ready to have anything that will take away the joy and unity they derived from the presence of the Well.

The name of the Samaritan woman is not mentioned and so she represents people who have suffered broken relationships and failed marriages. Rabbis do not talk to women publicly, but Jesus was not worried about that law, he was rather concerned about her soul. This woman had married five husbands and was living with the sixth husband. We cannot say what exactly the problem was, but we can guess this woman must have felt that life was just not fair to her. It was hard to have a broken heart once, but it must have taken the grace of God to mend a heart that has been broken five times. Each broken marriage was like dying and rising again. Jesus identified her as someone whose heart is very thirsty for true love, and for a deeper meaning of life. In reality she was in search of water that will satisfy this thirst. Some commentators say that this woman could not come to the well in the early morning or in the cool evening when other villagers gather. She must have suffered insults and persecution from judgmental villagers who saw her as a loose woman. She came to the well at an unusual time, during the daytime when nobody was there and she met Jesus who was waiting to offer her a new life.

God does not only uplift ordinary people to a higher pedestal, he also satisfies the hungry and quenches the thirst of a dry throat. When the people of Israel were very thirsty in the desert and they could not find an oasis from which to quench their thirst. They complained and cried out to Moses to find them some water. The Lord made water to gush forth from the rock to demonstrate he could make the impossible possible. In moments of acute thirst we desperately search for water to quench our thirst. In that crucial moment of thirst we are attracted to all kinds of liquids at our disposal: soda minerals, wine or other forms of drinks. However, in our quest to quench thirst we are quick to gulp down any liquid and after a short while the thirst comes back again, until we find the real water.

We experience physical thirst when our throats are dry and we also experience spiritual thirst when our hearts and souls are dry. Our hearts thirst for love, our minds thirst for knowledge, our souls thirst for the living God, for the living water and for the living bread. The living water is "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). We never stop being thirsty as long as we live. Jesus promises satisfaction to all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ([Matthew 5:6](#)).

<https://www.catholicforlife.com/homily-for-third-sunday-of-lent-year-a-3rd-sunday>

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 Friday 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.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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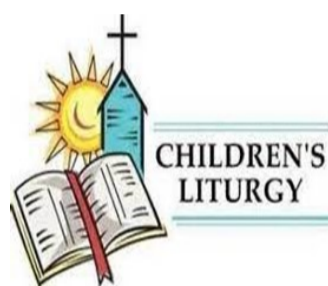
We, The Woy Woy Catholic Parish acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to 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.**



Children's Liturgy of the Word: Come join us for Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday 9.15am Mass. For ages 4-12 years. Operates most 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month excl school holidays. Enquiries—Christine 0431 765 401.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023—IMPORTANT DATES:

Presentation Masses for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 18th March at 5pm

Sunday, 19th March at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

Please include these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacraments.

First Communion:

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th of April at 11am

Lesson 1: Tuesday, 14th March at St John the Baptist School from 3.45—4.45 or 6.00—7.00 at St John the Baptist Church

Lesson 2: Tuesday, 21st March at St John the Baptist School from 3.45—4.45 or 6.00—7.00 at St John the Baptist Church

Lesson 3 & 4 to be advised

Confirmation:

Sunday 2nd July

Reconciliation:

Friday 17th November

Further details to follow.

St John the Baptist School—The Big Arvo: The Big Arvo will be held at St John the Baptist School, on Friday 17th March from 5-7pm. \$10 entry per family includes unlimited rides & disco, delicious food vans, ice cream, drinks and confectionery for purchase. Family picnics are welcome. Alcohol free event.

Volunteers Needed: CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay is seeking volunteers for our federally funded Community Visitors Scheme. As a volunteer, you will visit seniors in a local aged care facility or in their home and help improve their quality of life. Our volunteers have flexibility to choose a day and time that suits them, we just ask for a commitment of at least one hour per fortnight. Please contact Nicki 0418 435 304 or visit www.catholiccarebb.org.au/volunteer



OPEN DAY 2023

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School Woy Woy

Thursday 23 March 7-8pm - Kinder Info Evening
Friday 24 March 9:30-11am - School Tours

- Meet our Principal and connect with other Parents.
- Explore our learning environment.
- Discover how each and every child has a unique learning experience.
- Visit our classrooms, play area, sports oval, library, chapel, Greek and music rooms.
- Gain a real sense of the St John the Baptist community.



Scan Now To Register

Nicole Davies, Principal
St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School
21a Dulkara Road Woy Woy
sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au
4341 0884



Inspiring hearts and minds to know Christ, to love learning, to use their talents to be the very best they can be.

Central Coast Philharmonia
Musical Director | Patrick Brennan



Lux

LUX: The Dawn From On High

This is Dan Forrest's third major work for chorus and orchestra. The five movements explore various facets of light, in texts ranging from ancient liturgical chant to Scripture to modern secular love poetry. It was inspired visually by the light in Reims Cathedral in France and at the Poulnabrone Dolmen in Ireland.

FEATURING

- Central Coast Youth Orchestra
- Mia Cross (2022 Scholarship Winner)
- Central Coast Children's and Youth Choir
- Ebb and Flow

Saturday 25 March 2023, 7:30pm
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Blackwall Road, Woy Woy
Adult \$33 | Concession \$30 | Child or Student \$10
www.trybooking.com/CDEXB





LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Ex 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!” The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”

Responsorial Psalm: 94:1-2, 6-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reading 2: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Brothers and sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9



Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me

this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?”



**Third Sunday of Lent
11th & 12th March**



Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

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— pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: France Rabaud, Monica Fernan

Anniversary: Francisco Ames, Tarciana Cabatingan, Frank Agresta

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, Doris Coleman, Alice Lynn, Dianne Smyth, Gail Smith, Roy Cutrone

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

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