



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



29th January 2023 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

31st January—St John Bosco

6th February—St Paul Miki

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 7pm - 8pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon, Tues, Thurs—8.30am—3.00pm

Wed and Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm

Divine Will Cenacle

Thursdays 9.15am -10.30am

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings from 6pm - 7pm

Marian Bowyer - 0432 882 776

PARISH CONTACTS

Administrator

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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Some years ago I made my one and only visit to Palestine. I had always thought it was a barren and desert land. I probably went at the best time of the year, towards late April. I was quite surprised at how beautiful it was and particularly the places Jesus chose for the

various happenings recorded in the gospel. One sunny morning I climbed the hill of the beatitudes overlooking the lake and sat down there reflecting on today's reading. The hill was ablaze with flowers. It suddenly dawned on me that Jesus Christ was not only the Son of God but he also had a marvellous eye for the beauties of nature. The beauty of his words on that occasion were fittingly matched by the beauty of his surroundings.

Yet, what he said there was extraordinarily radical. How his listeners reacted to it then, I have no idea. I have some idea what the reaction would be today.

Imagine a father or mother giving this list as advice to their eighteen year old son or daughter as they set out to make their way in the modern world. Were they to suggest that the attitudes to get on were the following, to be attached to poverty, to be gentle, to be activists for human rights and peace etc, their offspring might be forgiven for thinking their parents had gone crazy.

If they were "poor in spirit", that is not dependent on others, especially the influential, to get on, they wouldn't go far. How often parents have said to me because they think the priest has influence: "You wouldn't put in a word with so-and-so for my boy?" How often we imply if we do not say to our children: "We speak a lot nowadays about "practising Catholics." We have reduced practice, conveniently for ourselves, to one single solitary item. And one that is not too demanding at that, attendance at Sunday Mass. There is no mention of that in the sermon on the mount. Christ did not set up a moral code with the "i's" dotted and the "t's" crossed. He probably knew we were good at that ourselves, if the Pharisees were anything to go by. He simply pointed out the attitudes needed to enter the kingdom of heaven.

These "happy attitudes" are the charter of the kingdom. They are ideals and like all ideals well-nigh unattainable. What is the point of them then? They are the heights we aim at and measure our standards against. Fortunately for us, history throws up rare examples of individuals who incarnate one or other of these beatitudes, like a Francis of Assisi or a Mother Teresa of Calcutta. There are many others whom we know nothing about "whose godly deeds have not failed." As St Paul says in today's reading: "You, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom." (Liam Swords)

<https://associationofcatholicpriests.ie/homily-resource/fourth-sunday-in-ordinary-time-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.

Back to School: A very warm welcome and welcome back to school for the children of our Parish. In 2023, may you dream big, work hard, play fair and surround yourself with those who love you and support your growth.

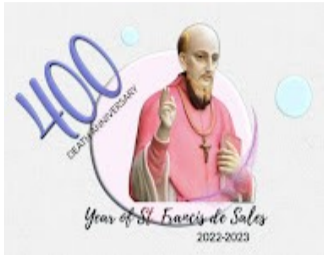


Fransalian Column:


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

Francis was born on 21 August 1567 in the Castle of Sales, near Thorens, the son of François de Nouvelles, Lord of Boisy, and Françoise de Sionnaz. "His life spanned two centuries, the sixteenth and the seventeenth, and he embodied the best of the teachings and cultural achievements of the century then drawing to a close, reconciling the inheritance of humanism with the striving for the Absolute proper to the currents of mysticism".

Attaining peace, Francis recorded those words in his journal. The experience of this crisis, with its anxiety and uncertainties, would remain illuminating for him, and provide him with a singular approach to the mystery of God's relationship with humanity. It helped him gain insight into the lives of others and to recognize, with a refined spirit of discernment, the interior attitude that unites thought and feeling, reason and affections, which he called the "God of the human heart". As a result, Francis was never in danger of attributing theoretical importance to his own personal experience and absolutizing it. Rather, he learned something remarkable, the fruit of grace: the ability to discern, in God, his own lived experience and that of others.



To be continued next week.



VALE GEORGE CARDINAL PELL AC

1941-2023

**Masses and Prayer Vigils at
St Mary's Cathedral**

Wednesday 1 February

9:30am Reception of the Body and
Commencement of Lying in State

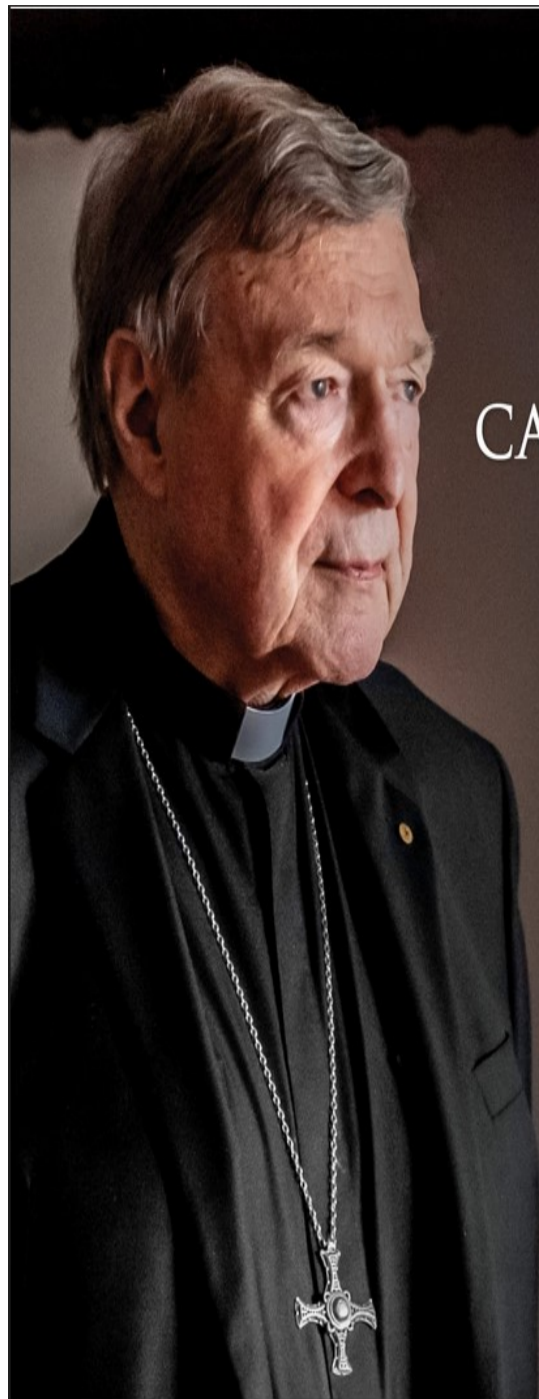
1:10pm A Mass for the Dead

5:30pm Evening Prayer and Vigil

8:00pm A Mass for the Dead

Thursday 2 February

11:00am Pontifical Funeral Mass
(Cathedral Doors open from 9:30am)



CLEANERS for 3 February 2023:

Anne-Marie Young

Linda Potestas

*** if you are unable to work on your appointed day,
please swap or arrange a replacement***

Cheryl Sillick

Rano Spiteri

SERVERS for 4-5 February :

Sat 5pm— Paul Cavanagh and Vincent Cavanagh

Sun 7.30am— Peter French and Paul Nolan

Sun 9.15am— Bernie French and Jenny Fitzgerald

Sun 5pm— Pio Savea or Allan Moore

READERS for 4-5 February :

Sat 5pm— Brian Nairn and Jane Rutherford

Sun 7.30am— Mabel Torres and Joel Bajo

Sun 9.15am— Christine French and Dawn Torrens

Sun 5pm— Lorena Lalor and Peter Smith

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

♦ **Welcomers** are sought to greet parishioners and visitors for each weekend Mass.



SHRINES OF OUR LADY PILGRIMAGE

A 16 DAY PILGRIMAGE TO EUROPE
FRANCE, PORTUGAL & ITALY PARIS, LISIEUX, LOURDES, FATIMA,
ASSISI, ROME, ROTONDO, VENICE, MILAN

TOUR CHAPLAIN: FR TIMOTHY RAJ MSFS

DEPARTURE: 1st May 2023

RETURN: 18th May 2023

INDICATIVE COST

\$8,590 per person/21-30 Pilgrims

\$8,190 per person/31-40 Pilgrims

Single supplement \$1,790 per person

- ♦ **Registration has been extended to 31/01/23.** Registration forms are available for collection on the table in the Gathering Area.
- ♦ For further information please contact Parish Office 4341 1073.
- ♦ Flights will be confirmed only at the time of booking with a deposit.
- ♦ **Fr Timothy is hoping to lead a group of AT LEAST 20 pilgrims.**

FOOTPRINTS OF JESUS

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—PETRA, BETHLEHEM,
JERICHO, MASADA, SEA OF GALILEE, JERUSALEM

TOUR CHAPLAIN: FR SALAS MUTTATHUKATTIL MSFS

DEPARTURE: 21st May 2023

RETURN: 3rd June 2023

**Enquiries: tel 02 9774 3662/email
stcpanania@hotmail.com**



Reading 1: Zeph 2:3, 3:12-3

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

R. Happy are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Reading 2: 1 Cor 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad;

Your reward will be great in heaven.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven."



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

Recently deceased: Ernie Mullins, Julie Gallard

Anniversary: Richard Alexander Culmer, Marie & James & Sarah McNamee, Margaret & Richard McQuillian

Remembrance:

Sick: Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyrna, 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 Zdilai, Loraine Wanless, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, Jack Rogan-Clark, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Alexandra Carrol

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January



We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

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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