



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



24th December 2023
4th Sunday of Advent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

25 Dec—The Nativity of the Lord

26 Dec—St Stephen

27 Dec—St John

28 Dec—The Holy Innocents, martyrs

*31 Dec—The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph*

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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The readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent Year B speak of the original Ark of the Covenant and of the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, the new Ark of the Covenant. In the first reading, David wants to build a home for the Ark of the Covenant, and instead God promises to establish the house of David forever. The psalm reiterates God's promises to David. The second reading praises God. And in the gospel, Gabriel the Archangel appears to the Blessed Virgin Mary and brings her the news that she has been chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **The Incarnation of Christ:** Gabriel's announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary introduces the central Christian theme of the Incarnation. This event signifies God becoming human in Jesus Christ, a foundational truth of Christian belief.
- **Favour and Choice by God:** Mary is described as "highly favoured" by the Lord, highlighting the theme of divine selection and grace. This emphasises that God chooses individuals for specific purposes according to His divine plan.
- **Mary's Faith and Obedience:** Mary's response, "Let it be to me according to your word," exemplifies faith and obedience to God's will. This theme underscores the virtue of trusting and submitting to God's plan, even when it is unexpected or challenging.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** The angel's explanation that the Holy Spirit will come upon Mary and the power of the Most High will overshadow her highlights the Holy Spirit's role in the Incarnation. This theme reflects the work of the Holy Spirit in the mystery of Christ's conception and in believers' lives.
- **The Virgin Birth:** The concept of Mary conceiving as a virgin is a significant theme, representing a miraculous event in Christian theology. It signifies God's power and the beginning of a new creation in Christ.

<https://young-catholics.com/3074/4th-sunday-of-advent-year-b/>

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

<u>December 24th: Morning</u>	<u>December 26th: Boxing Day</u>
7.30 am - Church	9.00 am
9.15 am - Church	
<u>December 24th: Christmas Eve</u>	<u>December 31st: New Years Eve</u>
5.00 pm - Church	4.00 pm - Adoration
5.30 pm - SJB School Oval	5.00 pm - Mass
21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy	
8.00 pm - Church	<u>January 1st: New Years Day</u>
10.00 pm - Church	9.00 am
<u>December 25th: Christmas Day</u>	
7.30 am & 9.15 am	
No evening Mass	

Parish News: Congratulations to Fr Timothy who has been appointed Parish Priest of the Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula, for a period of six years, effective 01/01/24.

Welcome: A very warm welcome to all those who will be joining us over the Christmas and New Year period, to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Office Closure: The office will close at 3.00pm on Friday, 22nd December and reopen on Tuesday, 2nd January at 8.30am. In case of an emergency call 0438 631 327.

Thanks: Many thanks to each and every volunteer who was involved in making the Parish dinner last Friday, a huge success. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. A grateful thanks to all volunteers, in all Ministries, who have given of their time and energy during the year.

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

Children's Liturgy: Children's liturgy is now on a break for the school holidays and will resume 11 February 2024.

Cleaners for 5th January: Linda Potestas, Elena Egan, Maria Owen, Laila Dawe.

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

Readers for 30th & 31st December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul & Jane Rutherford
 Sunday 7.30am—Michael & Katherine McCulloch
 Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon & Christine French
 Sunday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville

Servers for 30th & 31st December:

Please see Christmas schedule.

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.

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. Thanks.

Know our Patron St Francis de Sales: The vast territory of Visakhapatnam was divided into two in 1887, forming the new diocese of Nagpur, with Alexis Riccaz MSFS as its first Bishop. However, the vastness of the territory and the increase in the need for more personnel and resources led to the division of the original Visakhapatnam mission into many dioceses and were handed over to the other religious congregations in the course of time.

The Fransalians too, in turn, grew large and began to spread out to the other parts of India. And today it has seven provinces in India, namely Visakhapatnam, south west, south East, Guwahati, Nagpur, Pune and Debrugarh. In these seven provinces we belong to the province of Pune which forms the centre part of India. Thus, today the MSFS is a large congregation spread over many countries in the world, rendering valuable services to the humanity by holding on to its charism of preaching missions, evangelisation and education of the youth.

The beginnings they say are always difficult and Fr Mermier experienced this when on 24th October 1838 he founded the MSFS congregation. Barely seven years after founding it, half of his members were sent to India. These included four fathers and two brothers. They left Europe and reached the coast of India at Pondicherry after an adventurous sea voyage that lasted three months. These Missionaries had put their trust in God and dared to venture into the unknown without the knowledge of the language, people, customs or the climatic conditions. They moved onwards steadily learning the language and the peoples. This small Congregation slowly spread to the different parts of the world.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts forever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne for all ages to come.

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

He will say to me: "You are my Father, my God, the rock who saves us." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

R. I will sing forever of the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2: Rom 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Luke 1, 26-38

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

Recently deceased: Colin Burgess, Warren Bourke, Delia Lara, Christine McCarthy, Caterina Shinoda, Dorothy Smith

Anniversary: Margherita Bugeja, Tom Fauvette

Remembrance: Frank Agresta, Bruno de Souza, Sergei de Souza, Joyce Fotheringham, Charlie Grima, Noëlle Davidovic Martins

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, 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, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark, Helen Tiltins, Shirley Brinkworth



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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**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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