



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



5th February 2023 Word of God Sunday

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

8th February—Sts Jerome Emiliani & Josephine Bakhita

10th February—St Scholastica

11th February—Our Lady of Lourdes

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

P: 02 4341 1073

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

The theme that runs through the Scripture readings today is clearly that of "light". We can see it in the First Reading ("then will your light shine like the dawn"), in the opening verse of the Responsorial Psalm and (with reference to Christ) in the Gospel Acclamation verse ("I am the Light of the world"), all building up the climactic statement in the Gospel: "You are the light of the world". Only the Second Reading (1 Cor 2:1-5) stands apart.

The First Reading, from Isaiah 58:7-10, features one of the great appeals for social justice in the Old Testament. Israel has complained that much fasting on her part has met with no response from God. In reply God explains the kind of "fast" Israel needs to undertake: not one involving penitential ritual, but a "fast" from injustice. Refraining from indifference and violence towards the weak, and a positive program of hospitality, will cause Israel's "light to shine like the dawn" and her "wound" to be "quickly healed over". In a way that has lost nothing of its challenge for us today, the prophetic text insists that if a community gets social justice right, then all else will fall into place.

Israel is reminded that when social justice prevails her "light rise in the darkness". Here we have, surely, an echo of the belief, expressed above all in Isaiah's Servant Songs, that Israel's destiny is to be "a light to the nations" (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 51:4; 60:3). The prophet, then, is summoning Israel, to realise her true vocation through the implementation of social justice. She is to become a "light to the nations" by modelling before the world what a truly flourishing human society should be.

It is at this point that the prophetic text becomes relevant as a background for the brief extract from the Sermon on the Mount that forms the Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16). Two images — "salt" and "light" — dominate the extract. They follow immediately upon the Beatitudes (5:3-12), with which the Sermon began. The community of disciples is not just to be something for itself. In continuity with the vocation of Israel, the Church has the vocation both to preserve ("salt") and to model ("light") something for the rest of the world.

To appreciate this, we have to recall the setting in which the Sermon takes place: the mass of burdened, afflicted humanity described as the recipients of Jesus' healing at the end of the preceding chapter (4:23-25). It is the sight of these crowds and their needs that prompts Jesus to address his disciples in the way that follows. The implication is that it is people who are prepared to live according to the dispositions and attitudes pronounce "blessed" in the Beatitudes — that is, people prepared to live in the vulnerable, nongrassing way they propose — who can really help lift humanity's burdens, thereby becoming and remaining "salt of the earth" and "light of the world". (Paul's description in the Second Reading [1 Cor 2:1-5] of the vulnerable way in which he approached the community in Corinth actually illustrates this disposition.)

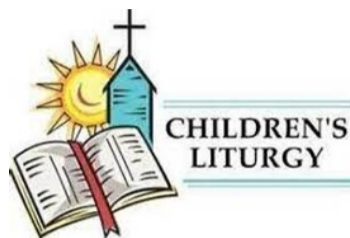
To appreciate what Jesus says about salt (v. 13b) we have to recall the role this item played in food preservation before refrigeration. Salt can hardly lose its taste but it may be so mixed with other elements as to become impure and so good only for salting the path outside the house, where people will trample it underfoot. Disciples who fall away from their vocation may face a similar fate (vv. 14-16).

This wonderful set of readings challenges us, not only as individuals but as parish and other communities, to reflect upon our vocation to be, according to the Second Vatican Council's description of the Church, "the Light of the Nations" (Lumen Gentium), "salt of the earth".

Prepared by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

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.

Word of God Sunday: The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to “the celebration, study and dissemination” of the Word of God. Visit www.catholic.org.au/wordofgodsunday to access resources to help commemorate the day and for suggestions on how to better engage with Sacred Scripture in various ways and settings.



Come join us for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. CLOW is for ages 4-12 years and operates most 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month excluding school holidays. CLOW resumes 12th February during 9.15am Mass.

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.

Shrines of Our Lady Pilgrimage: There will be an information session after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 12th February at 10.30am in the Leo Mahon Room for all those registered to join Fr Timothy on the Shrines of our Lady pilgrimage.

Bus Trip: There will be a bus trip to St Benedict’s Monastery, Arcadia on Sunday, February 19th to attend a Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day. All enquiries to Phoebe on 0416 056 324. There will be list on the table in the Gathering Area to register your name. BYO picnic lunch.

Thank you: Thank you to all who contributed cans and bottles in the collection to help me get to World Youth Day Lisbon—Vincent Cavanagh.

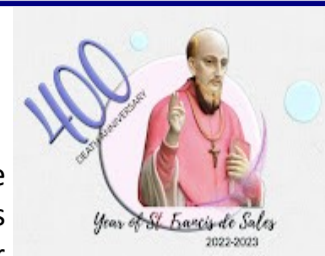
Thank you: A note from Catholic Mission—“Thanks to all who supported the 2022 Catholic Mission Appeal. A total of \$2,834.45 was raised at St John the Baptist, Woy Woy. Best wishes to all the Woy Woy Parishioners for the year ahead.”

Fransalian Column:

Excerpt from an Apostolic Letter ‘Totum Amoris Est’ of Pope Francis

“EVERYTHING PERTAINS TO LOVE”. These words summarise the spiritual legacy left to us by Saint Francis de Sales, who died four centuries ago, on 28 December 1622, in Lyon. Slightly more than fifty years of age, he had been the “exiled” Bishop and Prince of Geneva for some two decades and had come to Lyon on what was to be his last diplomatic mission. The Duke of Savoy had asked him to accompany Cardinal Maurice of Savoy to Avignon, where they were to pay homage to the young King Louis XIII, then returning to Paris through the Rhône valley following a victorious military campaign in the south of France. Exhausted and in poor health, Francis had undertaken the journey in a pure spirit of service. “Were it not most helpful to them for me to make this trip, I would surely have many good reasons to excuse myself. Yet if I can be of help, alive or dead, I will not refuse, but go or let myself be dragged there”. That was his temperament. Upon his arrival in Lyon, he stayed at the monastery of the Visitation Sisters, in the gardener’s lodge, so as not to be a burden and to be free to meet with anyone who so desired.

Long disenchanted by the “fleeting glories of the court”, he spent those final days exercising his pastoral ministry amid a flurry of appointments: confessions, conversations, conferences, sermons, and, of course, letters of spiritual friendship. The deepest reason for such a way of life, completely centred on God, had become clearer to him over time. He explained it with simplicity and precision in his celebrated *Treatise on the Love of God*: “At the very thought of God, one immediately feels a certain delightful emotion of the heart, which testifies that God is God of the human heart”. In the heart and through the heart, there comes about a subtle, intense and unifying process in which we come to know God and, at the same time, ourselves, our own origins and depths, and our fulfilment in the call to love. We discover that faith is no blind emotion, but primarily an attitude of the heart, whereby we entrust ourselves to a truth that



CLEANERS for 10 February 2023:

Laila Dawe Veronica Jordan

Reg Harrington Pam Hickey

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

SERVERS for 11-12 February :

Sat 5pm Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo

Sun 7.30am Kevin Glacken & Joe Torres

Sun 9.15am Bob Wilson & Hanaa El-Khatib

Sun 5pm Pio Savea or Allan Moore

READERS for 11-12 February :

Sat 5pm Kate Bravo & Marie Andrews

Sun 7.30am Phoebe Glacken & Mabel Torres

Sun 9.15am Colleen McCormack & Michael Dixon

Sun 5pm Sarah Hagarty & Kris Aitken

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: Is 58:7-10

Thus says the LORD: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111:4-9

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

Reading 2: 1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.


I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

the man who follows me will have the light of life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."



Word
of God
Sunday

FEBRUARY 5, 2023

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

Recently deceased: Sheila Scannell, Patricia Mercer, Celestino B Diamante

Anniversary:

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 Zdilai, Loraine Wanless, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, Jack Rogan-Clark, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Alexandra Carrol, Serge Fauvette, Roger Lambert

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February



We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

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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Spices 29
 GOAN INDIAN RESTAURANT

Come and enjoy delicious culinary delights that will take you on to a journey into the magical world of Indian Cuisine. Our chefs capture the aromatic flavours and present to you the tastiest dishes from the country with great heritage and flamboyant culture.

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)

34 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy-NSW 2256, Tel: 02 43398225, www.spices29.com.au