



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



26th March 2023 5th Sunday of Lent

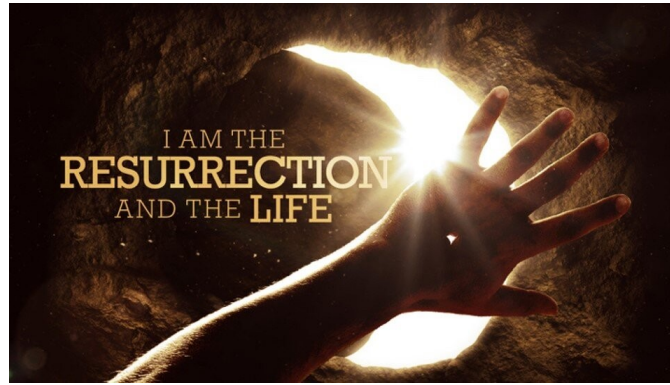
Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

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.



During this fifth week of Lent we are reminded that Jesus' calm heart of contemplation should be our guide in strengthening our dependence on Him, allowing us to minister with renewed and clear hearts. As I read today's Gospel, I was drawn not to his words or the main plot points that unfold, but rather I found my heart gravitate most towards this line:

"Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger." I'm sure I'm not alone in what comes to mind when I think about the legacy of Jesus: turning water into wine, walking on water, healing the sick...my mind never lands on this action of lowering himself to the ground and drawing in the dirt with his fingers. He stops in his tracks, undoubtedly with everyone around Him holding their breath for His response to the scribes and Pharisees, and he takes the time for discernment, for contemplation. I imagine him allowing the spirit to surround Him and aid Him in this moment of being tested, strengthening Him to release the words of His father: the words of justice and love towards a woman who, like all of us, is more than the worst thing she has ever done. Through contemplation and discernment we are made strong in our God, we are more clearly able to see the path of justice. As Lent comes to a close, let's choose to kneel down and take pauses to invite God in to each moment that we might always minister from a place of contemplation.

<https://www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/blog/reflection-for-the-fifth-sunday-of-lent>

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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Holy Week 2023

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

7:00pm, Thursday, 30th March

Palm Sunday—Sunday, 2nd April (blessing of Palms before all Masses)

5:00pm—Saturday Vigil
7:30am, 9:15am, 5:00pm—Sunday

Holy Thursday

7:00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

9:00am - Way of the Cross - Church
10:00am - Way of the Cross at
SJB Primary School
21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

3:00pm - The Lord's Passion—Church

Easter Saturday

8:00am - Devotion to Mother of Sorrows
6:00pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

7:30am, 9:15am (no evening mass)

Easter Monday

9:00am



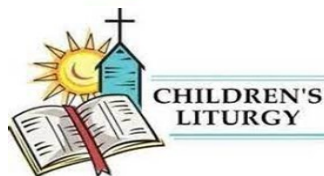
We, The Woy Woy Catholic Parish acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to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



New tap and go machines: There are #2 new tap and go machines. 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: 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: Continues during 9.15am Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2023—IMPORTANT DATES:

Please include the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Communion.

First Communion:

Sat 29th & Sun 30th of April at 11am

Pre-Communion

Reconciliation:

Friday, 24th March or Friday, 31st March at 3.45pm in the Church

Lesson 3:

the week of 27th March

Lesson 4:

the week of 3rd April

Confirmation:

Sunday 2nd July

Reconciliation:

Friday 17th November

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on **Tuesday, 4 April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Please register your name on the list located on the table in the Gathering Area if you would like to travel on the Parish Bus to the Cathedral. Places are limited.

Memorial Mass for Sr Clare Keating rsj: A memorial Mass will be held at 9am on Saturday, 15th April at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, the Entrance. Mass will be followed by an informal celebration of Sr Clare's life. Afterwards there will be refreshments at The Entrance Hotel.



Please join us for a Lenten Movie Night on Wednesday, 5th April at 5pm in the Walter Baker Hall. Please contact the Parish Office to confirm your attendance.

Morning Tea: The next Parish morning tea will be hosted by the Filipino Community after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 2nd April. All welcome.

Cleaners for 5th April:

Tom French, Linda Potestas, Cheryl Sillick & Pam Hickey

Readers for 1st & 2nd April:

Sat 5pm— Paul & Jane Rutherford

Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan & Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon & Mary Rose Barlow

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor & Peter Smith

Fransalian Column:

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



Earlier, Francis had spoken of this relationship using a curious example drawn from ornithology: "There are certain birds, Theotimos, that Aristotle calls 'apodans', because they have such short and weak legs as to be of no use to them; it is as if they did not even have them. Should they fall to the ground, they remain there, unable to take flight because, without the use of legs or feet, they cannot rise and take wing. Consequently, they remain on the ground and die there, unless a gust of wind, compensating for their inability, lifts them up, as it often does with other things. If, in that case, they flap their wings in response to the thrust of the wind, the wind itself will continue to help them by thrusting them ever higher, in order to help them to fly higher and higher". The same holds true for us: we were created by God to fly, to spread our wings in response to the call to love, but once we fall to earth, unless we choose to open those wings to the wind of the Spirit, we risk never again being able to fly.

This, then, is how God's grace comes to us: by "cords of Adam", bonds of humanity and love. God's power can always lift us up to take flight, yet his *douceur*, his loving kindness, is such that he respects our freedom. It is up to us either to take flight or to remain on the ground. Even as he bestows his grace, God would not have us rise without our consent. Francis can thus conclude: "God's inspirations, Theotimos, anticipate us and make themselves felt before we are even aware of them, but once we become aware of them, it is up to us either to consent and follow their lead, or to refuse and reject them. They make themselves felt by us without us; yet without us they do not bring about our consent". In our relationship with God we always experience a gratuitousness that testifies to the depth of the Father's love for us.

At the same time, this grace never makes us passive. It leads us to realize that God's love radically precedes us, and that his first gift consists precisely in our acceptance of that love. Each person therefore is responsible for cooperating with his or her own fulfilment, with spreading his or her wings with confident trust before the gust of God's wind. Here we see an important aspect of our human vocation. "In the Genesis account, God commands Adam and Eve to be fruitful. Humankind has a mandate to change, to build, to master creation in the positive sense of creating from it and with it. So what is to come doesn't depend on some unseen mechanism, a future in which humanity is a passive spectator. No: we are protagonists, we are – if I can stretch the word – *co-creators*". That is what Francis de Sales recognised and sought to pass on through his ministry of spiritual guidance.

Continued next week

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Ezek 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm: 129

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Reading 2: Rom 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

Gospel: Jn 11:1-45



Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said

this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still where Martha had met him. ...



Fifth Sunday of Lent 25th & 26th March



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

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: Sr Clare Keating rsj, Brian Walsh, Celso Bulual

Anniversary: Bruno de Souza, John Anthony Snell, Dudley Juratowitch, Lauren Langrell, Anna Kim Mee-Rahn

Remembrance: Bugeja, Catania, Grima & Edgecombe Families, Doris Galea

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, Wendy Cohen, Bill Hunt



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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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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