



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



12th February 2023 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

Lenten Programme

Way of the Cross & Mass:
each Friday at 6.30pm
followed by Mass at
7.00pm and reflection
afterwards.



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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The letter of the law and the spirit of the law

From a very early age, we are encouraged to do what we told and asked. When we are young we listen to and learn from our parents; we follow their example and do what they asked us to do. This continues when we go to school; the teacher asks to behave in a certain way and expects to follow the rules of the class and the school. There are rules of the road to help us drive safely with care and concern for other drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Religion has rules too and this was as

true at the time of Jesus as it is today for us today. However, there is always the danger that the letter of the law becomes more important than the spirit of the law. There is always the danger that the law becomes more important that the religion is seeks to guide and uphold.

We know from the gospels that Jesus had many battles and arguments with the Pharisees and Sadducees. These were the two groups who controlled and organised all the rites and rituals of the Jewish religion. However, Jesus said to the people, 'Do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on your shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Despite their well-meaning intentions, they had let the letter of the law overtake the heart and spirit of the law.

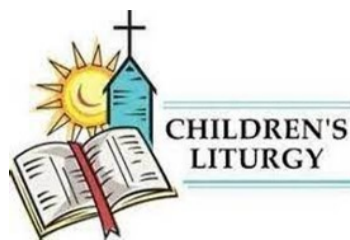
On another occasion, when asked by the Sadducees which was the greatest commandment of the law, Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind and you must love your neighbours as yourself.' These words from Jesus are as powerful and relevant today as when he first spoke them. They are meant as much for us as they were for those who first heard them.

All too easily we can become like the Pharisees and the Sadducees; we can become slaves to the law of the gospel and miss what its message of hope and new life are really about. Pope Francis offers these words of warning to us, 'people rigidly bound to the law suffer pain, pride and often live a double life. God's laws are not meant to make us slaves but to make us free, to make us sons and daughters of God. God prefers mercy, tenderness, goodness and humility. May the Lord teach each of us to walk within the Lord's laws with these ways.'

Jesus is not asking us to break the law, particularly the law of the gospel. He is calling us to go beyond the letter of the law and to deepen our appreciation of the message of the gospel. The good news of the gospel is more a matter of the heart than it is matter of the head. May we love the Lord, ourselves and our neighbours with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind.

Michael Moore OMI <https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-6th-sunday-ordinary-time/>

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.



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 Combank 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 **WALTER BAKER HALL** at 100 Blackwall Road, 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.



Congratulations: Congratulations to Chris Lee and Bridie Hall who will celebrate their marriage on 16th February here at St John the Baptist. May God bless them both on their special day and may they have a lifetime of love and happiness together.

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 Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection except on the first Friday, 3rd March, when Way of the Cross will be at 3.30pm followed by the Eucharist and reflection.

Ash Wednesday: On Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023, Mass will be held at **8.30am and 7.00pm** in the Church and at **11.45am** in St John the Baptist School.

Welcome to all our new Parishioners. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to complete a census form, making sure you include any Parish community groups you wish to get involved with. Forms are available on the table in the Gathering Area.

Sit and Chat: There will be no Sit and Chat in February. Details for next date will be advised in due course.

Prayer: Please keep the people of Türkiye and Syria in your prayers at this time.

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".

After his early education, first in the College of La Roche-sur-Foron and then in that of Annecy, Francis went to Paris, to the recently founded Jesuit College of Clermont. In the capital of the Kingdom of France, devastated by the wars of religion, he experienced two consecutive interior crises that would have a lasting mark on his life. A fervent prayer offered in the Church of Saint-Étienne-des-Grès, before the Black Madonna of Paris, would kindle, amid the darkness of his heart, a fire that would continue to burn within him and provide the key to understanding his own experience and that of others. "Whatever may happen, Lord, you who hold everything in your hands and whose ways are all justice and truth, ... I will love you, Lord, ... I will love you here, O my God; I will hope always in your mercy and ever repeat your praise... O Lord Jesus, you will always be my hope and my salvation in the land of the living".

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 recognise, 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 absolutising 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.



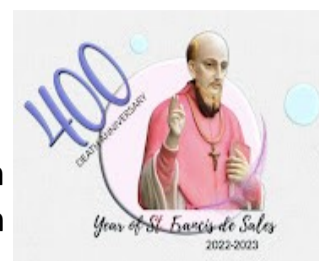
VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS REQUIRED

Last year we, the catechists asked for some volunteers to join us who go into the public schools to teach religion to the Catholic children. We had 4 people respond but unfortunately due to a number of reasons, health and work commitments, only 1 of these generous people was able to become a catechist.

Once again, We ask you to have a conversation with Jesus about his command to his apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Are you being called to be a catechist for our Catholic children in the state school?

For more information contact Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Sir 15:15-20

If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all-seeing. The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands man's every deed. No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

R. Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Reading 2: 1 Cor 2:6-10

Brothers and sisters: We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

But as it is written:

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



Gospel: Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

"It was also said, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

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

Recently deceased: Mary T Locke, Catherine Spalding, Sheila Scannell, Patricia Mercer

Anniversary: Marie Meyer, Martha & Brigitte Vitoria, Annamma & CM Thomas, Warren Burton

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, Ron Manning

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 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