



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



19th February 2023 7th 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

P: 02 4341 1073

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/seventhsundayinordinarytimeasunday-connection/>

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 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.



We warmly welcome *Jackson Castronuevo and Isla Johnson* who will be Baptised this weekend.



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.

Thank you: Thank you to all our volunteer catechists who go into the State schools to teach the Catholic children Special Religious Education, the catechists who prepare the children to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Communion and the catechists who lead the children in the Children's Liturgy of the Word. We thank them for their generosity with their time, their talents and their faith. There will be a **morning tea after 9.15am Mass** this Sunday, 19th February. Please join us.

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.

Sacramental Programme 2023—First Communion: The Sacrament of First Communion will be celebrated on Saturday, 29th April and Sunday, 30th April. Please save the date. More details to follow.

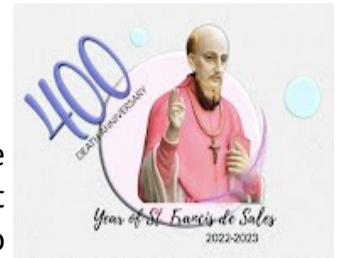
First Friday Mass/World Day of Prayer: On Friday 3rd March after 8.30am Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. This is also World Day of Prayer 2023. There will be the Stations of the Cross at 3.30pm followed by Mass at 4.00pm.



World Day of Prayer 2023: This year's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at the Uniting Church, 346 Ocean Beach Road, Umina. Commencing at 10.30am followed by light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. The theme for World Day of Prayer 2023 is **"I have heard about your faith"** based on Ephesians 1: 15-19.

Fransalian Column:

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



After completing his course in the humanities, Francis took up studies in law at the University of Padua. On his return to Annecy, he had already decided upon the direction of his life, despite resistance on the part of his father. Ordained a priest on 18 December 1593, in early September of the following year, at the request of Bishop Claude de Granier, he was called to carry out a difficult mission in Le Chablais, a territory belonging to the Diocese of Annecy. Though Calvinist, Le Chablais, through an intricate web of wars and peace treaties, had passed once more under the control of the Duchy of Savoy. These were intense and exciting years, when Francis discovered his gifts as a mediator and a man of dialogue, as well as a certain intransigence that he would later acknowledge. He also devised several bold and original pastoral practices, like the famous *affiches* posted everywhere and even slipped under house doors.

In 1602, Francis returned to Paris, charged with pursuing a sensitive diplomatic mission on behalf of Bishop de Granier at the specific direction of the Apostolic See, following yet another change in the political and religious landscape of the territory of the Diocese of Geneva. Despite the good intentions of the King of France, the mission was a failure. To Pope Clement VIII he wrote, "After nine whole months, I have been forced to retrace my steps, having accomplished almost nothing". Yet that mission proved unexpectedly enriching for him and for the Church from the human, cultural and religious standpoint. In whatever free time his diplomatic negotiations allowed, Francis preached in the presence of the King of France and his court. He formed important friendships and, above all, immersed himself completely in the extraordinary spiritual and cultural blossoming of the modern capital of the Kingdom.

There everything was in constant ferment. Francis was impressed and intrigued by the great issues emerging in the world, by the novel ways in which they were being approached, by the new and remarkable interest in spirituality and the unprecedented questions it raised. In a word, he sensed an authentic "epochal shift" that demanded a response couched in language both old and new. This was certainly not the first time that he had encountered individual fervent Christians, but now things were different. Paris was no longer the city devastated by the wars of religion that he had known in the years of his education, or by the bitter conflicts that he had seen in the Chablais. Instead, he encountered something unexpected: a flood "of saints, true saints, in great numbers and in all places". There were men and women of culture, professors of the Sorbonne, civil authorities, princes and princesses, servants and maids, men and women religious. A whole world athirst for God in a variety of ways.

To be continued next week.

VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS REQUIRED



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, baptising 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: Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy. "You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow citizen, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am the LORD."

Responsorial Psalm: 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 3:16-23

Brothers and sisters: Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: *God catches the wise in their own ruses*, and again:

The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you, Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You have heard that it was said,

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

When someone strikes you on your right cheek,

turn the other one as well.

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,

hand over your cloak as well.

Should anyone press you into service for one mile,

go for two miles.

Give to the one who asks of you,

and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.

"You have heard that it was said,

You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.

But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you,

that you may be children of your heavenly Father,

for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,

and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.

For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?

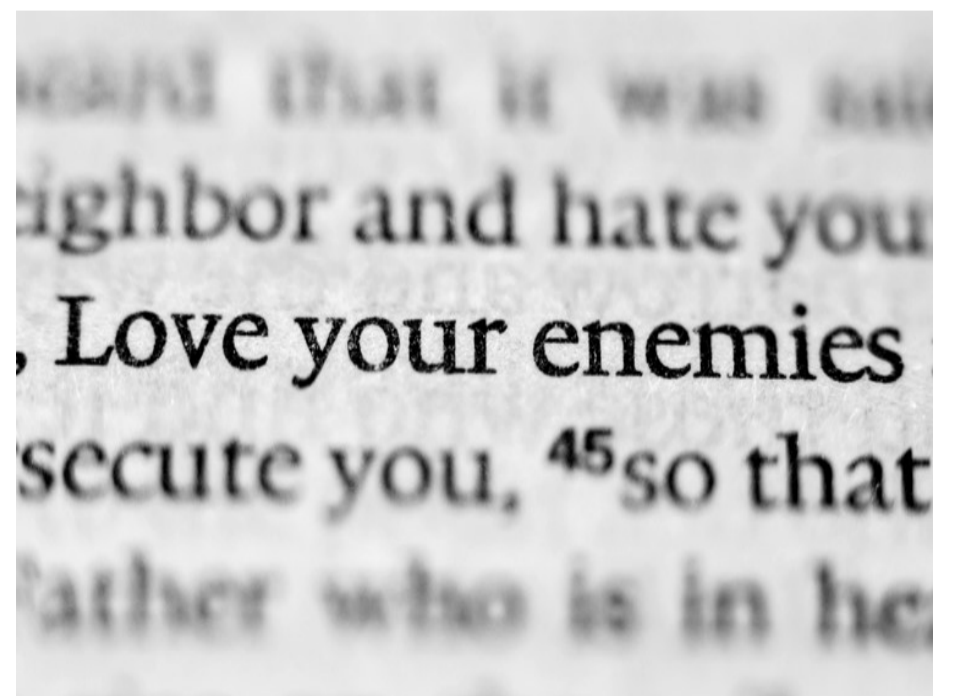
Do not the tax collectors do the same?

And if you greet your brothers only,

what is unusual about that?

Do not the pagans do the same?

So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."



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

Recently deceased: Marie Gibbons, Frank Agresta

Anniversary: Sam Grima, Fatima Fawzy, Mary Catania

Remembrance: Sara Selim

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