



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



The Nativity of the Lord—25th December
The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—31st Dec
Mary, the Holy MOTHER OF GOD—1st January

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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Dear People of God

"Glory to God on high and peace to people of goodwill"

Every Christmas is a reminder that God still loves the world. The angels sang "Glory to God" and a special star in the heavens signaled an extraordinary, grace-filled event, endowing Peace to the world.

The Christmas event, the most transformative for all the world, impacts every aspect of human existence and activity. Pope Francis calls us to draw inspiration from the nativity scene: "it is like a living Gospel, a domestic Gospel." The Nativity scene "is a place of encounter where we bring to Jesus the expectations and worries of life, just as the shepherds of Bethlehem."

Christmas also brings with it a call to MISSION. We are not a static community, but always walking together towards the goal—a family walking to our heavenly home, pilgrims of faith, hope and love. Our communion encourages one another along the path of mission.

Christmas is a time for PARTICIPATION of all and for all. Christmas is the time to forget past hurts and differences, to overcome past disagreements. Christmas is the season to ensure that nothing ever comes between us so that the family remains united. Our hearts are open, and our arms are extended to embrace all. Christmas is the time, for bringing to our homes, the joy of God's presence among us. I extend heartfelt greetings to you and your loved ones. This festive season is a time of reflection, gratitude, and the warmth of shared blessings.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your home with love, joy, and peace. As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, let His teachings inspire kindness, compassion, and understanding in our hearts.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - 2024

Fr Timothy msfs

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.

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 1 January 2024.

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 please 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.

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

 **Baptism:** We warmly welcome Leighton Kavanagh who will be Baptised this week.

Cleaners for 5th January: Linda Potestas, Elena Egan, Maria Owen, Laila Dawe. Thank you to all the Church cleaners for your commitment this year.

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. Many thanks.

Readings:

**The Nativity of the Lord:
Sunday, 24th December**

Vigil

1st Reading: Is 62:1-5
2nd Reading: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Gospel: Mt 1:1-25

Midnight

1st Reading: Is 9:1-7
2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Lk 2:1-14

Dawn

1st Reading: Is 62:11-12
2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Lk 2:15-20

Day

1st Reading: Is 52:7-10
2nd Reading: Heb 1:1-6
Gospel: Jn 1:1-18

The HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1st Reading: Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3
2nd Reading: Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

MARY, the Holy Mother of God

1st Reading: Num 6:22-27
2nd Reading: Gal 4:4-7
Gospel: Lk 2:16-21



✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast takes place on the Sunday immediately following Christmas, falling within the season of Christmas fittingly to continue to call our attention to the profound reality of God becoming man. On this feast, in particular, we are reminded of the humanity of Jesus as the son of Mary and Joseph. Jesus grew up in their home and spent His childhood as a rather typical Israelite boy. In fact, the only thing we know about Jesus' childhood, apart from His infancy, is the account we hear in today's Gospel. But we learn quite a few things about the Holy Family from this short account. First, we see that they are a faithful Jewish family by their observance of travelling to Jerusalem once a year for the feast of Passover. Second, we learn that they travelled in a "caravan" that probably included many, many relatives and friends. There were enough, at least, for it to take a day of travelling before Mary and Joseph realised that Jesus was not with the group. It would have been typical for a twelve-year-old boy, who was coming of age, to be with the men of the group, rather than his parents. Third, we see that Mary and Joseph had typical parental concerns. Not being able to find Jesus for three days caused them "great anxiety." In fact, this three days of sorrow foreshadows the three days of sorrow that Mary would experience at the time of Jesus' death, when He would be in the tomb for three days. The finding in the Temple, therefore, foreshadows the great joy of the Resurrection. Fourth, Jesus' response to Mary and Joseph when they find Him reveals that their role, although essential, was to be subordinate to the will of Jesus' Father in Heaven. The passage does tell us that Jesus "was obedient to them," but this obedience was always connected to His perfect obedience to God. Likewise, our families are to be reflections of our relationship with God.

<https://stjoesmarion.org/news/readings-reflections-for-the-feast-of-the-holy-family-1#:~:text=On%20this%20feast%2C%20in%20particular,we%20hear%20in%20today's%20Gospel.>

Today's Feast of Mary, the Mother of God is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church because she is our spiritual mother — and we are the Church. In 1970, Pope Paul VI instituted the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. In his encyclical on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Marialis Cultus*, he wrote, "This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the holy Mother ... through whom we were found worthy ... to receive the Author of life." The solemnity shows the relationship of Jesus to Mary. It's a perfect example of how we should venerate Mary under all of her titles and is a good foundation for our understanding of Mary's place in Christology. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasise the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth. In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her. The Church observes this day also as the World Day of Peace and invites us to pray specially for peace in the world. Inspired by Pope St. John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*, Pope Paul VI instituted this feast in 1967.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2017-12/gospel-reflection-mary-mother-of-god.html>



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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