



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



2nd April 2023 Palm Sunday

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016



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 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.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

St Francis de Sales in his reflections on Palm Sunday gives us three beautiful thoughts as to why the Lord chose the donkey to enter the city of Jerusalem.

The Animal's Humility: He chose the most simple and the most humble of all animals because He so loved lowliness and humility that only a humble mount could serve Him. God dwells and abides only in the simple and humble of heart (Isa 57:15). Wishing to show His esteem for this virtue, He chose lowliness and abjection for the day of His triumph.

Its Patience: It allows itself to be maltreated without ever forgetting its origin (Isa 1:3). It neither complains, nor bites, nor kicks. It endures all with great patience. Our Lord so loved patience that He wished to become its mirror and pattern. He endured scourging and ill treatment with invincible patience. He went through many blasphemies and calumnies, without saying a word.

He who desires to be humble must be patient enough to endure the contempt, the censure, the reprehensions that the humble suffer. Likewise, he who desires to be patient must be humble, because one cannot long support the labours and adversities of this life without the humility which makes us gentle and patient.

The Willingness to be Burdened: The obedience of the animal is so much that it permits to burden it as much as we want without offering any resistance. It carries the load with remarkable submission and suppleness. So much did our Divine Master love obedience and suppleness that He bore the heavy burden of our iniquities and suffered all that we had merited. (Isa 53:4ff).

As we reflect today on the Passion of the Lord, we are reminded that the Cross is Jesus' victory over sin and death. Let us with courage and joy, take up our cross, as we unite ourselves to the passionate love of Jesus. **Live Jesus!**

Holy Week 2023

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

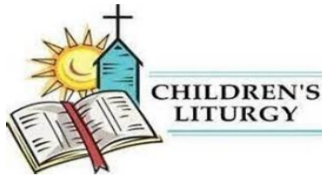
9:00am



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.



Children's Liturgy of the Word: Children's Liturgy is on a break and will resume on Sunday, 30th April.



We warmly welcome **Ana Conrado Cansdale** who was Baptised last weekend and **Arthur Clifford, Asher Newell, Ava Seeto and Parker Seeto** who will be Baptised this weekend.

Daylight Saving Ends: Daylight saving finishes at 3am this Sunday 2nd April. The clocks will go back an hour.

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

Lesson 4: the week of 3rd April

Confirmation: Sunday 2nd July

Reconciliation: Friday 17th November

Chrim Mass: The Chrim 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.



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: Morning tea will be hosted by the Filipino Community after 9.15am Mass this Sunday, 2nd April. All welcome.

Cleaners for 14th April: Maria Wickens, Jo Salter, Elena Egan, Maria Owen.

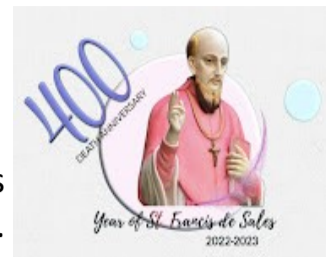
St John the Baptist School Centenary Anniversary: On June 22nd at 11.00am the Bishop will be celebrating Mass at St John the Baptist School. Everyone is invited. As part of the celebrations the school will have a display of memorabilia. If you have any photos or memorabilia that you would like to share can you please contact Jane Rutherford on janerutherford69@gmail.com.



Housie Mega Marathon: Easter Sat, 8th April -122 games from 2pm to 11pm at Peninsula Community Centre, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Operated by Parish volunteers to benefit the Parish.

Fransalian Column:

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



A second great crucial decision of Francis was to approach the issue of devotion. Here too, as in our own day, the dawning of a new age had raised a number of questions. Two aspects of the issue need to be understood and re-appropriated today. The first regards the very idea of devotion, the second its universal and popular character. At the beginning of the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Francis clarifies the meaning of devotion: "It is necessary, first of all, to know in what the virtue of devotion consists. There is only one true devotion, and many false and vain ones. Unless you can distinguish true devotion, you can fall into error and waste your time running after some useless and superstitious devotion".

Francis' description of false devotion is delightful and ever timely. Everyone can relate to it, since he salts it with good humour. "Someone attached to fasting will consider himself devout because he doesn't eat, even though his heart is filled with bitterness; and while, out of love for sobriety, he will not let a drop of wine, or even water, touch his tongue, he will not scruple to drench it in the blood of his neighbour through gossip and slander. Another will consider himself devout because all day long he mumbles a string of prayers, yet remains heedless of the evil, arrogant and hurtful words that his tongue hurls at his servants and neighbours. Yet another will readily open his purse to give alms to the poor but cannot wring an ounce of mercy from his heart in order to forgive his enemies. Another still will pardon his enemies, yet never even think of paying his debts; it will take a lawsuit to make him do so". All these, of course, are perennial vices and struggles, and they lead the saint to conclude that "all these fine people, commonly considered devout, most surely are not".

The origin of true devotion is to be found elsewhere; its deepest roots are in God's life dwelling within our hearts. "True and lively devotion presupposes the love of God; indeed, it is none other than a genuine, and not generic, love of God". In Francis' lively language, devotion is "a sort of spiritual alertness and energy whereby charity acts within us or, we act by means of it, with promptness and affection". For this reason, devotion does not exist alongside charity, but is one of its manifestations, while at the same time leading back to it. Devotion is like a flame with regard to fire: it increases the intensity of charity without altering its quality. "In the end, charity and devotion can be said to differ from one another as fire from a flame. Charity is a spiritual fire that, when fanned into flame, is called devotion. Devotion thus adds nothing to the fire of charity but the flame that makes charity prompt, active and diligent, not only in the observance of God's commandments but also in the exercise of his divine counsels and inspirations". Understood in this way, devotion is far from something abstract. Rather, it becomes a style of life, a way of living immersed in our concrete daily existence. It embraces and discovers meaning in the little things: food and dress, work and relaxation, love and parenthood, conscientiousness in the fulfilment of our duties. In a word, it sheds light on the vocation of each individual.

Continued next week

 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Procession with Palms – Gospel Mt 21:1-11

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, 'The master has need of them.' Then he will send them at once." This happened so that what had been spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled: *Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."* The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them. They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reading 1: Is 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm: 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

R. **My God, my God, why have you abandoned me.**

**Reading 2: Phil 2:6-11**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse before the Gospel: Phil 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Gospel: Mt 26:14—27:66 The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Every year on the Sunday before Easter, the sixth Sunday of Lent, our Church celebrates what many people know as "Palm Sunday". More accurately the day is "Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion". The name is appropriate as it celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a young donkey or colt but also commemorates the beginning of Holy Week, and Jesus' final journey to the cross. Over the decades the last two weeks of Lent have undergone a number of changes in name – as well as the Gospel readings. We have had "Passiontide" and "Passion Sunday" as well as "Palm Sunday". In 1970 the Church settled on "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord". This Sunday is the start of our journey into Holy Week – the most important spiritual journey of the year. The day commemorates two very significant events in the life of Christ. Firstly, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna" but then we progress to the stark reading of Jesus' passion, both providing insight and significance to this most important time of year. Although the finer details differ slightly, the gospels point to Zechariah (9:9-10) narrating the story of Jesus entry into Jerusalem as a Messiah-king, the one who will liberate and bring peace to Israel. Palm branches, a symbol of triumph and victory in Jewish tradition, or other leafy branches, were waved by those who accompanied Jesus and entered the Holy City with him (Mt 21:10-11) exclaiming this is the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee. Many also placed garments on the street as they entered the city. During the Mass on Sunday, palm fronds are traditionally distributed to parishioners who carry them in a solemn procession into church where they are blessed. Many people fashion them into small crosses to keep. The second gospel read on Sunday is the Passion. In many ways this captures the speed at which things changed in the few days between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His subsequent arrest, passion, and death by crucifixion. It is a brutal story of suffering – made bearable because we know the outcome which brought the gift of our salvation.

Keep Us In Your Prayers— pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Rodolfo Severino

Anniversary: Raelene Pitt, Catherine Joyce Kennedy, Carlos Fratti

Remembrance: Margherita Bugeja

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 April

For a culture of peace and non violence
We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.
We continue to pray for Pope Francis' recovery from illness.

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

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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)

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