



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



7th January 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

8 Jan—The Epiphany of the Lord

9 Jan—The Baptism of the Lord

17 Jan—St Anthony, abbot

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

Parish Priest

Fr. Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Assistant Priest

Fr. Alex Peter M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated either on January 6 or on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

The Gospel of today's feast, is from the *Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12*. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realised that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2024-01-07>

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.

Sit n Chat: A group of seniors meet every 3rd Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm—2.30pm. January’s meeting is scheduled for the 15th. If you would like to join the group please call Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Cleaners for 12th January: Christine French, Anne-Marie Young, Pam Hickey, Rano Spiteri.

Readers for 13th & 14th January:
 Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford & Jane Rutherford
 Sunday 7.30am—Mabel Torres & Veronica Jordan
 Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon & Emma Baker
 Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken & Peter Smith

Servers for 13th & 14th January:
 Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Darrin Patterson
 Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Bernie French
 Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron & Jenny Fitzgerald
 Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

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.



Congratulations to John & Joan Rudgley who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 11th January.



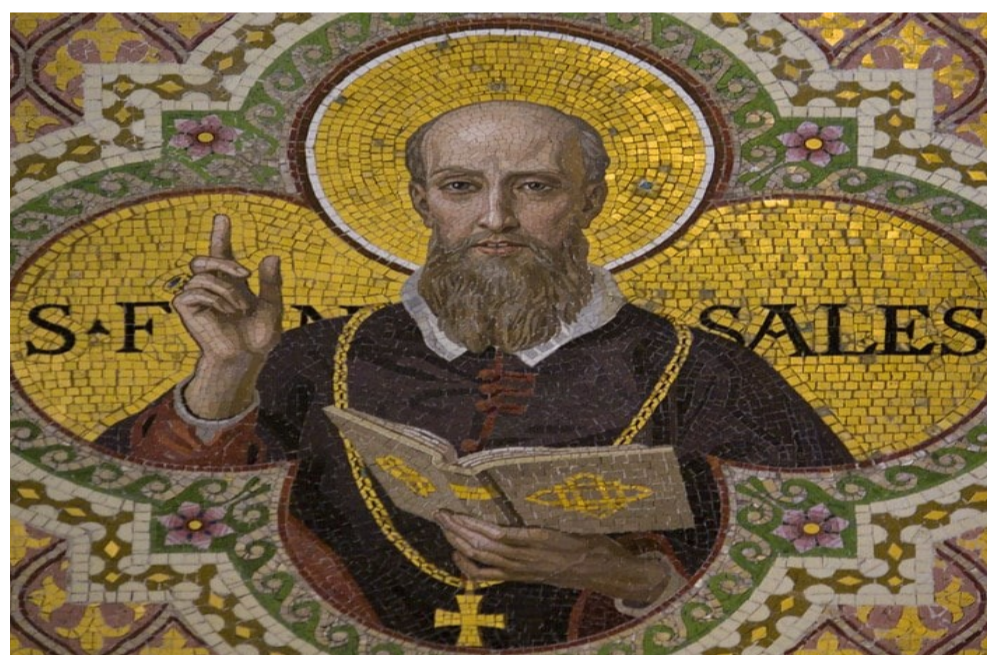
Cash Housie at Peninsula Community Centre, Saturdays 7.00pm, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

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. Thanks.

Know our Patron St Francis de Sales: Mermier’s Mission
 It was in 1825 and 1826 that Mermier preached his missions in various parishes of Savoy. He had an ambition, to start Mission preaching. Slowly priests joined his mission group, and they numbered six zealous priests. Now Fr. Mermier was keen to found a Congregation exclusively for Mission preaching and with the help of Bishop Rey, he initiated the formation of a Congregation with a handful of dedicated priests. This Congregation was known as the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. June 1834, the six missionaries entered the new house at La Roche. Their first Rules were taken from different religious Congregations.

La Feuillette

The house at La Roche was too small for the future development of the Congregation and a new plot and a new building under the supervision of Fr J Martin was completed on the 27th August 1837. The Community now began residing at La Feuillette. This small group of religious also came in possession of the Hill of Les Allinges. This was bequeathed to the Missionaries by Bishop Rey, because it was in this very chapel that St Francis de Sales celebrated often the Divine Mysteries for the conversion of his motherland. This became a pilgrim centre and was developed by Fr Martin and later by Fr Neyret. When they left for India Fr Jean Anthonioz took charge of the place and developed it further with the help of the hard working brothers. Les Allinges was also a Pilgrim Centre dedicated to St Francis de Sales right up to the present days in 1983. Bishop Rey also bought and developed the Sanctuary at Notre-Dame de La Gorge, with a chapel under the name of our Lady of Gorge. This was also entrusted to the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. Fr Martin was responsible for the construction of the residence and the Church. He was its first Chaplain until he left for India.



Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

“Lord, I am Yours,
 and I must belong to no one but You.
 My soul is Yours,
 and must live only by You.
 My will is Yours,
 and must love only for You.
 I must love You as my first cause,
 since I am from You.
 I must love You as my end and rest,
 since I am for You.
 I must love You more than my own being,
 since my being subsists by You.
 I must love You more than myself,
 since I am all Yours and all in You.
 Amen.”

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, every nation will adore you.

O God give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

R. Lord, every nation will adore you.

In his days, justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

R. Lord, every nation will adore you.

The kings shall pay him tribute. From Seba and Sheba they will bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall come to serve him.

R. Lord, every nation will adore you.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

R. Lord, every nation will adore you.

Reading 2: Is 60:1-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia:

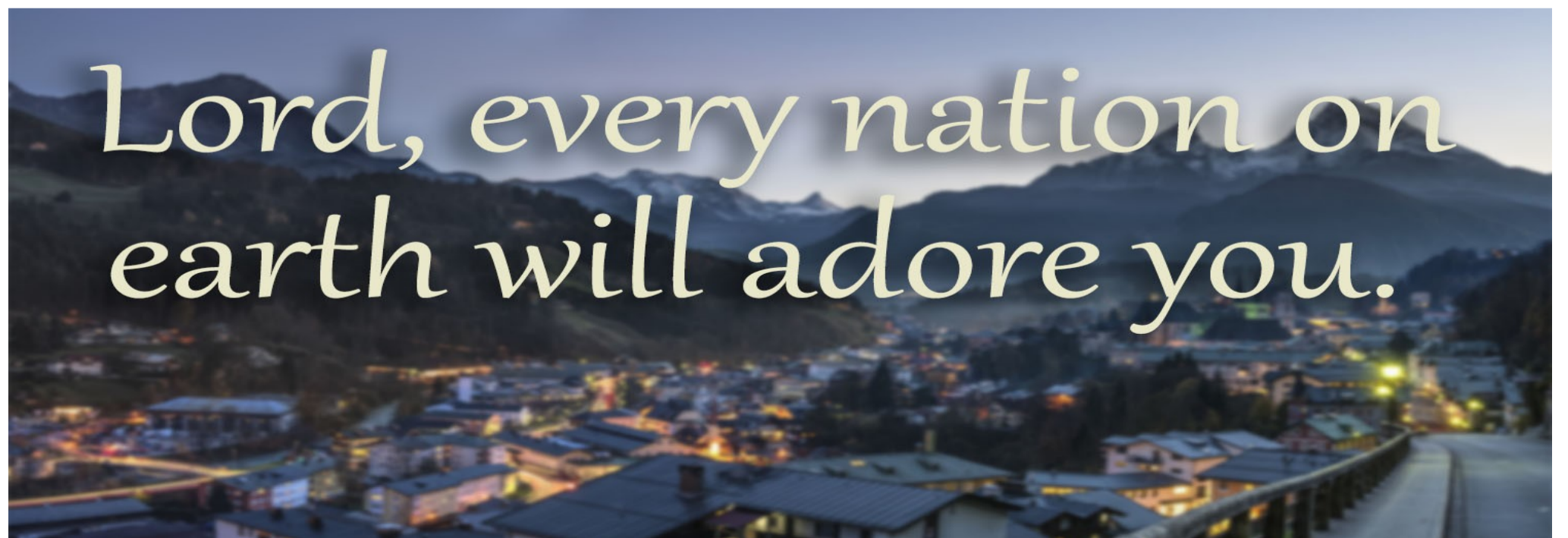
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 1:26-38

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.



Keep us in your Prayers—pray for the souls of:

Recently deceased: Colin Burgess, Serge Fauvette, Paul Flint

Anniversary: Fr Bill O'Connor

Remembrance: Terri Hall, Charlie Sultana

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, 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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