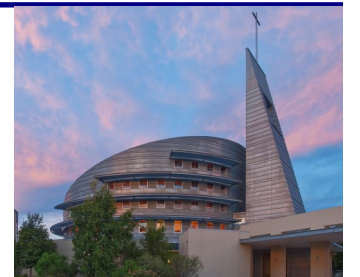




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

9th March 2025
First Sunday of Lent



Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

LENTEN PROGRAMME:

Way of the Cross

& Mass:

Fridays at 6.30pm
followed by Mass
at 7.00pm and
reflection afterwards.



MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm

Sundays - 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 Service

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

Fridays—9.00am

First Friday of the month - 3.30pm

Saturdays - 9.30am and 4.30pm

Sundays - 7.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday evenings from 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon—Fri - 8.30am—3.00pm

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Marian Bowyer - 0432 882 776

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Assisting Priest (resident in Wyoming)

Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



This first Sunday of the Lenten season, the Church offers us the image of Christ tempted by the devil. Though Jesus did not have anything disordered within Himself, and so could not be tempted from within as we are each day, still, the devil tested Him from the outside. Knowing the needs of Jesus' human flesh, and not understanding that Christ was truly God, the devil offers to the Lord things that would tempt any human nature: delights of the flesh, wealth and power, and that which is extraordinary and miraculous. We know, of course, that Jesus who is perfect, and who is the living God incarnate, will not give in to any temptation, even in his physically weakened state. But given that Christ is all-powerful, and that nothing happens without His allowing it, why does He chose to undergo temptation?

The answer, of course, as with everything else in the Life of Christ, is for our salvation. He chooses to suffer those forty days of fasting and to face the lies and temptations of the devil, not because He needs to for Himself, but for our sake. He does so first to teach us how to overcome temptation ourselves, but also to show us how committed He is to sharing our burdens, as well as to offer Himself already for our salvation. He teaches us to choose God Himself over the good things of the flesh, to choose the Father's power and glory over our own advancement, and to trust in His providence and presence, even when it is not extraordinary or obvious. He demonstrates that even though He has full right and power to live how He pleases, even though He could obtain any comfort, honor, or power in an instant, that He chooses instead to remain weak, to remain hungry, to remain obscure and powerless, and to remain unremarkable, in true and total solidarity with us. He undergoes great suffering, years before He would sacrifice Himself definitively on the Cross, as an offering of love ahead of His years in public ministry for our sake. His temptation is entirely for us, for our instruction, our comfort, and our healing.

What, then, does all of this tell us about our Lenten fasting? The Church reminds us that Christ's fast of forty days is the pattern of our own Lent, and so we must look for similarities here. Of course, since we are sinners where Christ was not, we have an extra purpose. Our Lenten penance is first and foremost to turn us away from sin. We follow the instruction the Lord gave us during His fasting and use spiritual weapons to drive out the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and pride of life from our hearts, leaving them focused on the Lord alone, prepared to receive His love.

But this is not the only purpose of our fasting. Like Christ's, our actions during Lent should serve to instruct and build up our neighbour, show our solidarity with those who suffer, and serve as sacrifice for the salvation of others. Because we are baptised, Christ is living in us, and when we fast, He joins our fasting within us, with the same constant desire to love the Father and save souls. Whatever it is we do during Lent, it is not just for our own sake. Every loving act of self-denial, every choice to spend time with God alone rather than in worldly pastimes, every act of generosity with our neighbours, serves the work of salvation in that same threefold pattern: through teaching, solidarity, and redeeming sacrifice. With this in mind, we should build up our hearts in courage and devotion, and ask the Lord for the strength necessary to make a good Lent, not just so we are prepared to receive Him well at Easter, but for the sake of the salvation of all.

<https://www.queenofapostles.org/commentary-for-the-first-sunday-of-lent-year-c-the-pattern-of-our-fasting/>

Parish News:

Parish Office: The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, 11th March and will re-open on Wednesday, 12th March.

Fr Alex Peter: I am deeply grateful to you, the parishioners of Woy Woy, for your generous gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness mean so much to me. God Bless, Fr Alex Peter.

SJB School Morning Tea: Following 9.15am Mass this Sunday, there will be a morning tea hosted by St John the Baptist School. All welcome.

Thanks: Thanks to Joe and Rose Mondal from Bakers Delight Umina for always donating baked goods to our functions and morning teas. We are truly grateful.

Way of the Cross: Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection

Lenten Program 2025, A Promise of Hope: The Diocese has prepared a Lenten booklet which can be accessed online <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ArticleDocuments/12855/Lent%20Book%202025.pdf.aspx>. It is hoped that there will be printed copies available this weekend.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025—Important Dates: Presentation Masses for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 15th March at 5.00pm

Sunday, 16th March at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

Lesson 1: Week of 17th March

Lesson 2: Week of 24th March

Lesson 3: Week of 31st March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Fri, 4th April at 4.45pm

Lesson 4: Week of 7th April

First Communion: Sunday, 27th April and Sunday 4th May at 11.00am.

Confirmation: Thursday, 7th August

Cleaners for 14th March: Reg Harrington, Mabel Kan, Renelyn Keighran, Laila Dawe.

Readers for 15th & 16th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Marie Andrews, Jane Somerville, Leonie King

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta, Joel Bajo, Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron, Dawn Torrens, Violetta Chol

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith, Kris Aitken

Servers for 15th & 16th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Darrin Patterson

Bus drivers needed: We are currently looking for volunteer bus drivers for 7.30am Mass on Sundays. If you can help, please call Jim Dixon on 0417 021 675 for further details.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: We currently offer Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9.15am Mass most 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month, excluding school holidays. This year, CLOW will be celebrated in alignment with the theme of this Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. For further enquiries contact Christine French 0431 765 401 or Frances Giunta 0414 274 402.

Safeguarding: Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548. If anyone needs assistance with child restraint installation in vehicles, we have a volunteer who can help. Please contact the

Parish Office for details.

Scripture, Catechism & Footnotes: For the Jubilee of Hope, there is a Jubilee indulgence available for those who study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It will run weekly on Fridays from 10.00am—11.00am in the Leo Mahon Room and will continue on most Fridays in 2025.

Observance of Lent according to St Francis de Sales:

St Francis de Sales, a Doctor of the Church and a prominent figure in the Counter-Reformation, wrote extensively on spiritual matters, including the observance of Lent.

Interior Conversion: St Francis de Sales emphasises the importance of Lent as a time for interior conversion. He encourages believers to use this period for self-examination, repentance, and drawing closer to God. Lent is not merely about external acts of penance but primarily about the transformation of the heart.

Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving: Like many other Christian theologians, St Francis de Sales emphasises the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. He sees these practices as essential for spiritual growth and renewal. Through prayer, believers deepen their relationship with God; through fasting, they discipline their bodies and detach themselves from worldly pleasures; through almsgiving, they show love and compassion towards others.

Moderation and Balance: St Francis de Sales warns against excessive austerity during Lent. While fasting and penance are important, they should be practiced with moderation and balance. He advises against overly harsh disciplines that may harm one's health or lead to spiritual pride. Instead, he recommends choosing penances that are suited to one's state in life and capacity.

Interior Dispositions: St Francis de Sales emphasises the importance of cultivating interior dispositions during Lent, such as humility, patience, and charity. He encourages believers to focus not only on external observances but also on the attitudes and virtues of the heart. Lent provides an opportunity for self-denial and growth in virtue.



St John the Baptist primary school

OPEN DAY

20 & 21 March 2025

Register at www.sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Deut 26:4-10

Moses spoke to the people, saying: “The priest shall receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord, your God, ‘My father was a wandering Aramean who went down to Egypt with a small household and lived there as an alien. But there he became a nation great, strong, and numerous. When the Egyptians maltreated and oppressed us, imposing hard labour upon us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. He brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders; and bringing us into this country, he gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. Therefore, I have now brought you the firstfruits of the products of the soil which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And having set them before the LORD, your God, you shall bow down in his presence.”

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: “My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust.”

R. Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague shall approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all of your ways.

R. Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the Lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon.

R. Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; I will protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: “I am with you.” I will save him in distress and give him glory.

Be with me Lord, when I am in trouble.

Reading 2: Rom 10:8-13

Brothers and sisters: What does Scripture say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* — that is, the word of faith that we preach —, for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the Scripture says, *No one who believes in him will be put to shame*. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Gospel: Lk 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, *One does not live on bread alone*.” Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, “I shall give to you all this power and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.” Jesus said to him in reply, “It is written *You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve*.” Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: *He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and: With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone*.” Jesus said to him in reply, “It also says, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test*.” When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.

First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities. **Please donate today.**



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Readings for the Week:

Monday, 10th March:

Lev 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 18:8-10, 15/**Mt 25:31-46**

Tuesday, 11th March:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 33:4-7, 16-19/**Mt 6:7-15**

Wednesday, 12th March:

Jonah 3:1-10/Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/**Lk 11:29-32**

Thursday, 13th March:

Esther 4:17/Ps 137:1-3, 7-8/**Mt 7:7-12**

Friday, 14th March:

Ezek 18:21-28/Ps 129/**Mt 5:20-26**

Saturday, 15th March:

Deut 26:16-19/Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/**Mt 5:43-48**

Sunday, 16th March:

Gen 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17-4:1/**Lk 9:28-36**

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Shaunagh Casey, Daniel McCormack, James Matthews, Wilhelmina (Helma) Scholte, Sandra Thomas, Maureen Wardrop, Carol Wimber

Anniversary: Allan French

Remembrance: Stefania Berlinska

Sick: John Aarts, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, David Hopkins, Bill Hunt, Linda Italiano, Marge Lawrence, Tresa Mary, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Ronald Matthews, Oscar James Moretti, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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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