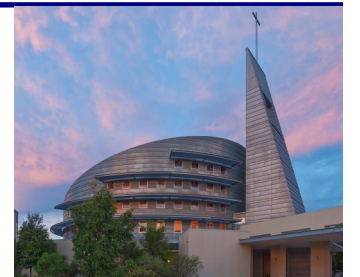




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



24th August 2025
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

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 MSFS

Assistant Priest

Fr John Prince VC

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 02 4398 9076



This Sunday, the church reminds us of the reunion of all God's people at the feast of His kingdom. It is not only Jews and Christians that the Lord will gather unto himself. He will also gather people from all nations, all those willing to submit to his loving care. The readings of this Sunday, especially the first and the gospel, are closely related. Both bear a powerful message of hope; that is the reunion and restoration of the people of God.

The first reading is a prophecy about the return of God's People to Jerusalem. It is an assurance that God will fulfill his promises to us. Here, the prophet makes three essential points. The first is that God will soon fulfill his promise of restoring us to himself. The second is the fact that God has a purpose for this gathering. This is for the glory of his name. In other words, every thing he does, has the remote aim of giving glory to him. Third, in addition to gathering us unto Himself, God will also make us his ambassadors to other nations. Hence, he promises, "I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations...that have never heard of me or seen my glory." This also underscores the missionary nature of our call. God initiates it and then uses us to accomplish it. Hence, God commissions us to: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news." This good news is that God will restore our lost glory for the sake of his glory.

The second reading from Hebrews reminds us that obedience and discipline will help us respond and effectively return to the Lord. The path to this return will definitely not be an easy one. In it, we shall encounter thorns and pains. As a loving father, God will also reprimand and punish us. However, this is in order to correct and guide us to the right path. William Shakespeare wrote in Hamlet, "Sometimes, I must be cruel to be kind." As a loving father, this is the way God also handles us at times. He is the potter, and we are the clay. He crushes, treats us hard, and finally moulds us into a beautiful shape. So, we must learn to endure as Christ did through His suffering and death on the cross. This is important if we are to witness the glory of God. Success comes through hard work and hard work through discipline and obedience.

In today's gospel, Jesus answers a challenging and tricky question: Sir, will there be only a few saved? His response was straightforward, clever, and of course, an intelligent one. He replies, "Try your best to enter by the narrow door!" So, rather than occupy oneself with arguments about the number of those to be saved, it is better to work hard for one's salvation. Through this, Christ reminds us that the invitation to His feast is open to all. However, each person must struggle to be there. We must do what we have to do by playing our roles well. This is the only way we can be guaranteed a place in the feast of the kingdom of God.

In other words, it behooves us as individuals to make an effort to be at the glorious gathering of the saints. We have to prepare ourselves by using every available opportunity. Therefore, God calls us to be focused and disciplined to be part of the great gathering of the saints.

<https://www.frcanicenjoku.com/2025/08/18/homily-for-the-21st-sunday-of-ordinary-time-year-c>

Parish News:

Fr Timothy and Fr John will be attending a clergy retreat at Varroville next week. Fr Vijay from Panania will celebrate Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday and Fr Greg from Gosford will celebrate Mass on Thursday and Friday. The office will be closed for the week and there will be no newsletter at the weekend but calls and urgent emails will be attended to.

Website Design Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to maintain our website. Training will be provided if necessary. Please contact Fr Timothy or the Parish office to register your interest.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Planned giving envelopes for the coming year are available to collect from the table in the Gathering Area. If you would like to contribute to the Parish via planned giving envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued support.

Sit n Chat: The Sit n Chat gathering for August has been cancelled. The next Sit n Chat will be on Monday, 15th September in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. Please contact Jane for further information 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Soup night: There will be a soup night after 5.00pm Mass this Sunday, 24th August. All welcome.

Morning Tea: There will be a morning tea hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 14th September. All welcome.

Organ Recital: Jean-Baptist Robin, organist of the Royal Chapel of the Palace of Versailles, will hold a recital at St John the Baptist Church, on Friday 12th September at 7.30pm. Works by Bach, Handel, Lully, Rameau, Widor and others. Admission is free with a leaving collection.

Suggestion Box: Fr Timothy would like parishioners to share their thoughts and ideas regarding the Jubilee Year of Hope. There will be a suggestion box in the gathering area.

St John the Baptist Men's Group: Meetings to be held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 7pm-8pm in the Leo Mahon Room. Next meeting 1st September. For further information contact Allan Moore 0492 988 168.

Cleaners for 5th September: Gay Tiansay, Mabel Torres, Christine French, Carmen T Hernandez.

Readers for 30th & 31st August:

Saturday 5.00pm—Kate Bravo, Marie Andrews, Jane Somerville

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton, Phoebe Glacken, Theresa Gibson

Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Christine French, Maryrose Barlow

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor, Doris Kidger

Servers for 30th & 31st August:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

This Wednesday 27 August, and Thursday 28 August, the Church celebrates the Memorials of St Monica and St Augustine, two great Saints of the 4th century. Together they represent a rare combination in the Church: a parent and their child canonised as Saints. Through the example of the Holy Family, we have the pinnacle example of what a saintly family should be, but in the figures of Saint Monica and Saint Augustine we see what can sometimes be more of a reality for our families. Not all families are perfect, or even united. We can go through periods of stress or separation, but this never negates the call to Holiness. In his homily for the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly, Bishop Anthony Randazzo said families are the “treasure of the Church”. ‘That *we are all God’s children*, is the foundation of Christian hope. And it is the heartbeat of the family, which is the first school of love, the sanctuary of life, and the mirror of God’s presence in the world,” he said. May all our families, regardless of their imperfections, be places of love and hope. And may Saint Monica and Saint Augustine be a witness to the power of silent prayers and a sign that God never abandons His children.

CatholicCare: Thank you to all parishioners who supported our recent appeal for CatholicCare’s homelessness services. Your generous donations will help provide vital care across a range of programs. It’s not too late to support if you wish to – visit www.catholiccaredbb.org.au/donate

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 66:18-21

Thus says the LORD: I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish, Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots, in carts, upon mules and dromedaries, to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their offering to the house of the LORD in clean vessels. Some of these I will take as priests and Levites, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord all you nations. Acclaim him all you peoples!

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Strong is his love for us. He is faithful forever.

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Reading 2: Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Brothers and sisters, You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children: "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges." Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it. So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."



Readings for the Week:

Monday, 25th August:

Tuesday, 26th August:

Wednesday, 27th August:

Thursday, 28th August:

Friday, 29th August:

Saturday, 30th August:

Sunday, 31st August:

Sts Louis & Joseph Calasanz - 1 Thess 1:1-5, 8-10/Ps 149:1-6, 9/**Mt 23:13-22**

1 Thess 2:1-8/Ps 138:1-3, 4-6/**Mt 23:23-26**

St Monica - 1 Thess 2:9-13/Ps 138:7-12/**Mt 23:27-32**

St Augustine - 1 Thess 3:7-3/Ps 89:3-4, 12-14, 17/**Mt 24:42-51**

The Passion of St John the Baptist - Jer 1:17-19/Ps 70:1-6, 15, 17/**Mk 6:17-29**

1 Thess 4:9-11/Ps 97:1, 7-9/**Mt 25:14-30**

Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29/Ps 67:4-7, 10-11/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24/**Lk 14:1, 7-14**

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently Deceased: Roy Cutrone, Rose D'Agostino, Bishop Peter Elliott, Maria McMillan, Peter Hall, Paulene White

Anniversary: Safaa El-Khatib, Margaret French, Joseph Grech, Sebastian Lee Hee-Chang, Paulina Menezes, Umiliano Menezes, Francis Brian Morrison, Fr Brian Rowland

Remembrance: Tirso, Renato, Angelita & Matilde Carpio, Charlie Grima, Wanda Grima, Timothy Thurlow

Sick: Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Fr Michael Brady, Rae Busby, Matthew Cooper, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Marie Dixon, Iris Drewett, Marie Drewett, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Maureen Fotheringham, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Bill Hunt, Thomas J, Marge Lawrence, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Ronald Matthews, Theresa Mitchell, Oscar James Moretti, Maureen Mullane, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Fr Reggo, Anthony Salis, Brooke Simmons, Susie Simmons, Joseph Svanberg, Barry Tierney, Patricia Toohey, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Nigel Watts, Josie Weate, Janelle Whiteland, Melissa Wong, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar

Pope Leo's August Intention:

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

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>

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