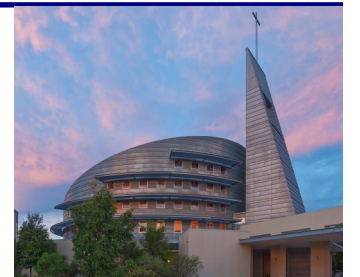




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



7th September 2025
23rd 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

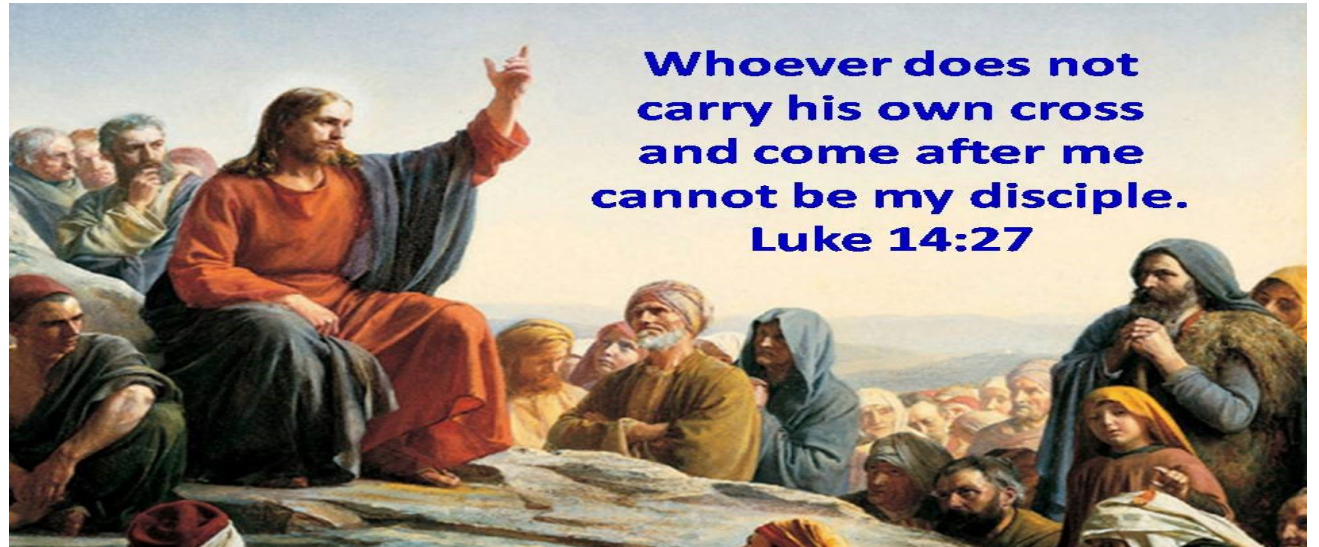
Fr John Prince VC

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 02 4398 9076



As we look to the Book of Wisdom, we see that patterning our heart on Jesus' own heart is the secret to "conceiving what the Lord intends." This First Reading shows that the Holy Spirit plants wisdom and the thoughts of God in our hearts. We should beg the Holy Spirit each day to be the fire burning within us. It is the Spirit who makes Christ known, not just intellectually, but intimately.

This intimate relationship that we have with Jesus allows us to know – in a mystical way – the mind of God. It is like a marriage that develops and grows over the years where man and wife become more like each other. The two truly become one in mind, heart, and soul. Developing an intimate relationship with Jesus offers us similar benefits.

Philemon is the shortest of the letters from St. Paul. Writing on behalf of Onesimus – a fellow prisoner of Paul and presumably a slave of Philemon – Paul sends this letter in anticipation of Onesimus' return to his slave-owner.

Paul urges Philemon to let Onesimus free for he is now a "man and in the Lord."

Paul says, "I am sending [Onesimus] my own heart," back to Philemon. The communion of our hearts with the Sacred Heart of Jesus translates into a fuller communion with the hearts of all Christians. St Paul was so conformed to the Heart of Jesus that the love that flowed between their hearts demanded a love for Onesimus.

Love begets love. In marriage this is found in a unique way through the bearing of children. The love of husband and wife begets children. The love of the human heart with the heart of Jesus begets charity.

These words of Jesus seem hard to grasp. "Hating father and mother, children and siblings?" Does He really mean that?

We understand that the love we have for each other cannot begin without our union with God who is Love. The old adage is true: "We cannot give what we have not first received."

Our world tries to find peace on human terms, charity on human terms, and love on human terms. Yet, where has this brought us? Outside of the Lord, is our world at peace? Is it more charitable? Is it more loving?

Jesus is using His harsh words to wake us up to the reality that we need to let go of our need to fix things or create plans to make the world a better place. He wants us to take a radical departure from what we are used to and trust completely in Him.

Only then – only when we conform our hearts completely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – will we love our parents, spouses, children, siblings, and even ourselves in a complete way. This complete way brings complete joy.

Jesus once said, "If you live in my love, you will have joy and your joy will be complete."

Who wants incomplete joy?

God is the maker of love and peace. He has already accomplished it through Jesus whose eternal peace and love pours from His Most Sacred Heart.

<https://dphx.org/23rd-sunday-of-ordinary-time-cycle-c/>

Parish News:



On Friday, 12th September, Bishop Anthony Randazzo will ordain Shayne D’Cunha, Huy Tran and Tan Nguyen to the Order of Deacons at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. An ordination always presents a moment of joy for the Diocese, as Holy Orders are conferred on a man who has chosen to offer himself in service to the Church, either as a priest or as a deacon. But the ordination of three men at once is a particular joy and one that most Dioceses across Australia have not experienced in decades. The Diocese has been blessed in the past few years to have had many young men respond to God’s call and offer themselves in service to the People of God in Broken Bay. It is a testament to the prayers and support of parishioners, the vocational culture built by successive Vocations Directors, and the guidance of the Bishops of the Diocese who have overseen their vocational journey. We give thanks to Shayne, Huy and Tan for saying yes to God’s call and for offering themselves to serve the people. May more young men follow in their footsteps and may we all continue to build a strong culture of vocations within our Diocese.

Blesseds Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis: When Blesseds Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are canonised on Sunday, 7th September in Rome, they will become the Church’s two newest saints. Bishop Anthony will celebrate a special Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood on Sunday evening at 5.30pm and bless the Church’s new Eucharistic Chapel, where a relic of Blessed Carlo is already installed. The relics of both soon-to-be saints will be permanently housed in the new Eucharistic Chapel in Chatswood and available for veneration when the Church is open.

Website Design Volunteers: There will be online training on Tuesday, 9th September at 11.00am. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

Sit n Chat: 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.

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

Soup Night: The next soup night will be on Sunday, 21st September after 5.00pm Mass. 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.

Cleaners for 12th September: Anne-Marie Young, Renelyn Keighran, Cheryl Sillick, Rosalind Stewart.

Readers for 13th & 14th September:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Rutherford, Marie Andrews

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton, Greg Gibson, Isaak Giunta

Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon, Violetta Chol, Therese Carroll

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

Servers for 13th & 14th September:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Jose Torres

Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron, Jenny Fitzgerald

Funeral Announcement: The life of Paulene White will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Church on Tuesday, 9th September at 10.00am. We offer our sincere condolences to Paulene’s family and friends.



God our Father,

In your wisdom and love you have created us and called us your own. Bless our fathers, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

In moments of joy, rejoice with them. In times of struggle, give them your courage and perseverance. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour and appreciate them always with a spirit of profound respect. May the example and prayer of St Joseph inspire them to live their vocation with courage. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Wis 9:13-18

Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn us back into dust and say: "Go back children of the earth." To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You sweep us away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall rejoice and exult all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us; given success to the work of our hands.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Reading 2: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

I, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus, urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment; I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary. Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 14:25-33

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."



IN EVERY AGE, O
LORD, YOU HAVE
BEEN OUR REFUGE

Readings for the Week:

Monday, 8th September:

Tuesday, 9th September:

Wednesday, 10th September:

Thursday, 11th September:

Friday, 12th September:

Saturday, 13th September:

Sunday, 14th September:

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Micah 5:1-4/Ps 12:6-7/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

St Peter Claver - Col 2:6-15/Ps 144:1-2, 8-11/Lk 6:12-19

Col 3:1-11/Ps 144:2-3, 10-13/Lk 6:20-26

Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1-6/Lk 6:27-38

1 Tim 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42

St John Chrysostom - 1 Tim 1:15-17/Ps 112:1-7/Lk 6:43-49

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross - Num 21:4-9/Ps 77:1-2, 34-38/Jn 3:13-17

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently Deceased: David Boyd, Kay McCormack, Thomas Nelson, Margaret Thom, Paulene White

Anniversary: Caterina Zappavigna

Remembrance: 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, 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 September Intention:

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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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