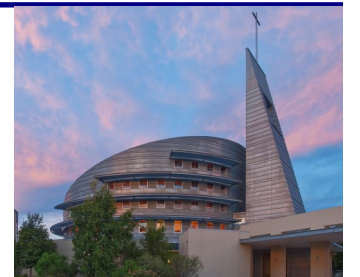




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

16th March 2025
Second 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

Second Sunday of Lent



I like to call the first Sunday of Lent, "Christ in the Desert Sunday," for its emphasis on the mystery of our Lord's temptations in the solitude of the Judean desert, and I like to call the second Sunday of Lent "Transfiguration Sunday," for its focus on that great mystery in the life of Christ and its effect on his apostles Peter, James and John. Scripture tells us that while Jesus was praying in solitude on the mountain the appearance of his face changed and his clothing became dazzlingly white. Then there appeared Moses and Elijah conversing with the Lord. They all were arrayed in glory and the experience was something transcending time and space, yet real nonetheless, since all three apostles saw the same thing.

Next a cloud overshadowed those present and a voice was heard from heaven saying, "This is my Son, my chosen One. Listen to him." After that Jesus was there alone once again. First and foremost is the glimpse and assurance the apostles are given that their Master is indeed more than a mere man, in fact he is the Son of God, and therefore the way, the truth and the life for them and all followers of Christ.

Secondly, the Transfiguration carries with it the conviction that Christ will return in glory, just as he promised, with saving power for all who put their trust in him. Thirdly, the Transfiguration is an encouragement that even though the Lord would undergo rejection and death, that is not the end, but the way to resurrection and bestowal of eternal life on the world.

The history of humankind is the story of the search for meaning and happiness. It is also the story of trial and error, success and failure, sinfulness and repentance and ultimately forgiveness from God. It is probably the story of each of us individually as well.

Only faith, hope and love are lasting, and the greatest of these is love, as Scripture tells us. Christ came to teach us and show us that the path of true happiness is found in the way of dispossession, self-forgetfulness, compassion and doing good for others. That was the way of Christ and the road on which he wishes to lead us too.

Christ is our happiness, transfigured in splendour on the mountaintop, but also in washing the feet of his disciples, eating with the poor and sinners, healing the sick and the broken of body, mind and spirit. The same Christ took on the sufferings of the entire world and died for the life of the world, silently but truly transforming the lives of men and women of all times and places, calling us from sin and death to glory and life everlasting.

May we always seek our true happiness in Christ, in the Gospel and in his Church, and may we discover there that which will sustain us in the present and unto life eternal.

In a real and special way, in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist transformation for our lives takes place, by the humble presence of Christ in our midst, in the Sacred Scriptures and under the form of bread and wine, given us as his Body and Blood, soul and divinity.

May the regular celebration of the Eucharist increase our joy and draw us closer to God and one another, renewing our hearts in love and may that be a leaven of transformation for the world in which we live.

<https://www.christdesert.org/2025/03/second-sunday-of-lent-year-c/>

Parish News:

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>. There are printed copies on the table in the Gathering Area.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025—Important Dates:

Presentation Masses for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church this weekend on Saturday at 5.00pm and Sunday 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

Parish Pastoral Council: The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th March at 7.00pm.

Sit n Chat: A group of seniors meet every 3rd Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. March's meeting is scheduled for this Monday. Please contact Jane for further information 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

 **Baptism:** We warmly welcome Mason L and Ava S who will be baptised this weekend.

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 17th March. For further information contact Allan Moore 0492 988 168.

Cleaners for 21st March: Jo Salter, Rosalind Stewart, Carmel T Hernandez, Patrick Donnellan.

Readers for 22nd & 23rd March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Marie Andrews, Maryrose Barlow, Leonie King

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton, Isaak Giunta, Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker, Christine French, Michael Dixon

Sunday 5.00pm—Pio Savea, Kris Aitken, Lorena Lalor

Servers for 22nd & 23rd March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French, Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Bernie French

Sunday 5.00pm—Charles Kivunja

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.

Christian Charity in the Words of St Francis de Sales:

At the core of St Francis de Sales' understanding of Christian charity is the principle of selflessness. He emphasises that true charity springs from a heart emptied of selfish desires, a heart wholly surrendered to God's love. In his inspiring work, "Introduction to the Devout Life," St Francis de Sales articulates charity as "that tender love which binds us to God, uniting us to one another, and making us ever ready to serve and help all men for the love of God."

For St Francis de Sales, charity is not confined to acts of material generosity, but encompasses a wide range of virtues and actions. It includes compassion for the suffering, forgiveness for wrongs endured, patience in bearing with the faults of others, and humility in serving one's neighbours. In his "Treatise on the Love of God," St Francis de Sales explains how charity extends beyond material assistance, permeating every aspect of human interaction. He writes, "It is not the actual suffering but the love of suffering which counts with God."

Furthermore, St Francis de Sales underscores the universality of charity. He teaches that Christian love knows no boundaries, extending to all people regardless of their social status, religious affiliation, or moral standing. In his pastoral letters and sermons, he exhorts believers to embrace a spirit of inclusivity and compassion, mirroring the boundless love of God who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

Integral to St Francis de Sales' conception of charity is the notion of charity as a means of union with God. He suggests that through acts of selfless love, individuals draw closer to the divine source of all love. In his "Letters of Spiritual Direction," St Francis de Sales offers practical guidance on how to cultivate charity in daily life, emphasising the importance of interior disposition and intentionality in charitable deeds.



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: Gen 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

O Lord hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken seek his face.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

It is your face O Lord that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger. You have been my help.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.....hope in the Lord.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reading 2: Phil 3:17-4:1

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

Gospel: Lk 9:28-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Second Sunday of Lent **15th and 16th of March 2025**

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education. **Please donate today.**



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

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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Readings for the Week:

Monday, 17th March:

Tuesday, 18th March:

Wednesday, 19th March:

Thursday, 20th March:

Friday, 21st March:

Saturday, 22nd March:

Sunday, 23rd March:

St Patrick - Jer 1:4-9/Ps 116/Acts 13:46-49

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 49:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

St Joseph - 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16/Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 104:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 102:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15/Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Sr Josie McGarry

Anniversary: Romina Calleja, Daniel Hennessy, Bridget Phelan, Lucy de Souza, John Wahlin

Remembrance: Charlie Grima

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, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dymna 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 Reddcliff, 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.

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