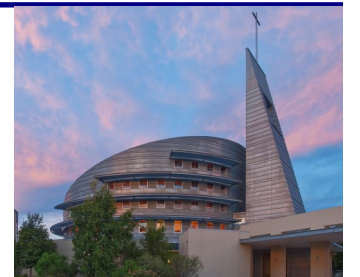




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

30th March 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent



Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

LENTEN PROGRAMME:

Way of the Cross:

First Friday (04/04)

At 3.30pm followed by
Anointing Mass at 4.00pm

Fridays:

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.

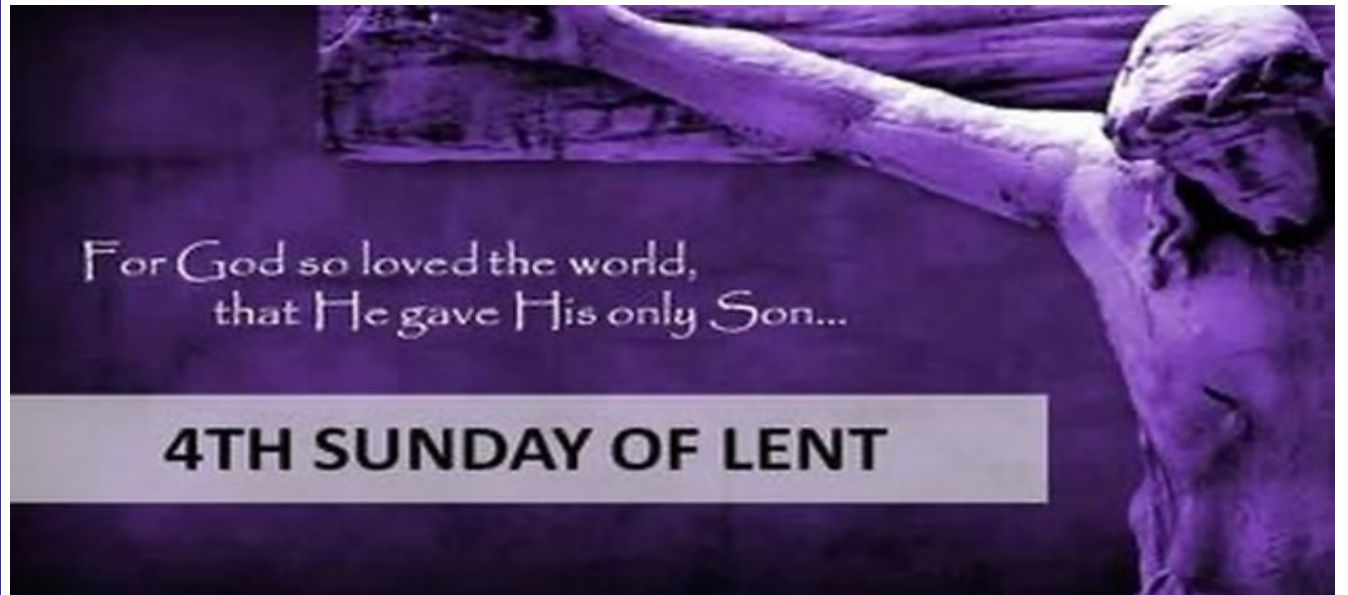
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 02 4342 5604

E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



This Sunday, we hear the extraordinarily beautiful parable of the Prodigal Son. This parable comes to mind every time I hear a confession for someone who has been away from the sacrament for decades or for someone who has really wandered far away from God and made a big mess of his or her life. It is the only way I can describe the joy that God has—and that I have as his priest—when one of God's wayward children returns to him.

Nearly every single one of us can identify with the prodigal son. We know that we struggle to follow God's will and that we'd generally prefer to do our own thing. We have witnessed things come crashing down before our eyes. If we're lucky, we remember, like the prodigal son, that we have a God who loves us and will always welcome us back home. Many of us, also, can identify with the other son. But, just like the father in the parable who loves both of his sons, so too does our God love us. The response of the father to the elder son, "your brother was dead and has come to life again," is deeply profound, because in just these words, Christ reveals the entire point of him coming into this world.

Through Adam's sin, humanity fell victim to the slavery of sin. If we are enslaved to sin through our humanity, and the wages of sin is death, then we are dead to sin and we are subjects to the slavery of Sin and Death. But when Christ came, he conquered Sin's reign over humanity. That's the whole point of him coming to this earth! When Christ allowed Himself to be crucified and to die on the Cross, Death attempted to consume and drag him into Hades. But Death did not know who it had taken. Death did not realise that it had attempted to consume Life Itself. Christ destroyed the gates of hell and conquered humanity's mortal enemy. He destroyed the power of sin to enslave humanity, and in doing so Christ ended the tyrannical reign of Death and Sin. While we still suffer the death of our body as an effect of the original sin, we are not doomed to the death of our spirit: that is, we have been invited to join Christ in his Resurrection.

We are invited, like the prodigal son, to turn away from sin and to return to the Father who loves us. That road to the Father is a narrow road, full of challenges, but we do not travel it alone. We travel with our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. Even more importantly, we travel with the Son who is the way, the truth, and the life. We travel with our older brother, Christ, who unlike the older brother in the parable, has gone out to look for us and bring us home. Imagine how much more joyful the father in the parable would have been if the older son in the parable had gone out after his younger brother and helped him return home. That is the joy of our Father in Heaven when we return home with his Son who has come looking for us.

As brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, we are called to follow him to the Father. We are also to be ambassadors for Christ, helping others to reconcile with the Father. We are called not to be the resentful older brother of the parable, but to be a brother or a sister who with the Son goes out looking for the Father's lost children and helping them come home. The practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in Lent should help us to refocus our hearts and eyes on Christ who calls us to follow him to the Father. When we follow him, we will not only return to our Father in Heaven, but we will also bring our brothers and sisters with us on the way.

<https://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/reflections/march-30-2025-fourth-sunday-of-lent-c/>

Parish News:

Parish Database: We will soon be migrating to a new database and in preparation for this, we will be tidying up existing records and archiving records that are no longer needed. To assist with this task, we ask that you please provide us with your contact details including name, address, telephone number and email address. Please complete a sheet for each person living at your residence. There are sheets on the table in the gathering area. If you have recently completed a census form and your details haven't changed, there is no action required. Many thanks in advance for your kind assistance.

Morning Tea: There will be a morning tea after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 6th April hosted by the Children's Liturgy/Cleaners' team. All welcome.

Way of the Cross: Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection, except First Friday, 4th April, when it will be at 3.30pm followed by Anointing Mass at 4.00pm.

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:

Lesson 3: Week of 31st March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Friday, 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 at 6.00pm

Cleaners for 4th April: Tom French, Cheryl Sillick, Maria Wickens, Frances Giunta.

Readers for 5th & 6th April:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford, Marie Andrews, Jane Rutherford

Sunday 7.30am—Phoebe Glacken, Veronica Jordan, Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Violetta Chol, Maryrose Barlow, Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Pio Savea, Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith

Servers for 5th & 6th April:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan, Pio Savea

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Bernie French

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

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: Children's Liturgy of the Word is now on a break for school holidays and will resume on Sunday, 11th May. Thank you to all who help and support our Ministry.

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.

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, 15th April at 7.30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Please register your name on the list located on the table in the Gathering Area if you would like to travel on the Parish Bus to the Cathedral. Places are limited.

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.

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

Enrol Now

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School is enrolling now for Kindergarten 2026. Other grades can apply at any time.

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www.sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au

Kinder 2026



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Saturday 5 April 2025 7.45pm
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125 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy

Adult: \$40
Concession: \$35
Child/student: \$10
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LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

R. O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

R. O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look towards him and be radiant. Let your faces not be abashed. When the poor cry out, the Lord hears them and rescues them from all their distress.

R. O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2: 2 Cor 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"



Fourth Sunday of Lent
29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. **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

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Don Anderson, Marco Ascic, Anthony Deguara, Peter Lawson

Anniversary: Bruno de Souza, Dudley Juratowitch

Sick: John Aarts, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Rae Busby, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Hanaa El-Khatib, 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, Maureen Mullane, 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

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