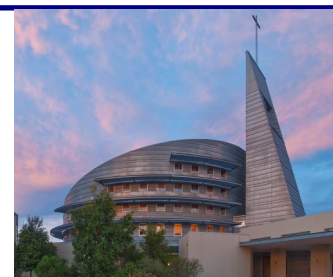




# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025**  
**7th 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 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**



Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behaviour of his followers with the behaviour of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behaviour desired with the behaviour of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasising God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/7th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection/>

**Parish News:**

**Fr Alex Peter:** The farewell cash gift for Fr Alex will be presented by Fr Timothy this weekend. Your generosity is much appreciated.

**First Holy Communion Programme 2025—Important Dates:**

**Information Night:** 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00pm in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Road.

**Presentation Masses** for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

**Lesson 1:** Week of 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 2:** Week of 24<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 3:** Week of 31<sup>st</sup> March

**Reconciliation prior to Communion:** Fri, 4<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00pm

**Lesson 4:** Week of 7<sup>th</sup> April

**First Communion:** Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.

**Confirmation:** Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August

**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.

**Cleaners for 28<sup>th</sup> February:** Cheryl Sillick, Tom French, Patrick Donnellan, Anthony Kearns.

**Readers for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March:**

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

Sunday 7.30am—Phoebe Glacken, Joel Bajo, Veronica Jordan

Sunday 9.15am—Violetta Chol, Jacqui Scholte, Ingrid Stevens

Sunday 5.00pm—Peter Smith, Sherrisse Collard, Lorena Lalor

**Servers for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan, Pio Savea

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

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** The term 'Children's Liturgy of the Word' refers to the practice of children leaving the Sunday assembly during the Liturgy of the Word and gathering elsewhere to celebrate a separate Liturgy of the Word at an age appropriate level. We currently offer CLOW during 9.15am Mass most 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**First Fruits Offering 2025:**



Our First Fruits Offering will end this coming Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Parishioners have received it well and thank you very much to those who have taken the time to read, reflect, pray, and give financially to fulfil our Parish's plans and become planned givers. Your ongoing support will

make a difference in the long term and allow our Parish to thrive and continue proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your offering, no matter how big or small, will enormously contribute towards renewing our faith and giving our Parish a chance to continue with its ministries. You can still give until

the end of the month by filling the envelope and putting it the collection bag or handing it to the Parish Office. God Bless you.

**Funeral announcement:** The life of Maureen Wardrop will be celebrated at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am. We offer Maureen's family and friends our sincere condolences. Maureen was a Parishioner for 40 years and will be dearly missed.

**Acolytes/Senior Servers Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting of acolytes/senior servers is on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm in the Leo Mahon Room followed by a light supper.

**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.

**El Shaddai:** 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March from 11.00am to 4.00pm at St John the Baptist Church. Mass at 12.00pm followed by lunch and prayers.

**Scripture, Catechism & Footnotes:** For the Jubilee of Hope, there is a Jubilee indulgence available for those who study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Starting Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am—11.00am in the Leo Mahon Room and continuing on most Fridays in 2025.

**Pilgrimage 2025:** Fr Clifford D'souza is inviting you to join him on a pilgrimage to the Saints of Portugal, Spain, France and Italy - Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes, Nevers, Lisieux, Paris, Padova, Assisi and Rome. 31 August-19 September 2025. For more details please contact Fr Clifford on [cliff\\_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cliff_dsouza03@yahoo.com.au) or [atitours@atitours.com.au/](mailto:atitours@atitours.com.au/)

**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





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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## **Reading 1: 1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**

In those days, Saul went down to the desert of Ziph with three thousand picked men of Israel, to search for David in the desert of Ziph. So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the LORD's anointed and remain unpunished?" So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the LORD had put them into a deep slumber. Going across to an opposite slope, David stood on a remote hilltop at a great distance from Abner, son of Ner, and the troops. He said: "Here is the king's spear. Let an attendant come over to get it. The LORD will reward each man for his justice and faithfulness. Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed."

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins, nor holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals everyone of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

As far as the East is from the West so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his children, so does the Lord have pity on those who fear him.

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## **Reading 2: 1 Cor 15:45-49**

Brothers and sisters: It is written, The first man, Adam, became a living being, the last Adam a life-giving spirit. But the spiritual was not first; rather the natural and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, earthly; the second man, from heaven. As was the earthly one, so also are the earthly, and as is the heavenly one, so also are the heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.

## **Alleluia:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

**R. Alleluia!**

## **Gospel: Lk 6:27-38**

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

## **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February:**

Sir 1:1-10/Ps 92:1-2, 5/**Mk 9:14-29**

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February:**

Sir 2:1-11/Ps 36:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/**Mk 9:30-37**

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February:**

Sir 4:11-19/Ps 181: 165, 168, 171-2, 174-5/**Mk 9:38-40**

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February:**

**St Gregory of Narek** - Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4, 6/**Mk 9:41-50**

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February:**

Sir 6:5-17/Ps 118:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35/**Mk 10:1-12**

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March:**

Sir 17:1-15/Ps 102:13-18/**Mk 10:13-16**

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March:**

Sir 27:4-7/Ps 91:2-3, 13-16/1 Cor 15:54-58/**Lk 6:39-45**

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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

**Recently deceased:** John Alexander, Jose M Ambrad, Keith Montgomery, Lee O'Brien, Philomena Pannell, Maureen Wardrop, Carol Wimber

**Anniversary:** Bill Finlayson, Sid Flakelar

**Remembrance:** Charlie Grima, Sara Selim

**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, James Matthews, 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 February**

**For vocations to the priesthood and religious life**

**Let us pray that the ecclesiastical community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.**

**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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