



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Under the Pastoral Care of  
The Fransalians since 2016

## FEASTS & MEMORIALS

24 June — St John the Baptist

28 June — St Irenaeus

29 June — St Peter & St Paul

3 July — St Thomas

## MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

### Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm

Sunday - 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 Mass

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

Friday—9.00am

First Friday of the month - 3.30pm

Saturday - 9.30am and 4.30pm

Sunday - 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.*

### Assistant Priest

*Fr Alex Peter M.S.F.S.*

### Priest in Residence

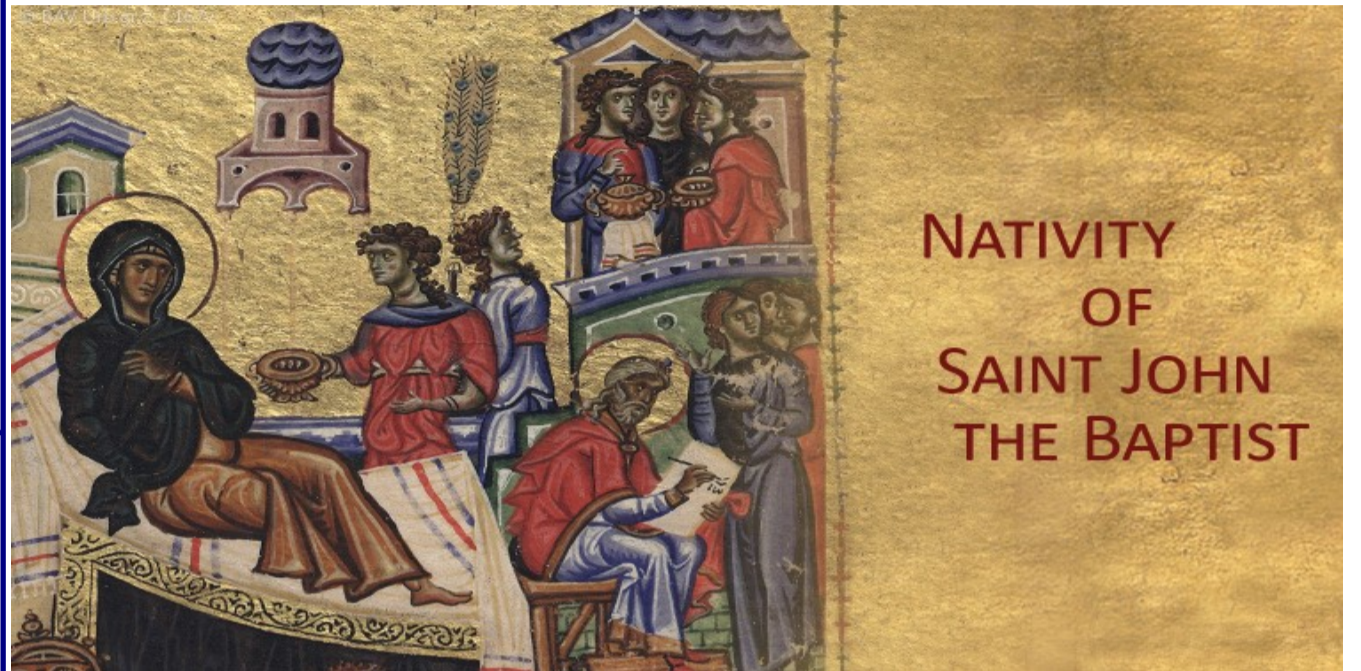
*Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.*

### Parish Secretary

*Triona Meagher*

*P: 02 4341 1073*

*Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327*



Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John...” But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: “Yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28).

John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptised the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. “I need to be baptised by you” (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps John’s idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus’ answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity—total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of God, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/nativity-of-saint-john-the-baptist/>

**Parish News:**

**Thanks:** Many thanks to Rose and Joe Mondal from Bakers Delight Umina for their kind donation of baked goods for our BBQ and morning tea this weekend.

**Sit n Chat:**



A group of seniors meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. If you would like to join the group please contact Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary. July's meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanks:** Many thanks to Maureen Fotheringham for her donation of a barbeque to the Parish. It will come in handy this weekend.

**Feast of St John the Baptist:** We warmly welcome Fr Vincent Lourdsuswamy who will begin his Ministry in the Parish by celebrating 9.15am Mass this Sunday. There will be a Feast Day BBQ and morning tea afterwards in advance of the Feast of St John the Baptist to be celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Feel free to bring a plate. All welcome.

**Cook Needed:** We are seeking a dedicated and respectful person to prepare meals twice a week for our clergy as well as managing kitchen cleanliness. The ideal candidate will have a passion for cooking and uphold high standards of hygiene. Please contact the Parish Office on 4341 1073 for further information.

**Vinnies Winter Appeal:** A total of \$5,550 was raised last weekend for the Vinnies Winter Appeal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Rosary:** A set of Rosary beads was found in the Parish Bus at the weekend. Please contact the Parish Office.

**Sacramental Programme 2024:**

Please keep the candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next Sunday.

**First Reconciliation:** Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00pm.

**Cleaners for 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Brian Nairn, Pam Hickey, Mimi Lambert, Rose Kissing.

**Readers for 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June:**

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

Sunday 7.30am—Phoebe Glacken, Ann Hall, Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Don Matheson, Dawn Torrens, Colleen McCormack

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

**Servers for 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

**Safeguarding Team:** Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.

**Who are the catechists and what do they do?**

A catechist is a person who gifts an hour or more each week

to the Catholic children who attend the public schools. We have 4 public primary schools in our parish—Ettalong PS, Woy Woy PS, Woy Woy South PS and Umina PS. The catechists prepare and present lessons from the Walking With Jesus programme to the children. These lessons are about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. They are based on the Holy Scriptures and the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you wish to find out more about being a catechist come to the Catechist Meeting on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> June at 9.15 am to meet the current catechists or contact Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169 for more information.

**El Shaddai:** The next El Shaddai meeting will be Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 12-4 in the Walter Baker Hall.

**Fr John Hill:** Fr John Hill will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination at a Mass at St John the Baptist Church on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am. There will be light refreshments afterwards in the Church grounds. All welcome.

**Teachings of St. Francis de Sales about John the Baptist:**

**Model of Humility:** St Francis de Sales emphasised John the Baptist's profound humility. He pointed out how John the Baptist consistently directed attention away from himself and towards Jesus, acknowledging that he was not the Messiah but merely a forerunner. John's famous statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30), was particularly highlighted by St Francis de Sales as a model of true humility and self-effacement.

**Spirit of Penance:** St Francis de Sales admired John the Baptist's austere lifestyle and his spirit of penance. He often pointed out John's asceticism in the desert, his simple diet of locusts and wild honey, and his clothing made of camel's hair. This life of penance and simplicity was presented as an ideal for Christians to emulate in their own pursuit of spiritual discipline and detachment from worldly excesses.

**Zeal for Righteousness:** St Francis de Sales praised John the Baptist's zeal for righteousness and his fearless preaching of repentance. He highlighted John's courage in speaking truth to power, as demonstrated in his rebuke of King Herod for his unlawful marriage, which ultimately led to John's martyrdom. This fearless commitment to proclaiming God's truth was held up as an example for all believers.

**Herald of the Messiah:** St Francis de Sales often referred to John the Baptist as the "herald of the Messiah," underscoring his crucial role in preparing the way for Jesus. He appreciated John's role in pointing others to Christ, baptising Jesus, and recognising Him as the "Lamb of God." This preparatory role was seen as essential in the divine plan of salvation.

**Joyful Witness:** Despite his austere and penitential life, John the Baptist is also portrayed by St Francis de Sales as a joyful witness to the coming of the Saviour. He describes John as leaping for joy in his mother Elizabeth's womb at the presence of Mary and Jesus, and he sees this joy as characteristic of John's entire ministry.

In summary, St Francis de Sales saw John the Baptist as a model of humility, penance, zeal for righteousness, faithful witness to Christ, and joy. His teachings often used John the Baptist's example to inspire and guide Christians in their own spiritual journeys.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Reading 1: Is 49:1-6

Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, yet my reward is with the LORD, my recompense is with my God. For now the LORD has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, that Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

## Responsorial Psalm:

### R. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

O LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinise, with all my ways you are familiar.

### R. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

Truly you have formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; wonderful are your works.

### R. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

My soul also you knew full well; nor was my frame unknown to you when I was made in secret, when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.

### R. I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

## Reading 2: Acts 13:22-26

In those days, Paul said: "God raised up David as king; of him God testified, *I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.* From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a saviour, Jesus. John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.' "My brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent."

## Alleluia:

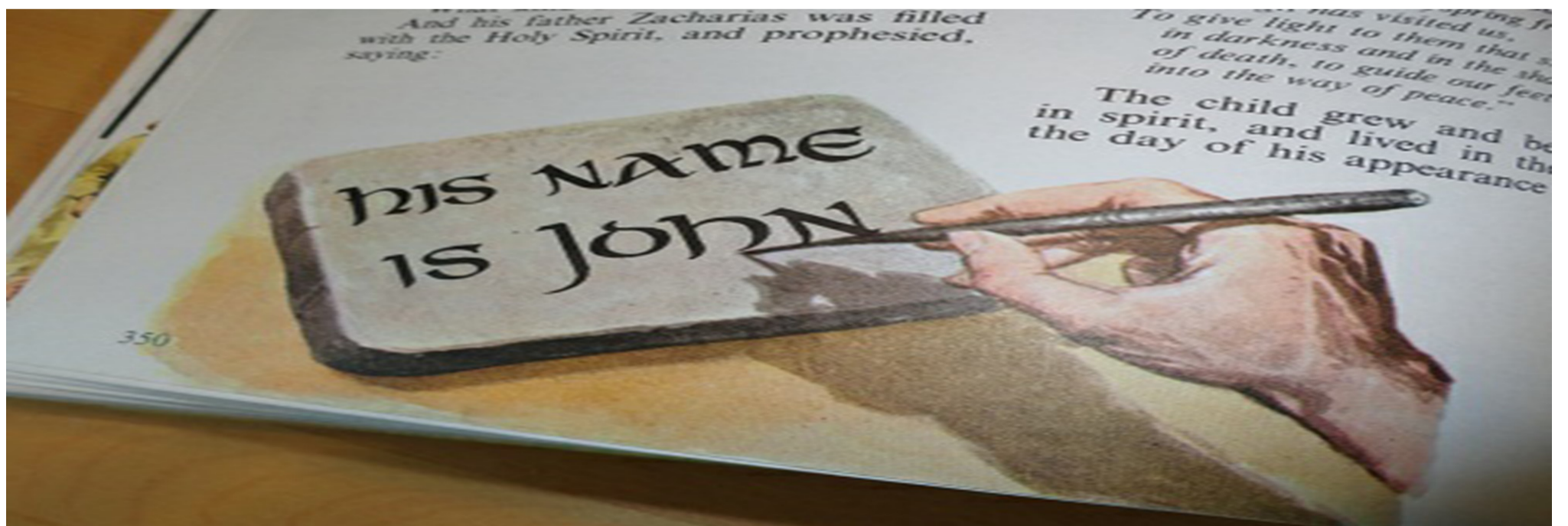
### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited His people.

### R. Alleluia!

## Gospel: Lk 1:57-66, 80

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbours, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.



## Keep us in your Prayers—pray for the souls of:

**Recently deceased:** Stephen Blyth, Dr Paul Caska

**Anniversary:** Hilda Andrews, Betty Cavanagh, Hugo John Cutrone, Rhoniel Santos, Mary Wood

**Remembrance:** Miguel Deliverio, Charlie Grima, Joshua Pacres, Feliciano Soler

**Sick:** Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfgram, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Jones, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Pat Savage, John Mitchell, Donna Vella, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Alchin, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, James Matthews, Doreen Arahill, Theresa Mitchell, Anita Servi, Jean Pierre, Michael Tannous, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Lola De Souza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilar, Alison Richmond, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Roger Lambert, Ron Manning, Ken Dixon, Maria Lourenco, Doris Coleman, Alice Lynn, Dianne Smyth, Gail Smith, Roy Cutrone, Wendy Cohen, Bill Hunt, Alan Ball, Betty McDermott, Vicki Pirie, Beau Burt, Joel Lloyd, Belinda Cochrane, Ken Stewart, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark, Helen Tiltins, Shirley Brinkworth, Iris Drewett, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Van Mitchell, Chris Burt, Brian Searle, Sean McDermott, Gemma Tracey, Mark Richmond, Jai Kurt, Jodie Fleming, Alana Rose, Michael Juelg, Dr Richard Scolyer, Trevor Hailey, Joss Mitchell, Marie Day, Oakley Mitchell, Jessie Mitchell, Olive Drewett, Matt Mitchell, Cheryl Juelg, Stephen Edwards



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June

#### For migrants fleeing their homes

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

### 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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**BSB:** 062 784 **Account no:** 10000 1742

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Thank You



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