



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



18th August 2024
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

19 August—St John Eudes

20 August—St Bernard

21 August—St Pius X

23 August—St Rose of Lima

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.

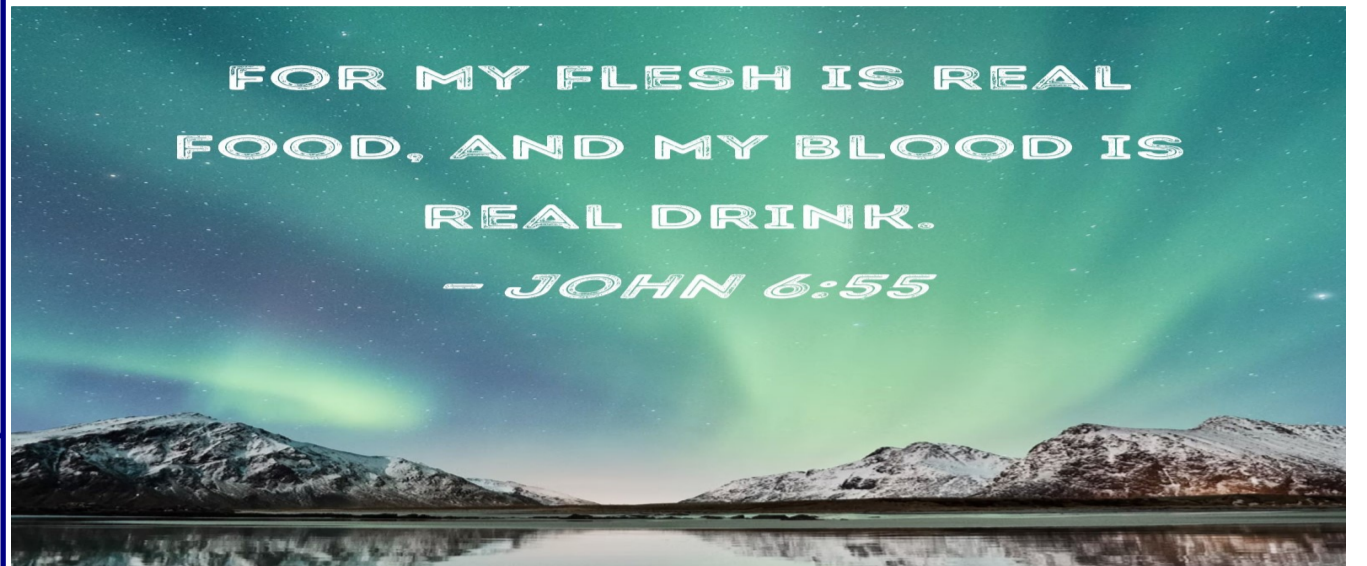
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

FOR MY FLESH IS REAL
FOOD, AND MY BLOOD IS
REAL DRINK.
— JOHN 6:55



In our epistle this morning (*Eph 5:15-20*), St. Paul judges his own age less than ideal also: *evil* he calls it, for foolishness is commonplace, God's will ignored, drunkenness and debauchery the usual escape. We might be filled with the Holy Spirit but those around us drink very different spirits. His pun is humorous, but Paul is deadly serious: only by our lives can this a wicked age be redeemed.

Paul's word for 'age' here – *καιρός* – is an unusual one, rare in secular Greek, but used by Jesus in the Gospels. It doesn't simply mean calendar 'time' or geological 'age', but connotes a critical time, a time of danger requiring urgent action, the appointed time. Throughout history people have often thought themselves or their times uniquely cursed. How often do we, too, think our world is on the verge of 'going down the gurgler' in some spectacular and perhaps definitive way? Yet Paul's thought is that it is precisely in at such tipping points that Christians are so opportune: it is to hazardous times like these that we are sent and, challenging as that might be, they are times when we can make a difference.

So word *καιρός* indicates a moment of danger that can also be a moment of opportunity. This is why it is frequently used in the New Testament to describe the time of redemption, liberation, glory. Christ's birth, His appearing on the scene as an adult, and His return to the Father are all described as a *καιρός*. If by our lives we are to redeem our age, it is only because we have been redeemed by Christ; if we are to contribute to our age, help the orphans, the stranger, the homeless or the destitute, if we are to speak the truth wisely, courageously and lovingly, if we are to lead and serve, we must have one eye in the problems of this world and one on our 'homecoming' in the age to come. The journey to that place can be long and arduous. We may experience loss, hunger, exhaustion or danger, especially of an emotional or spiritual kind. To ask us to redeem our age may altogether too big a challenge. And so Jesus in our Gospel offers us food to satisfy our hunger, drink not to daze but to quench us, hope in our fear, substance in our emptiness. Eat my Bread and drink my Wine – my Body and Blood – He says, do so frequently and reverently so as to live forever. This is the homecoming we all most deeply desire: finding our home in Christ and Christ making His home in us. As 11th century Bulgarian Archbishop and Saint, Theophylact of Ohrid pointed out, God has made human flesh one with Himself, so our flesh might have His 'life-giving power'. Put an iron rod in the fire and it remains iron, but it assumes the energy of fire. Unite the Lord's flesh with yours in Holy Communion and we remain human beings, but we also enjoy divine life or grace. We arrive home but changed, purified, energised, better.

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/homilies/2018/homily-for-mass-for-20th-sunday-ordinary-time-b/>

Parish News:

Sicklist: We are updating our newsletter sicklist. If you would like your name or a loved one's name to continue to be included, please either put a note in the collection bag or contact the Parish office on 4341 1073 or woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au. Thanks.

Soup Night: There will be a soup night after 5.00pm Mass on Sunday, 25th August. All welcome.

Building Refreshment and Maintenance Programme:

Just a reminder to everyone who had previously put their name down for the maintenance program – unfortunately the first list was lost so could you please put your name down again. To get the program started, we have commenced painting and we are starting to identify the extent of the maintenance and rectification required. As part of the process, we will need to identify and fix water leaks which will require roofing repairs and new plumbing works. Once the leaks are fixed, we will need to repair/replace gyprock and finish with painting. The plan includes all parish buildings on both sides of the road including the Church, Mary Macs, Walter Baker Hall and presbytery. So, there is a lot to do and we expect the list will grow as we get deeper into the programme, particularly given the Church is now 16 years old.

Other secondary works we are considering include: Plumbing works – bore water supply for gardens, Security – CCTV system and camera upgrade, general electrical – lighting (to reduce energy costs), air conditioning service – filters for ducting, tiling – fix repair tiles outside of Church, outside window cleaning, replace auto system for Church windows on level 1, renovation of meditation garden courtyard – timber deck renovation, upholstery for kneelers and seat cushions, kneeler repairs- stop brackets replaced and fixed where needed, general rubbish removal and tree removal.

As you can see, we need a variety of talents including handyman skills to refresh our Church and buildings. For those of you who have put your name down (thank you) we will contact you soon to figure out your availability and determine how we can best use your talents. Also, we are happy to receive quality advice from qualified professionals in the parish who can assist with any of these works.

Cleaners for 23rd August: Rano Spiteri, Reg Harrington, Tom French, Jo MacMillan.

Readers for 24th & 25th August:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford, Jacqui Scholte, Dawn Torrens

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

Sunday 9.15am—Christine French, Wendy Whiteman, Violetta Chol

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer, Kris Aitken, Pio Savea

Servers for 24th & 25th August:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Rae Busby, Jose Torres

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French, Jenny Fitzgerald, Joseph French

Sunday 5.00pm—Charles Kivunja

Parish gardeners: Calling all parish gardeners: our horticultural consultant Jeremy Smith will be attending at 9.00am on Saturday 31st August to carry out maintenance and further planting in the Church gardens - particularly the native garden - in preparation for Spring. Help with the work would be appreciated from anyone who has a couple of hours to spare on that day. Bring your gardening gloves and tools.

Youth Ministry: We are planning to restart our Youth Ministry in the Parish. If you are interested in being a part of the Ministry, please register your details on the list in the Gathering Area. We are looking to recruit a part time youth co-ordinator to lead the Ministry. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

Planned Giving envelopes: Planned giving envelopes for the coming year are available to collect from the table in the Gathering Area. If you would like to contribute to the Parish via planned giving envelopes please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Census Form: Welcome to all new parishioners. You can now collect a blank Parish Census Form from the Gathering Area of the Church. Please place completed forms in the Census Forms box or email to woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au. If you have submitted a form in recent times and your details haven't changed there is no need to complete another one.

El Shaddai: The El Shaddai group meet every fourth Saturday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 24th August from 12-4pm in the Leo Mahon Room.

Support for the Catechists in Our Parish: When you start out as a catechist, whether as an assistant or a teacher, you will be teamed up with an experienced teacher so you learn what it is like to work with the children in the classroom. Training is freely available and each volunteer is given a teaching manual and students workbook. The parish catechist team is eager to welcome new volunteers and is willing to support them as they begin this ministry in the public school. In Woy Woy, we meet as a team once each month after morning Mass and discuss what is working in our classes, voice any concerns we may have and to share a time of prayer, coffee and cake.

To find out more about becoming a catechist, phone Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169.

Funeral Announcement: The life of Raymond Robinson will be celebrated on Tuesday, 20th August at 10.00am at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy. We offer our sincere condolences to Ray's family and friends.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Prov 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven columns; she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table. She has sent out her maidens; she calls from the heights out over the city: "Let whoever is simple turn in here; To the one who lacks understanding, she says, Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. 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. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Revere the Lord, you his saints. They lack nothing, those who revere him. Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Come, children, and hear me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Who are they who long for life and many days to enjoy their prosperity.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Then keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn aside from evil and do good; seek and strive after peace.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2: Eph 5:15-20

Brothers and sisters: Watch carefully how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."



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

Recently deceased: Fr John Hosie SM, Jack Lalor, Marie L'Etang, Raymond Robinson

Anniversary: Safaa El-Khatib, Margaret French, Paulina Menezes, Umiliano Menezes

Remembrance: Charlie, Wanda and Peter Grima, Sam Grima

Sick: Helen Tiltins, Joseph King, Paulene White

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for August

For political leaders

We pray political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



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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