



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



25th August 2024
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

27 August—St Monica

28 August—St Augustine

29 August—The Passion of St John the Baptist

3 September—St Gregory the Great

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

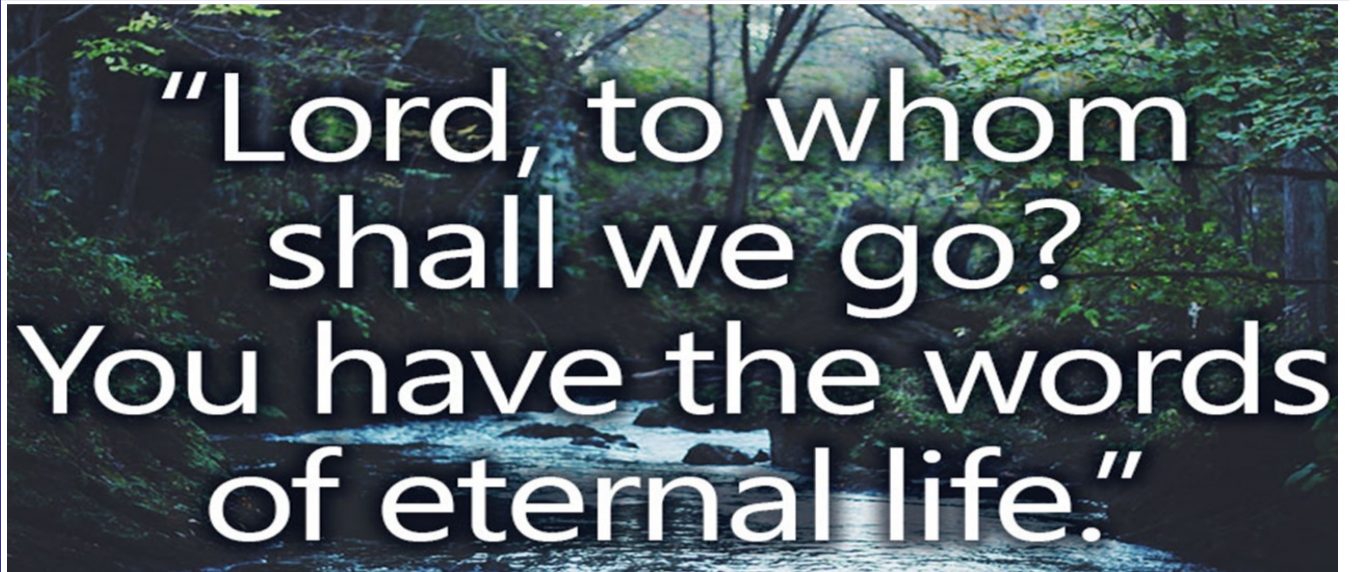
Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327



Joshua offers the Israelites a clear choice: serve the God who set you free or the gods of your ancestors. As their leader, he is clear about where he stands and he invites the people to declare themselves unambiguously. The people's response is a timely profession of faith in their God. If they are to live as God's people in the land, they can no longer waver in their allegiance. They need to be true to themselves and to the covenant they have made with their God.

If we have trouble coming to terms with some of the teachings of Jesus, we can take comfort from the reaction of the disciples in today's gospel. It was not only the members of the Jewish synagogue who were offended by his teaching, but also those who had accepted Jesus as Messiah and had joined the community of believers.

'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' they complain. Jesus' response introduces new teaching, teaching that only raises more questions in their minds. He links 'spirit' with 'life'. Having used the term 'flesh' of his body and of the life that he offers to those who eat of his flesh, he now introduces an element of doubt: flesh is now 'useless'!

It is typical of John to use the same word in a variety of ways. Here 'flesh' is used negatively to refer to human weakness and sinfulness in contrast with 'spirit' which evokes the creative spirit of God that moved over the waters at creation and the spirit that informed the word of the prophets.

Jesus lays the ground for offering progressively deeper insights into his identity and destiny and into the meaning of the Christian life as the gospel narrative unfolds.

The reference to his ascending recalls the earlier part to the gospel where Jesus is presented as the pre-existent one, the one who comes from God and has already ascended to God (John 3:13). After his death, he will tell Mary Magdalene that he has not yet ascended and instructs her to tell the disciples that he is ascending to God (20:17).

It seems that John wants to emphasise the spiritual origins of Jesus as the eternal word and wisdom of God. Many refuse to grapple with the complexities and implications of this teaching and they turn away. Jesus asks his closest followers if they too will desert. Peter speaks for the twelve when he declares their undying allegiance: *'To whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.'*

Most of us have wanted to throw it all in at some time or another. Peter's declaration is a sobering one for us in times of doubt and an encouragement for those who seek to understand more deeply and believe.

https://wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/reflection-on-the-readings-21st-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-b/

Parish News:

Clergy Retreat: Fr Timothy and Fr Vincent will be away from 26th August until 30th August on a Clergy Retreat. Please keep them in your prayers. Masses will go ahead as scheduled with guest priests.

Soup Night: There will be a soup night after 5.00pm Mass this Sunday. All welcome.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, 31st August.

Social Justice Sunday, 25th August 2024: In a tradition dating back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the mission of the Church. The official launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, 'Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World' was held on Tuesday 20th August in St Paul's College, Greystanes, adjoining Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Greystanes. To download the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, please click [2024-2025 Social Justice Statement](#)

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.

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. 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 6th September: Gay Tiansay, Mabel Torres, Maria Wickens, Laila Dawe.

Readers for 31st August & 1st September:

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

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

Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon, Mayo Tripolone, Don Matheson

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

Servers for 31st August & 1st September:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Jose Torres, Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis



National Child Protection Week will run from 1st September to 7th September with the theme being 'Every conversation matters'. Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.

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. 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.

Support for the Catechists in Our Parish: When you start out as a catechist, 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 share a time of prayer, coffee and cake. To find out more about becoming a catechist, phone Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

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.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Many are the trials of the upright but the Lord will come to rescue them. He will keep guard over all their bones, not one of their bones shall be broken.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the soul of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Reading 2: Eph 5:21-32

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the saviour of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."



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

Recently deceased:

Anniversary: Grace Farrugia, Virginia Grech

Remembrance:

Sick: Lorraine Blandford, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Aline Fauvette, Bill Hunt, Joseph King, Helen Tiltins, 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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