



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



8th September 2024

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

8 September—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

14 September—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

15 September—Our Lady of Sorrows

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 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

Fridays—9.00am

First Fridays 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.

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



In today's Gospel people bring Jesus a deaf mute, a man who due to physical incapacity had ears that were closed to hearing and a mouth that was closed to speech. Jesus took pity on the man, touched his ears and his tongue, and said, "Ephphatha," "be opened." And the man's ears were opened and his tongue was loosened. He could now use these organs to communicate, which was not possible when they were closed.

During the baptism of infants there is a part of the rite called the "Ephphatha," where the minister touches the baby's ears and mouth, saying: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

The Lord touches our ears with his word every time the Scriptures are read and our mouths proclaim the faith every time we recite the creed. Receiving his word is more than just hearing his word because now that we have heard, he expects a response. The purpose of faith is to empower us to love and serve God in this life so as to be happy with him forever in the next.

But we will achieve that purpose only when we roll up our sleeves and place our whole selves at his service. It may feel safer to hold back and not respond, because responding will require some changes on our part — and no one really likes change. We feel much safer locked up with whatever is familiar, even if it's not taking us where we need to go. Why not just do the minimum?

Well for one thing, "With the measure you measure it shall be measured back to you." Do only the minimum and you can expect only the minimum from God in return. Besides, what makes us think we know what the minimum is anyway? Talk about taking a risk; Jesus gave his whole self to us and the only appropriate response is for us to give our whole selves to him in return.

We'd certainly hate to have to defend mediocrity before the judgment seat of God! Sins of omission, the things we fail to do — God knows what he has given us and it's from that he expects a return.

As Jesus said in today's Gospel: "Ephphatha," "be opened!" Open not only our ears, but also most importantly our hearts. Open our hearts to the Lord and open our hearts to those in need; to those who are suffering in any way.

<https://dolr.org/article/23rd-sunday-ordinary-time-year-b-2021>

Parish News:

Fr Timothy's Annual Leave: Fr Timothy will be away from 10th September until 18th October and we wish him a safe and enjoyable trip.

Thanks: A grateful thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to help with gardening and tidying last Saturday. Your stellar efforts have made a vast difference.

Morning Tea: St John the Baptist School will be hosting a morning tea after 9.15am Mass this Sunday, 8th September. All welcome.

Sit n Chat: A group of seniors meet every 3rd Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. This month's meeting is scheduled for Monday, 16th September. Please contact Jane for further information 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

St John the Baptist Men's group: Meetings to be held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 7pm-8pm in the Leo Mahon Room. Next meeting 16th September. For further information contact Allan Moore 0492 988 168.

Thanks to Bakers Delight Umina for donating baked goods to the St John the Baptist school morning tea.

Thanks: On behalf of my family, we wish to thank all the clergy, parishioners and friends who attended our brother Fr Brian Rowland's funeral Mass. Your love, support and prayers are greatly appreciated. Mary Ford.

Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows: We are continuing our Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows.

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.

Children's Liturgy: Children's Liturgy occurs during the Sunday 9.15am Mass throughout the school term excluding the 1st Sunday of the month. It is for children between the ages of 4 and 12. Children younger than this are welcome however they would need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Further enquiries contact Christine French 0431 765 401 or Frances Giunta 0414 274 402.

Building Refreshment and Maintenance Programme: 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. 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 13th September: Anne-Marie Young, Elena Egan, Maria Owen, Mimi Lambert.

Readers for 14th & 15th September:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Rutherford, Paul Rutherford, Kate Bravo

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta, Veronica Jordan, Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Michael Dixon, Dawn Torrens, Violetta Chol

Sunday 5.00pm—Sherrisse Collard, Armella Dogillo, Kris Aitken

Servers for 14th & 15th September:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Darrin Patterson

Safeguarding Sunday, 8th September 2024: The Parish of St John the Baptist and the Diocese of Broken Bay are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, 'Every conversation matters', may we work to create safe spaces where we can have meaningful conversations with children and adults at risk about their safety. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Safeguarding-Sunday-2024>.

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

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.

El Shaddai Prayer Group: The next El Shaddai meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 28th September from 12-4 in the Walter Baker Hall.

Support for the Catechists in Our Parish: Each deanery has a full-time co-ordinator who is the resources person for the catechists and is willing to assist you in any area of this ministry. The co-ordinators conduct the training which is presented for you freely. This training can be done from the comfort of your own home, with reflection days and special workshop days where we gather with other catechists to pray, reflect and learn. The programme that is taught in the Diocese is Walking With Jesus. Each volunteer receives a teacher's manual and a student's workbook. Every lesson is planned for you, and all the resources that you might like to use are listed and available from the resource centre. To find out more phone Michael Tebbutt on 0437 440 169.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 35:4-7

Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Praise the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name!

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is God who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord who protects the stranger, and upholds the widow and orphan.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name!

It is the Lord who loves the just, but thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God from age to age.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul, and bless his holy name!

Reading 2: James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here, please," while you say to the poor one, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet." Have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

Alleluia:

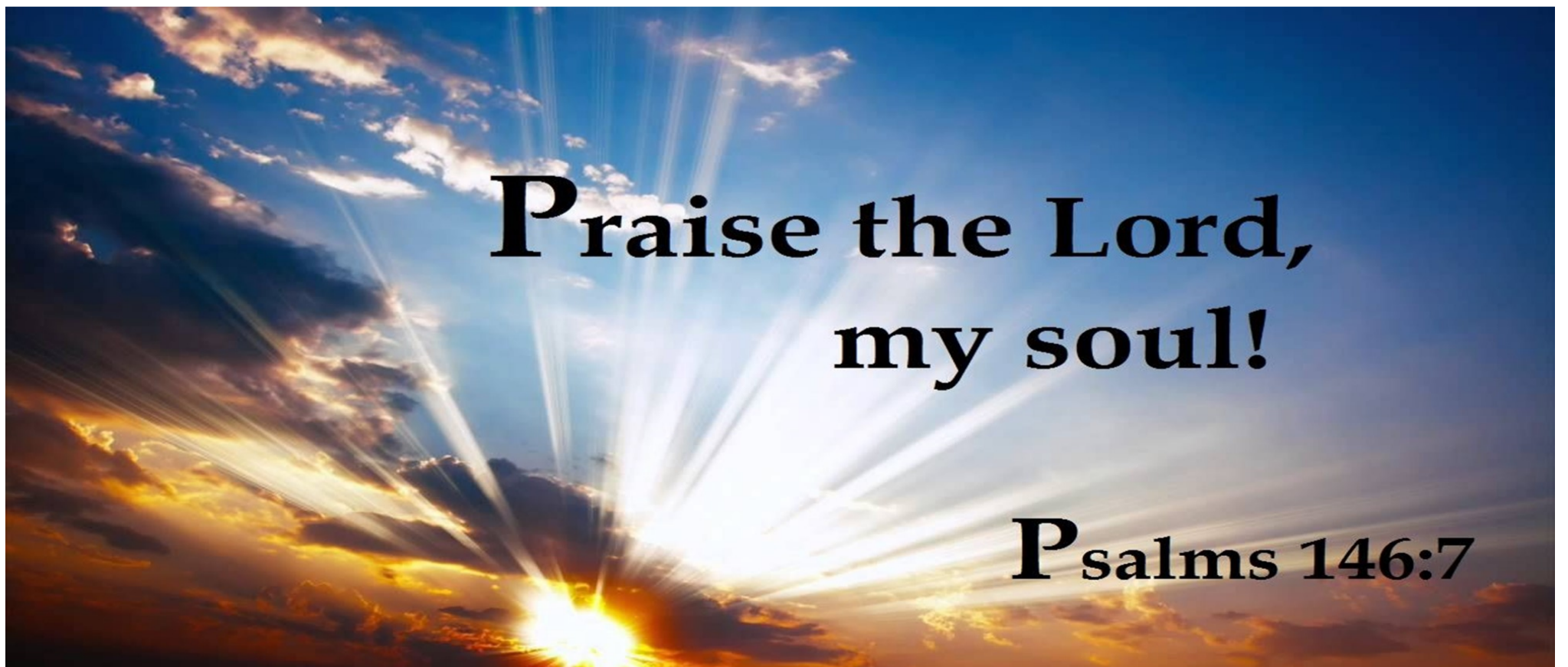
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

Again Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*"— that is, "Be opened!" — And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."



Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: John Lever, Ray Robinson, Fr Brian Rowland, Helen Tiltins

Anniversary: Caterina Zappavigna

Remembrance: Joseph Kasunic

Sick: Lorraine Blandford, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Aline Fauvette, Bill Hunt, Joseph King, Oscar James Moretti, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Donna Vella, Paulene White, Jonathon Zdilar

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.



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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