



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



13th October 2024

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

14 October — St Callistus I

15 October — St Teresa of Jesus

16 October — St Hedwig, St Margaret
Mary Alacoque

17 October — St Ignatius of Antioch

18 October — St Luke

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.

Assistant Priest

Fr Alex Peter M.S.F.S.

Priest in Residence

Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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In our society, we view very few things as more important than money. Money is power. It is power to build up but also power to destroy. An elderly man bought a lottery ticket and won a million dollars. His children found out about this before he did. They were afraid to tell him because he had a weak heart and they feared that the shock would kill him. So they went to the parish priest, who was a close friend of their father, to seek advice. The priest said, "Don't worry. I'll take care of this. I'll test the waters." So he went to his old friend. They sat down and had a drink. In the middle of their conversation the priest said, "Frank, I often wondered, what would you do if you won a million dollars?" Without a moment's hesitation, the man said, "I would give it all to the church." And the priest dropped dead of a heart attack!

But today's story is not really about money or possessions. It is about love and trust. The love is amply testified in the story. We can see it in the enthusiasm of the rich man as he runs up to Jesus and kneels down before him. We can see it in his honest desire to find eternal life and his belief that Jesus can show him the way. We can see it in his goodness as he shares with Jesus that he has kept all of God's commandments since his youth. Jesus, too, sees this man's goodness and he loves him. There is every reason to believe that the man knew that Jesus loved him. But the tragedy of the story is that the man did not believe in that love enough. He did not believe enough in Jesus' love to trust him.

Jesus asks him to give up all of his possessions and that is something that the man cannot do. But his failure to do so was not a failure of generosity, but a failure of trust. He wondered whether Jesus would cheat him, whether Jesus would sell him short. He should have been able to trust that if Jesus was asking him to let go of what he had, it was only because Jesus was going to give him something better. But he could not believe that. His possessions were good things, but Jesus wanted to give him more. Because he could not trust Jesus, he walks away, holding on to the possessions that he has but leaving behind what could have been much more.

This story asks us to trust when we must let go of good things in our life, God has not forgotten us. In fact God is preparing to offer us another good thing. Jesus asked the rich man to let go of his possessions, his material wealth. Perhaps God is asking us to have a similar attitude in this economic downturn. Many of us are struggling financially. But there are a variety of things we could be asked to let go. We could be asked to let go of a relationship, of a project, of a dream or of ability. As we grow older, we may have to let go of some of our energy, our mobility, or some aspect of our health. All of these things are good things, but as life moves on there are times when we can no longer hold on to them. It is then we must let them go. It is then we need to trust that God has not forgotten us and God will still bless us.

Today's gospel is not about possessions. It is about the freedom to trust and believe that when we must let go of one thing in our life, God will still remember us. This is what the rich man in the Gospel could not do. We are called to make a different choice. We are called to support one another in the faith that when we must let go of any good thing, God is still with us. When we must let go of something we would rather hold on to, it is only so that we can make room for God to bless us again.

<https://buildingontheword.org/homilies/cycle-b/b-28th-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>

Parish News:

Thanks: Many thanks to the Filipino community for providing a delicious morning tea last Sunday.

All Souls Day 2024: There will be Mass at 9.00am and 5.00pm on All Souls Day, 2nd November. At 5.00pm Mass we will remember the lives of loved family and friends who have been called from this life, in particular those in the past year. There will be a light supper afterwards. All welcome.

Reconciliation Programme 2024: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is open to Baptised Catholic children who have reached the age of discretion (normally about 8 years of age) and have been Confirmed. A child who wishes to make one's First Communion must first be prepared for and have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a Reconciliation information night for parents and carers on Monday, 21st October at 7.00pm in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Road. Lessons will begin in the week starting Monday, 28th October. Children will be welcomed into the Parish community during any of the Masses held the weekend of 26th and 27th October. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Friday, 15th November at 4.00pm at St John the Baptist Church.

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. October's meeting is scheduled for the 14th. Please contact Jane for further information on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Safeguarding: If young children need to use the bathroom during Mass or events in the Church, please ensure that a parent or guardian accompanies the child. Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.

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 21st October. For further information contact Allan Moore 0492 988 168.

Children's Liturgy: Children's liturgy is on a break now for school holidays and will resume 20th October.

Building Refreshment and Maintenance Programme: The building refreshment and maintenance work is ongoing.

Cleaners for 18th October: Pam Hickey, Anne-Marie Young, Elena Egan, Maria Owen.

Readers for 19th & 20th October:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville, Marie Andrews, Jane Rutherford

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

Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Jacqui Scholte, Michael Dixon

Sunday 5.00pm—Peter Smith, Lorena Lalor, Armella Dogillo

Servers for 19th & 20th October:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French, Paul Nolan

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

Sunday 5.00pm—Darrin Patterson

El Shaddai Prayer Group: The next El Shaddai meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 26th October from 12pm-4pm in the Walter Baker Hall.



Cash Housie at Peninsula Community Centre, Saturdays 7.00pm, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

Catechist Corner: Hello, my name is Mabel. I have been a catechist for 4 years in another parish. I started as a helper and then took a class as a teacher but that was interrupted by the Covid lockdowns. After moving to Woy Woy last year I started as a helper in our parish. I had been thinking of becoming a catechist for a long time but was hesitant as I had a lot of worries - Could I speak to a class? What if I couldn't answer the kids' questions etc. I had been praying about it for a while and last year while reading the catechist pamphlet again, I felt a surge of encouragement from the Holy Spirit, 'don't be afraid.' Then I took the first step and contacted the coordinator. God will not leave you in the deep end if you answer His call. There is also a lot of support from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine with training, teacher's manuals, mentoring and lots of other resources. If you want to bring the love of God to the children but are hesitant, pray about it and perhaps you can take the step forward and become a catechist. Don't be afraid!

World Mission Day, Sunday 20th October: Pope Francis has chosen this year's theme for the Day "Go and invite everyone to the Banquet." There will be a special collection next weekend in the Parish. Envelopes will be available in the Church and gathering area. For further information https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/02/02/240202a.html?mc_cid=a08c64d011&mc_eid=a6f3aca816

XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: We keep Bishop Anthony and Kelly Paget, Chancellor and Director of Mission Broken Bay, in our prayer as the Second Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops continues in Rome.

National Children's Week commences on October 19th 2024. The event is celebrated with a theme that is based on an Article from United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). National Children's Week highlights that all children and young people can participate in and make a valuable contribution to their society. For further information please access: https://childrens-week.org.au/?mc_cid=033db51c8b&mc_eid=a6f3aca816

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Wis 7:7-11

I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, and I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendour of her never yields to sleep. Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our afflictions for the years when we knew misfortune.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us; give success to the work of our hands.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy.

Reading 2: Heb 4:12-13

Brothers and sisters: Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 10:17-30

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments:

You shall not kill;

you shall not commit adultery;

you shall not steal;

you shall not bear false witness;

you shall not defraud;

honour your father and your mother."

He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God." Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

Readings for the Week:



Monday, 14th October: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1/Ps 112:1-7/Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday, 15th October: Gal 5:1-6/Ps 118:41, 43-45, 47-48/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday, 16th October: Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 11:42-46

Thursday, 17th October: Eph 1:1-10/Ps 97:1-6/Lk 11:47-54

Friday, 18th October: 2 Tim 4:10-17/Ps 144:10-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9

Saturday, 19th October: Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-7/Lk 12:8-12

Sunday, 20th October: Is 53:10-11/Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Kevin Balintine, Ibrahim Emseis, Joseph King

Anniversary: Giovanna Caruana, Joe Caruana, Peter Whiteman

Remembrance:

Sick: Margaret Ayres, Alan Ball, Lorraine Blandford, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Bill Hunt, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Oscar James Moretti, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Charlotte Stenson, Donna Vella, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October

For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.



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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