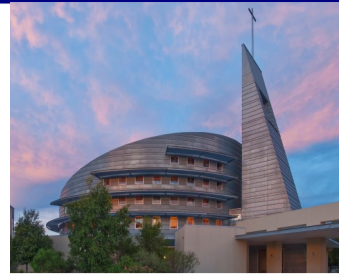




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



8th December 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

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

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptises for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation.

The three Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke—attest to the importance of the baptism of John in preparing for Jesus. Only the Gospel of Luke, however, extends the connection between these two men to their birth. The first two chapters of Luke's Gospel contain the Infancy Narrative, which tells about the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These stories set the stage for the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in chapter 3.

The evangelist Luke is the author of the Gospel that bears his name, and he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a continuation of the story of Jesus and the Church. In these two works, Luke's sense of time and history emerges. He identifies three epochs of salvation history: the time before Christ, the time of Christ, and the time of the Church and the Holy Spirit. In today's Gospel reading, as elsewhere, John the Baptist is presented as the figure who bridges the time before Christ and prepares the way for Christ's own ministry.

In today's Gospel we also note Luke's attention to political and historical detail. Luke shows that salvation is for all people and situated in world events. Therefore, Luke lists the political and religious leaders at the time of John's appearance in the desert. Salvation is understood as God's breaking into this political and social history.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-of-advent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>

Parish News:



We welcome Fr Johnson Gonsalves, Provincial MSFS.

St John the Baptist School: Fr Johnson, Fr Timothy, Fr Vincent and Fr Alex were delighted to attend St John the Baptist School's end of year concert on Tuesday night at St Edward's College. The children provided a wonderful performance. Congratulations to the staff, parents and students.

Morning Tea: There will be a morning tea after 9.15am Mass this Sunday to welcome Fr Johnson Gonsalves. All welcome.

Thanks: Grateful thanks to all who were involved in the working bee and Christmas decoration working bee last weekend. Thanks also to the Hospitality Ministry and all those who are involved in the organisation behind the morning tea to welcome Fr Johnson this weekend. Thanks also to Bakers Delight, Umina for the donation of baked goods for the morning tea.

Thanks: A sincere thank you to Fr Timothy, Fr Philip, Fr Alex and our Parish family for the prayers and support given to me during John's illness. It has meant so much to me, thank you again, Marsha Burzynski.

Sit n chat: This month's Sit n Chat is scheduled for 9th December. Please contact Jane for further information 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Parish Christmas Dinner: There will be a Parish Christmas Dinner on Friday 20th December at 6.00pm in the Walter Baker Hall. Please register your name on the list in the gathering area for catering purposes. All welcome.

Piety Stall: Columban Calendars, Joy of the Gospel: Daily Readings & Vinnies Christmas cards are now on sale in the Piety Stall. Josephite Calendars will be available next weekend.

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.

Cleaners for 13th December: Anne-Marie Young, Tom French, Elena Egan, Maria Owen.

Readers for 14th & 15th December:

Saturday 5.00pm—Marie Andrews, Wendy Whiteman, Leonie King

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta, Joel Bajo, Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Dawn Torrens, Christine French

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith, Kris Aitken

Servers for 14th & 15th December:

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



Christmas Mass Times 2024:

Tuesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

5.30 pm - St John the Baptist School Oval

21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

7.00 pm - Church

9.00 pm - Church

Wednesday, December 25th: Christmas Day

7.30 am

9.15 am

5.00 pm

Advent Colours: Purple and Rose

The use of purple in the liturgy has ancient roots, symbolising both penance and royalty. Rose is used specifically on Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent.

Purple: (Penance and Preparation) In Scripture, purple was a colour associated with kingship and wealth (Judges 8:26). It also came to represent repentance and the need for spiritual preparation. The Church calls for a time of reflection, fasting, and repentance during Advent, similar to the Lenten season. Purple also reminds us of Christ's kingship, which we prepare to welcome at Christmas.

Rose: (Joy and Hope): This colour signifies joy and is a reminder that, even during a penitential season, the coming of Christ brings joy to the world. On the third Sunday, rose vestments are worn as a sign of joy, signifying that the time of Christ's birth is near. Figuratively speaking, lighting the rose candle during Advent is a bit like mixing chocolate with a pinch of salt—sweet joy with a hint of anticipation. (Fr Alex Peter)



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendour of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendour: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, to us it seemed a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and on our lips were joyful songs.

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord has worked for them!" What marvels the Lord worked for us! Yes, indeed, our hearts were glad.

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

Deliver us, O lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who sow in tears will sing when they reap.

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing. They come back they come back, full of song, bearing their sheaves on high in joy.

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

Reading 2: 1 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Readings for the Week:

Monday, 9th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Gen 3:9-15, 20/Ps 97:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, 10th December: Our Lady of Loreto - Is 40:1-11/Ps 95:1-3, 10-13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, 11th December: St Damasus I - Is 40:25-31/Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, 12th December: Our Lady of Guadalupe - Is 41:13-20/Ps 144:1, 9-13/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, 13th December: St Lucy - Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, 14th December: St John of the Cross - Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:10-13

Sunday, 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent - Zeph 3:14-18/Ps Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: John Burzynski, John Hayter, Carmel Hinkley, Daphne Kearns, Mary Kelly, Patricia Moran, Ralph Schulze

Anniversary: Katerina Markaryous

Remembrance:

Sick: John Aarts, Margaret Ayres, Alan Ball, Lorraine Blandford, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, David Hopkins, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dymrna Fitzpatrick, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, Bill Hunt, Josephine Kennedy, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Oscar James Moretti, Robert Morrisset, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Jacqui Scholte, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



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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