



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Sunday of Divine Mercy

Under the Pastoral Care of  
The Fransalians since 2016

## FEASTS & MEMORIALS

8 April—The Annunciation of the Lord

11 April—St Stanislaus

13 April—St Martin I

## 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

### Divine Will Cenacle

Thursdays - 9.15am -10.45am

### 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.*

### Parish Secretary

*Triona Meagher*

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The readings for Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter) for Year B show us that the mercy of God is given to all of us, even though we turn away again and again. In the gospel for this Sunday Jesus appears to the disciples. Then he comes back and lovingly helps Thomas overcome his doubts.

For Divine Mercy Sunday Year B, the readings introduce several deeply intertwined themes that underscore the essence of Christian life, God's infinite mercy, and the dynamics of faith and community. Here's a broader look at these themes:

- **Unity and Sharing in Community:** The first reading highlights the unity among the early Christians, who shared their possessions and ensured no one was in need. This theme invites us to consider how our communities reflect this spirit of sharing and support.
- **Power of Testimony:** Also in Acts, the apostles' testimony about Jesus' resurrection plays a crucial role, emphasising the importance of witnessing to our faith through words and actions.
- **Faith in Jesus:** The second reading underscores that belief in Jesus as the Messiah is a sign of our rebirth through God. This theme challenges us to reflect on the depth of our faith and its transformative power.
- **Love and Obedience:** In 1 John, love for God and His commandments is portrayed as natural for those born of God. This passage encourages us to view God's commands not as burdens but as expressions of love.
- **Victory through Faith:** The idea that our faith allows us to overcome the world offers encouragement in times of struggle, highlighting faith as a source of strength.
- **Peace and Forgiveness:** The Gospel presents Jesus bestowing peace and the authority to forgive sins, illustrating the central role of forgiveness and peace in Christian life.
- **Doubt and Belief:** Thomas' journey from doubt to faith highlights the theme of belief without seeing, offering hope and blessing to future generations of believers.
- **Role of the Holy Spirit:** Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit onto His disciples underscores the empowerment and guidance the Spirit provides to believers.
- **Inclusivity of Belief:** Jesus' blessing for those who have not seen but still believe expands the community of faith beyond the eyewitnesses to include all future generations.

**Purpose of the Gospel:** The explicit statement that these events are recorded to help us believe that Jesus is the Messiah invites us to engage with the Gospel in a personal and transformative way.

These themes not only depict the richness of Divine Mercy Sunday's readings but also call us to live out our faith through community, love, forgiveness, and a deep trust in Jesus' presence and power.

<https://young-catholics.com/3208/divine-mercy-sunday-year-b/>

*We, The Woy Woy Catholic Parish acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.*

**Parish News:**



**Thanks:** Thanks to all our acolytes, choir members, musicians, readers and all those who volunteered to make our Holy Week services so special. Thank you also to the Filipino community for sponsoring the Easter eggs. You are all very much appreciated.

**Thanks:** A total of \$3,393.50 was raised for Project Compassion and \$3,230.50 was raised for the Holy Land Commissariat. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Daylight Saving Time:** Daylight saving time for 2024 will end this Sunday, 7 April at 3am.

**Fr Timothy's Installation Mass:** Bishop Anthony will visit the Parish on Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9.15am to celebrate Fr Timothy's Installation Mass as Parish Priest of Woy Woy. There will be morning tea afterwards which the Parish Pastoral Council will help to co-ordinate. Please feel free to bring a plate and kindly let Jane Rutherford know in advance what you plan to bring so we don't have duplicate items. Jane's number is 0419 233 284.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** Prayers and devotions, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30pm - 3.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Woy Woy.

**Meetings:** The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. The next Parish Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm.

**Sacramental Programme 2024:** Please continue to include the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of First Communion this weekend and next weekend.

**Confirmation:** Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am.

**Sit n Chat:** A group of seniors meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. April's meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join the group please contact Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

**Cleaners for 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Mimi Lambert, Jo Salter, Elena Egan, Maria Owen.

**Readers for 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Rutherford & Wendy Whiteman

Sunday 7.30am—Joel Bajo & Mabel Torres

Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron & Christine French

Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken & Marian Bowyer

**Servers for 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Bernie French

Sunday 9.15am—Joesie Cameron & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

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

**Children's Liturgy:** Children's liturgy is now on a break for Easter and the school holidays. We will be resuming on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Divine Will Cenacle:** The Divine Will Cenacle meetings continue each Thursday in the Leo Mahon Room at 9.15am. All welcome. Any enquiries please contact Michael McCulloch on 0421 019 135.

**Easter Offering Envelopes:** Easter offering envelopes are available in the Church. The Easter Offering envelopes are for the welfare of retired priests. This is our way of showing our appreciation and gratitude for their loving Ministry.

**Holiness in the words of St Francis de Sales:**

St Francis de Sales had a profound understanding of holiness, which he often described as the pursuit of a devout and virtuous life in accordance with God's will. His teachings on holiness revolved around the concept of "divine love" and the integration of spiritual practices into everyday life. Here are some key aspects of holiness according to St Francis de Sales:

**Divine Love:** St Francis de Sales emphasised the centrality of love in the Christian life. He believed that holiness is ultimately rooted in love for God and love for one's neighbour. For him, holiness is achieved through a deep and intimate relationship with God, characterised by love, trust, and surrender.

**Interior Conversion:** St Francis de Sales taught that true holiness begins with a profound interior conversion of the heart. This conversion involves turning away from sin and self-centeredness and opening oneself to God's grace. He stressed the importance of cultivating virtues such as humility, patience, charity, and obedience in order to grow in holiness.

**Everyday Holiness:** St Francis de Sales rejected the idea that holiness was only attainable for monks, nuns, or clergy. Instead, he believed that holiness is achievable for people from all walks of life, including lay people living in the world. He encouraged individuals to seek holiness in their ordinary daily activities, transforming mundane tasks into opportunities for spiritual growth and service to others.

**Gentleness and Kindness:** St Francis de Sales advocated for a gentle and compassionate approach to spiritual growth. He believed that harshness and severity were not effective means of fostering holiness. Instead, he promoted a gentle and patient attitude towards oneself and others, recognising the importance of kindness, understanding, and encouragement in the journey towards holiness.



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Reading 1: Acts 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favour was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever.**

Let the family of Israel say: "His love has no end." Let the family of Aaron say: "His love has no end." Let those who fear the Lord say: "His love has no end."

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever.**

I was thrust down and falling, but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength, my song; He was my saviour; There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever.**

The stone rejected by the builders is now the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, His love endures forever.**

## Reading 2: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

### Alleluia:

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**R. Alleluia!**

## Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.





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

**Recently deceased:** Alan Knight, Egon Thalmann

**Anniversary:** Raelene Pitt, Rhoniell Santos

**Remembrance:** Sergei de Souza

**Sick:** Melissa Bezzina, Lisa Ryan, Marie Head, Lisa Yeo, Marta Panczyna, Oscar James Moretti, Linda Italiano, Eneio Wolfgram, Emma Matthews, Eileen Jones, Kathleen Bezzina, Moya Jones, Chris Mitchell, Trish Stuart, Colleen Garland, Robert Baker, Josephine Weate, Ed Hyland, Sheila Rogan, Pat Savage, John Mitchell, Donna Vella, Jo Farrelle, Donna Briemer, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Rose Aloisio, Tina Cohen, Amanda Sheridan, Audrey Barsenbach, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Georgie Brigdale, Sue Campbell, Bobby Brame, Kerrie Roberts, Lauren Alchin, Bruce Yip, Ada Primrose Murphy, Cathy Eades, James Matthews, Doreen Arahill, Theresa Mitchell, Anita Servi, Jean Pierre, Michael Tannous, Marsha Burzynski, Emma Mitchell, Lola De Souza, Bev Purser, Joseph King, Vicki Leach, Willy Woods, John Zdilar, Alison Richmond, Saxon Smith, John Farnham, Chris Parker, Alana Rose, Joy Burt, Stan Page, Roger Lambert, Ron Manning, Ken Dixon, Maria Lourenco, Doris Coleman, Alice Lynn, Dianne Smyth, Gail Smith, Roy Cutrone, Wendy Cohen, Bill Hunt, Alan Ball, Betty McDermott, Vicki Pirie, Beau Burt, Joel Lloyd, Belinda Cochrane, Ken Stewart, Tom Shepherd, Lorraine Blandford, Michael Searle, Mary Lucas, Maxine Tinkler, Lindsay Clark, Jack Rogan-Clark, Helen Tiltins, Shirley Brinkworth, Iris Drewett, Dymrna Fitzpatrick, Van Mitchell, Chris Burt, Brian Searle, Sean McDermott, Gemma Tracey, Mark Richmond, Jai Kurt, Jodie Fleming, Alana Rose, Michael Juelg



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

#### For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience.

### 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>

**Name: St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy**

**BSB: 062 784 Account no: 10000 1742**

Thank you for your generous contribution.

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