



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



25th February 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent

**Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016**

Lenten Programme

Way of the Cross & Mass:

First Friday at 3.30pm,
followed by Anointing
Mass at 4.00pm

Wednesdays & Fridays:

6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm



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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TRANSFIGURATION: NO SHORTCUT TO GLORY

Today, we are invited to reflect on an extraordinary event in the life of Jesus, the moment he was transfigured in the presence of his disciples, Peter, James and John. The significance of this event is shown by the fact that it is described in detail in three of the gospels. According to the popular biblical scholar, Tom Wright, the transfiguration 'shows that Jesus is the place where God's world and ours meet... It forms part of a new set of signposts, Jesus-shaped signposts, indicating what is to come: a whole new creation, starting with Jesus himself as the seed that is sown in the earth and then rises to become the beginning of that new world' (from his book, *Simply Jesus*, p. 144).

The story of the Transfiguration, as recounted in today's gospel reading from Mark, takes place at a critical moment in the life of Jesus. Jesus has left behind his beloved Galilee and turned his face towards Jerusalem, where he knows he will meet the same fate as the prophets before him. He has already warned his disciples that the Son of man is destined 'be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again' (Mk 8: 31). Now, about to enter the final phase of his mission, he withdraws, as was his custom, to a mountain to pray and reflect, taking with him three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John. In their presence he is transfigured: 'His clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them' (Mk 9:3). At that moment he is re-affirmed in his identity and messianic vocation by his Father: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him' (Mk 9:7). It was surely this affirmation that gave Jesus the strength to face the agony that lay ahead. His intense experience of the Father's love confirmed the truth to which Paul attests in today's second reading: 'With God on our side, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31).

The transfiguration experience was important not only for Jesus but also for his beloved disciples, Peter, James, and John. Their eyes were opened and they catch a glimpse of Jesus in his glory, and their ears were opened to hear the divine confirmation of Jesus' identity as the 'beloved Son' to whom they are commanded to listen. Captivated by the experience, Peter wants to remain on the mountain in the exalted company of Elijah, Moses and Jesus. However, this is not to be. This luminous moment passes and the three disciples find themselves alone with Jesus who warns them not to tell anyone what they have witnessed 'until the Son of Man had risen from the dead' (Mk 9:9). We are told that the disciples observed his warning faithfully, but continued to reflect on what they had seen and heard, wondering what it all meant.

Today's gospel prompts us to recall 'transfiguration moments' in our own lives, moments when we caught a glimpse of a transcendent beauty beyond the horizon of the habitual. Poets capture such moments better than we can. Such moments may not change us as they are always fleeting. But they can burst open our hearts to a sustaining presence in our lives and help us cope with times of great fear and uncertainty – such as we are experiencing at present – uplift our spirits and carry us forward in hope of a better future.

<https://sma.ie/homily-for-the-second-sunday-of-lent-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:

Fr Timothy's Installation Mass: Bishop Anthony will visit the Parish on Sunday, 21st 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.

Morning Tea: There will be a morning tea hosted by the Parish Pastoral Council following 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 3rd March. All welcome. Feel free to bring along a plate.

Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates

First Holy Communion:

Please keep our First Communion candidates in your prayers. They will be presented to the community this weekend and will begin lessons on 26th February.

Lesson 1: Week of 26th February

Lesson 2: Week of 4th March

Lesson 3: Week of 11th March

Lesson 4: Week of 18th March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Fri, 22nd March at 4.00pm in the Church (please note this change of date)

First Communion: Sunday, 7th April at 11.00am and Sunday, 14th April at 11.00am

Confirmation: Sunday, 30th June at 11.00am

Lenten Programme 2024

Lenten Retreat/Reflection: On Saturday, 16th March following 9.00am Mass, there will be a day of Retreat/Reflection. The day will commence with Adoration and then centre upon individual reflection and prayer. A visiting priest from Sydney will be present to guide us through the day. Lunch will be available and the afternoon will conclude with 5.00pm Mass. Please register your name on the list in the Gathering Area for catering purposes.

"A Resurrected Life" - A Lenten Daily Reflection booklet is now available from the Piety Stall for a cost of \$10.

Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection except on the 1st Friday, 1st March, when Way of the Cross will be at 3.30pm followed by the Eucharist and reflection.

Cleaners for 1st March: Mabel Torres, Elena Egan, Maria Owen, Linda Potestas.

Readers for 2nd & 3rd March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Kate Bravo & Jane Somerville

Sunday 7.30am—Joel Bajo & Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Christine French & Dawn Torrens

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor & Marian Bowyer

Servers for 2nd & 3rd March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Jose Torres & Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Hanaa El-Khatib & Bernie French

Sunday 5.00pm—Charles Kivunja

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.

St John the Baptist School: St John the Baptist School Open Days: Thursday, 21st March—7.00pm Enrolment Info Evening & Friday, 22nd March—9.30am School Tours. For further details contact 02 7256 2128 or sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au.

El Shaddai : 24th Feb from 12pm-4pm; prayer meeting at the Walter Baker Hall. 26th Anniversary celebration on 2nd Mar; Mass at 12pm followed by lunch and prayers.

World Day of Prayer: A World Day of Prayer service is to be held here at St John the Baptist Church on Friday, 1st March. The service commences at 10.30am and is followed by refreshments in the Leo Mahon Room. Everyone is welcome. World Day of Prayer is a World-wide movement of Christian Women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. It is a movement initiated and carried out in more than 170 countries and regions.

Fasting in the Words of St Francis de Sales

Fasting with Purpose: St Francis de Sales stressed that fasting should not be merely an empty ritual but a practice imbued with spiritual purpose. It should be done with the intention of drawing closer to God, deepening one's prayer life, and growing in virtue.

Interior Fast: For St Francis de Sales, fasting wasn't limited to abstaining from food. He also emphasised the importance of an "interior fast," which involves abstaining from sinful thoughts, desires, and behaviours. This inner purification was considered essential for true spiritual progress.

Moderation and Charity: While advocating for fasting, St Francis de Sales cautioned against extremes. He encouraged moderation, advising his followers to fast according to their physical abilities and circumstances. Moreover, he emphasised the importance of charity, suggesting that the saved resources from fasting should be used to help the less fortunate.

Fasting of the Senses: St Francis de Sales also taught about the "fasting of the senses," which involves guarding one's eyes, ears, and tongue from indulging in sinful or harmful stimuli. This aspect of fasting is about controlling what we take in through our senses to maintain purity of heart and mind.

Spiritual Benefits: Fasting, when done with the right disposition, can lead to numerous spiritual benefits. It helps in mastering one's passions, developing self-discipline, and fostering a deeper dependence on God.

Balanced Approach: St Francis de Sales discouraged excessive asceticism or fasting that could harm one's health or lead to spiritual pride. Instead, he advocated for a balanced approach to fasting, integrating it into one's overall spiritual life without neglecting other aspects of devotion such as prayer, sacraments, and acts of charity.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the LORD's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord; in the land of the living.

I trusted even when I said: "I am sorely afflicted." O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord; in the land of the living.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened by bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the name of the Lord.

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord; in the land of the living.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst; O Jerusalem.

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord; in the land of the living.

Reading 2: Rom 8:31-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.



Second Sunday of Lent
24th & 25th February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

Recently deceased: John Altes, Ulysses John Alvarez, Rhonda Fitzpatrick, Vicky Muscat

Anniversary: Mary Catania, Robert Cavanagh, Bill Finlayson, Sid Flakelar, Kate Walsh

Remembrance: Charlie Grima

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, Marie Sourini, David Pragasam, 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, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Van Mitchell, Chris Burt, Brian Searle, Sean McDermott, Gemma Tracey, Mark Richmond



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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

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