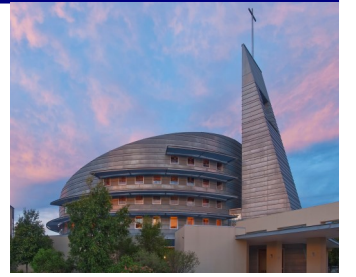




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



3rd November 2024

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

4 November — St Charles Borromeo

11 November — St Martin of Tours

12 November — St Josaphat

16 November — St Gertrude

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

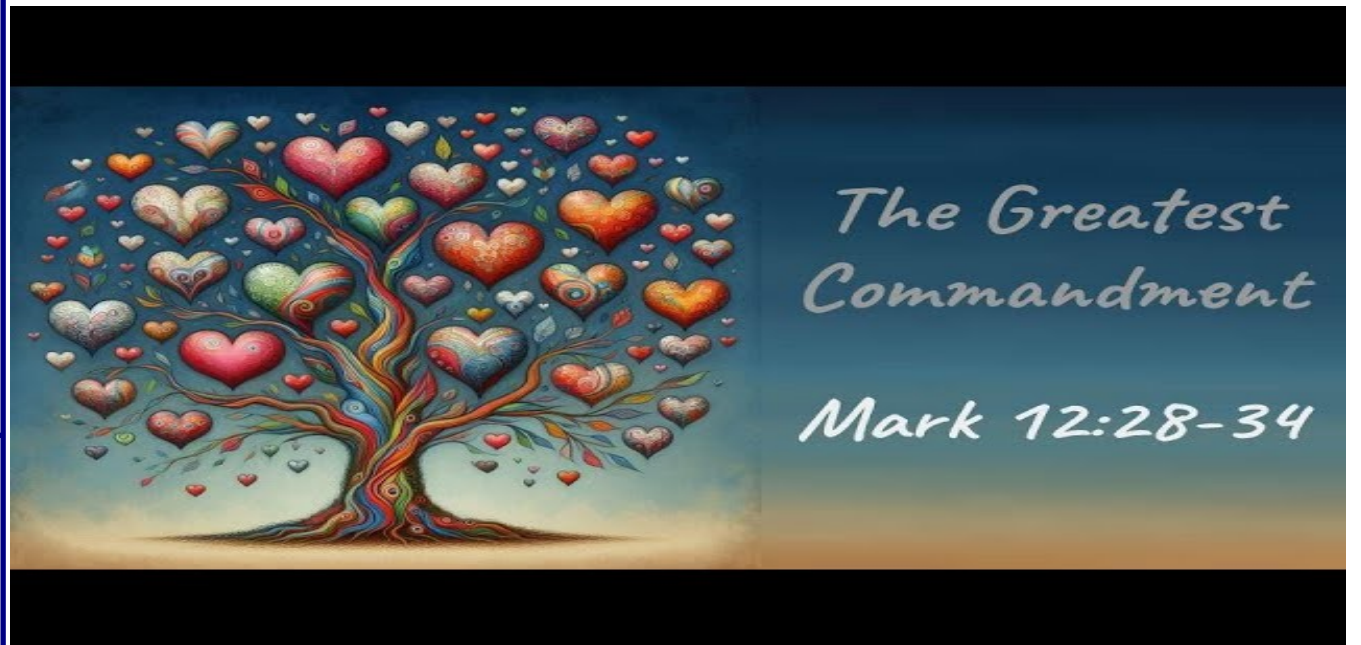
Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327



When I was a child there was a game that was played in school. It was called 'Follow the Leader.' It was a simple enough game. One person was chosen to be the 'leader'. Whatever the leader did or said, everyone else copied. For example, if the leader clapped their hands or jumped on one foot, everyone else did the same. If the leader counted from one to five, everyone else said the same thing. You were out of the game if you failed to do or say what the leader did or said.

Our gospel this Sunday is about leaders. It is about what they say and what they do. It is about what sort of example they are for the people they are trying to lead and guide. At the time of Jesus the religious leaders of the Jewish people were the Scribes and the Pharisees. In front of the people gathered, Jesus makes a very public condemnation and criticism of these religious leaders. Jesus clearly says for everyone to hear, '*do not be guided by what they do, since they do not practice what they preach.*' Strong words indeed. Jesus continues his criticism when he says that they always want to take the place of honour at meals and the best front seat in the synagogues.

What have these words of Jesus to do with us or say to us today? Jesus is warning us not to think of ourselves as being better than other people. We have to be careful not to say one thing and then do the very opposite. We are not to speak and act in ways so that people will notice us and tell us how wonderful we are. The Pharisees knew the Law of Moses which came from the Old Testament. They told the people that they had to follow these rules in every detail in their daily lives. They asked the people to do this, but were unable to do it themselves. They knew the Law very well; what they lacked was mercy, compassion and tenderness of heart. Their actions did not match their words. They made life difficult for people, but would not lift a finger to help them or ease their suffering. They expected others to follow the law and to be perfect, but they themselves were far from perfect.

God does not expect us to be perfect. However, we are asked to be genuine, honest and authentic with ourselves, others and God. When asked by the Pharisees what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied, '*Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself.*' This is the heart of the Jewish Law and it is at the heart of Jesus' message to us today. We are called to follow Jesus who came to serve and not to be served. This is the example we are asked to follow and live by. This gospel calls us to ask ourselves whether we do and say things so that people will notice us. The warning and challenge that Jesus puts to Pharisees is the one that he puts to each of us today. As I strive to follow Jesus, can I also follow his example of what it means to lead? Can I serve others and not just expect to be served?

Michael Moore OMI

<https://oblates.ie/gospel-reflection-31st-sunday-ordinary-time/>

Parish News:

Superior General Visit: Fr Abraham, MSFS, was on a visit from Rome to his priests working in Australia. He visited members from Sydney, Woy Woy, Toowoomba, Melbourne and Adelaide. He celebrated Mass with our parish community on 23rd October. He had a chat over a cup of tea before the planting of trees in honour of the 187th Foundation anniversary of the MSFS congregation.



Save the Date: To celebrate the Dedication of St John the Baptist Church there will be a barbeque after 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 17th November. All welcome.

St John the Baptist School: St John the Baptist School will host a Morning Tea after 9.15am Mass this Sunday. All welcome.

Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal: There will be a Pastoral Works Broken Bay Appeal on the weekend of 9th and 10th November. Our quota for the year is set at \$32,416.

“Connecting to the Mission of Jesus Christ!”
NOVEMBER 2024 APPEAL



PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care

Diocesan Count of Mass Attendance: The second Diocesan Count of Mass Attendance for 2024 will begin the weekend of 2nd/3rd November and continue for #4 weekends.

Thanks: Thanks to Joe and Rose at Bakers Delight Umina for donating the bread and pastries for the All Souls supper and the SJB school morning tea.

Baptisms: We warmly welcome Louie, Grace, Rosemarie and Vincent who will be Baptised this weekend.

November Envelopes: November envelopes are available in the Church and gathering area.

Reconciliation Programme 2024: Please continue to keep the children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday, 15th November at 4.00pm at St John the Baptist Church.

Mary Macs Place Hamper Wishlist: During the month of November we will be collecting hamper items in the Church on behalf of Mary Mac’s Place. The wishlist contains (but is not limited to) long life milk, coffee, juice poppers, biscuits, pasta, meal base sauce, lollies, tinned fruit, tinned tuna, noodles, chip packets (small bags), shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, deodorant, school snacks, small personal gift, festive food, snack food. All donations will be gratefully received. There will be containers located in the gathering area for donations. Thanks for your support.

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.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal: There will be a Vinnies Christmas Appeal on the weekend of 16th/17th November. Envelopes will be available. Please give generously.

Cleaners for 8th November: Laila Dawe, Jo Salter, Mimi Lambert, Christine French.

Readers for 9th & 10th November:
 Saturday 5.00pm—Leonie King, Marie Andrews, Jane Somerville

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton, Veronica Jordan, Joel Bajo
 Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Don Matheson, Michael Dixon

Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken, Pio Savea, Armella Dogillo

Servers for 9th & 10th November:
 Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo
 Sunday 7.30am—Peter French, Jose Torres
 Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French, Joesie Cameron, Joseph French
 Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

El Shaddai Prayer Group: The next El Shaddai meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 9th November from 12pm-4pm in the Walter Baker Hall.

RED Wednesday - 20th November 2024: Red Wednesday is an international initiative of Aid to the Church in Need. It is a day to stand up for faith and freedom and gather to pray for those who suffer and are persecuted for their faith. This year on **RED Wednesday**, Bishop Anthony will celebrate Mass in Our Lady of Dolours Church Chatswood at 7pm.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Deut 6:2-6

Moses spoke to the people, saying: "Fear the LORD, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper more, in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I love you, Lord, my strength; I love you, Lord.

I love you, O Lord, my strength. My Rock, my Fortress, my Saviour. God, you are the Rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. Lord, you are worthy of all praise. When I call I am saved from my foes.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength; I love you, Lord.

Long life to the Lord, my Rock! Praise to you, God, who saves me. The God who gives me redress and subdues people under me.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength; I love you, Lord.

Reading 2: Heb 7:23-28

Brothers and sisters: The levitical priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office, but Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.



Readings for the Week:

Monday, 4th November: Phil 2:1-4/Ps 130/Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday, 5th November: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 21:26-32/Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday, 6th November: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 26:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 14:25-33

Thursday, 7th November: Phil 3:3-8/Ps 104:2-7/Lk 15:1-10

Friday, 8th November: Phil 3:17-4:1/Ps 121:1-5/Lk 16:1-8

Saturday, 9th November: Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 45:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 2:13-22

Sunday, 10th November: 1 Kg 17:10-16/Ps 145:7-10/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Jess Chua, Margaret (Peg) Donnellan, Joseph King

Anniversary: Joseph Calleja, Doris Galea

Remembrance: Patrick Byrne, Gwen P McCarthy, Richard Charles McCarthy

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

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.



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

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Thank You



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