



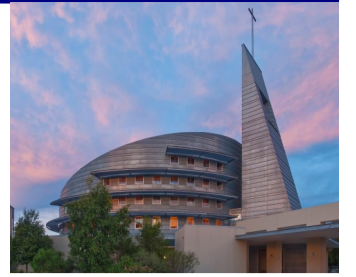
WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

26th January 2025

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time & Australia Day

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

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In the first four verses of St Luke's Gospel which have been read to you today, you will find reason to be grateful to him. He went to a lot of trouble in order to put in a permanent form, in a written record, the essential facts concerning Christ, his words and his works, so that we "would understand (like Theophilus) the certainty of the faith in which we have been instructed." But while we must be grateful to St Luke, we owe a bigger debt of gratitude still to the all-good, all-wise God who moved Luke and the other Evangelists to preserve for us in writing the essential truths of the Christian faith that has been handed down to us. The Apostles were companions of Christ. They witnessed his works and his words; they remembered most of his doings and his sayings, and what they might have forgotten the Holy Spirit recalled to their memory on that first Pentecost day in Jerusalem. The first two generations of Christians received the facts of the faith from these eye-witnesses and the miracles so frequent in the infant Church were confirmation of the truth of their teaching.

But God in his wisdom provided for the many generations to come who would not have this evident confirmation of their faith. He established a teaching body in his Church which would safeguard the purity of the Christian truths, for "he himself would be with it all days," and he gave us a written record of the facts of the faith in the Gospels and the other writings of the New Testament.

How can we ever thank God sufficiently for his thoughtfulness in our regard? We Christians of today can be as certain, as assured, of the truth of the faith that we are trying to practice as was St Luke who was converted by St Paul. We have a living, teaching Magisterium in the Church, which authentically preserves and interprets for us the true facts of Christ's teaching and works as written down for us by a first-generation Christian under the impulse and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. If we needed further proof of the priceless value of our New Testament Books, the virulent attacks on their authenticity, on their objectivity, and on their veracity, by enemies of the faith down to and including our own day, should be sufficient. But they have stood the test of time and the onslaughts of biased, prejudiced criticism, for they are the word of truth, which is eternal, and comes from God.

We have a priceless gift of God in the inspired Books of the Bible. Let us show true appreciation for that gift by using it to build up a better knowledge of the Christian faith which it teaches us. There should be a Bible, or at least the New Testament, in every Christian home. It should not be an ornament on a shelf, but a fountain and source from which we can draw strength and refreshment in the daily practice of our Christian faith. Almost two thousand years ago, God's infinite goodness provided this source of strength, the "fountain of living water," for us Christians of this century. Are we grateful for his thoughtfulness? Are we nourishing our faith at this blessed fountain of his infinite wisdom and love?

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2025-01-26>

Parish News:

Fr Alex & Fr Vincent: We wish Fr Alex the best of luck in his new role as Parish Administrator at Wyoming and thank him for service to us at Woy Woy. May God's blessings always follow him. We also wish Fr Vincent a safe journey to India, where he will participate in the general chapter of the congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales.

Public Holiday: The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 27th January. Mass will be celebrated at 9.00am.

Morning Tea: There will be a morning tea following 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 2nd February which will be provided by the Parish Pastoral Council. All welcome.

Cleaners for 7th February: Anne-Marie Young, Frances Giunta, Linda Potestas, Rano Spiteri.

Readers for 1st & 2nd February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford, Jane Rutherford, Kate Bravo

Sunday 7.30am—Joel Bajo, Phoebe Glacken, Veronica Jordan

Sunday 9.15am—Christine French, Jacqui Scholte, Violetta Chol

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith, Marian Bowyer

Servers for 1st & 2nd February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French, Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Joseph French

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

Readers' Roster: Copies of the latest readers' roster are available in the sacristy.

Rosary Makers: We will be resuming the Rosary Makers group on Tuesday, 28th January. If anyone would like to join the group and learn how to make rosaries, they would be most welcome. We meet in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Road every Tuesday from 9.30am to 12.00pm. We look forward to meeting you there.

Youth and Young Adults Formation Day Pymble Saturday 15th February 2025: A Formation day for Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leaders in the Diocese, led by Mission Broken Bay and hosted by Pymble Parish will be held on Saturday 15th Feb 2025. The day's programme is a repeat of the recent Formation Day held in Gosford and is an opportunity to engage with those who were unable to attend. Please email mission@bbcatholic.org.au.

Broken Bay Pilgrimage Assisi, Rome October 2025: In early February, Mission Broken Bay will launch a ten day Broken Bay pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome with Chaplain, Fr Hien Vu on 1-10 October 2025. Included in this pilgrimage will be Mass with Bishop Anthony in Rome, visits to the Holy Doors and participation in the Vatican celebrations for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life 8-9 October. There will be an information night at 6.30pm on

27th February. Enquiries mission@bbcatholic.org.au.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Sunday of the Word of God, 9th February 2025 : Sunday of the Word of God is a day devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God and will be celebrated on 9th February 2025. Pope Francis impresses that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians. Resources, including details about the Broken Bay Bible Offer can be found on our website on <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/mission/biblical-resources?>

Readings for the Week:

Mon , 27th Jan: **St Angela Merici, Sts Timothy & Titus**
- Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 97:1-6/Mk 3:22-30

Tues , 28st Jan: **St Thomas Aquinas** - Heb 10:1-10/Ps 39:2, 4, 7-8, 10-11/Mk 3:31-35

Wed , 29th Jan: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 109:1-4/Mk 4:1-20

Thurs , 30th Jan: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 23:1-6/Mk 4:21-25

Fri, 31st Jan: **St John Bosco** - Heb 10:32-39/Ps 36:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34

Sat, 1st Feb: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Ps Lk 1:69-75/Mk 4:35-41

Sun, 2nd Feb: **The Presentation of the Lord/World day of Prayer for Consecrated Life** - Mal 3:1-4/Ps 23:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40

 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Reading 1: Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it — for he was standing higher up than any of the people —; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep"— for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!"

Responsorial Psalm:**R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. My trust is in the rule of the Lord, it gives wisdom to the simple.

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes of all.

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them are just.

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock.

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**Reading 2: 1 Cor 12:12-30**

Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body, " it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body, " it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you, " nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honourable we surround with greater honour, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honour to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Alleluia:**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

R. Alleluia!**Gospel: Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realise the certainty of the teachings you have received. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.* Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Noel Bjorndahl, Benedetto Bortone, Jean Carr, Josephine Kennedy, Kerri Lane, Charles Law, Margaret Penfold

Anniversary: Richard Alexander Culmer

Remembrance: Paulina Menezes

Sick: John Aarts, Margaret Ayres, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Lyn Dwyer, David Hopkins, Aline Fauvette, Dymna Fitzpatrick, Maureen Fotheringham, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, Bill Hunt, Linda Italiano, Josephine Kennedy, Marge Lawrence, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, James Matthews, Ronald Matthews, Oscar James Moretti, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddcliff, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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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