



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



3rd March 2024
3rd Sunday of Lent

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

Lenten Programme

Way of the Cross &

Mass:

Wednesdays & Fridays:

6.30pm followed by
Mass at 7.00pm and
reflection afterwards.



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.

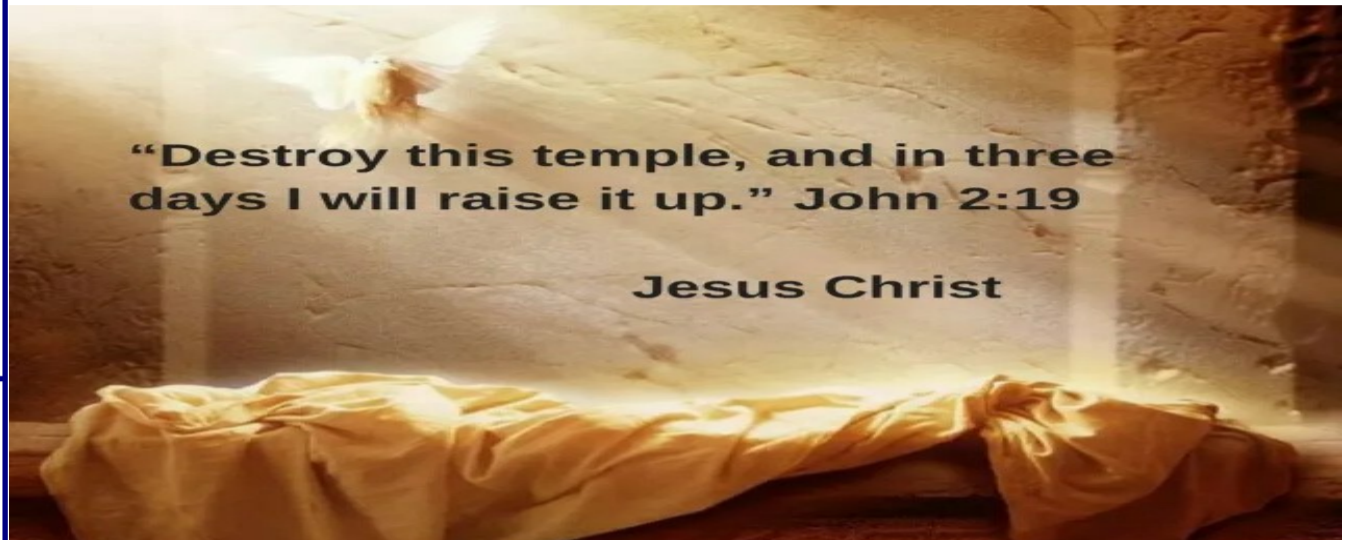
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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ASSERTING HIS AUTHORITY

The Gospel according to John is believed to have been written somewhere between 90-100 CE, later than the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, so this major and still raw event is the lens through which John tells the story of Jesus. We must also be mindful that these events are written after the death and resurrection of Jesus which the author wanted to highlight.

It would have been an interesting sight, thousands of Jewish pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the ritual of Passover, one of the key celebrations of Judaism. They would have gathered at the Temple, keen to offer sacrifice. Because many had travelled quite a distance to be there, the practice was to purchase cattle, sheep and doves from the merchants rather than bring them from home as the animals had to be free from blemish. This was the custom as was the paying of Temple taxes which needed to be paid with coins which didn't have the Roman Emperor's image, hence the need for the moneychangers. A necessary evil, some might say, but one which was accepted as part of Jewish life...until Jesus challenged the status quo. While there was the initial shock of Jesus driving out the merchants and moneychangers, the great controversy was that Jesus identifies God as his Father and names himself as a new Temple, a sanctuary, the dwelling place of God, living and openly available to them. No longer is God to be found solely in the Temple building but in the person and mission of Jesus, an encounter which they were, and we are, all invited into. Jesus' mission, his love for the Father, his love for all people, his sacrifice, cannot be confined between mere bricks and mortar. He reaches out to all the ends of the earth. Jesus is the new Temple where there is infinite room for all. But wait, there's more! Jesus gives a clear indication of his own death on the cross which the disciples would only comprehend in hindsight.

Just to be clear, Jesus is not attacking the Temple or the systems which were in place, but rather offering a new way of living the faith; no longer only measured by keeping the commandments which we hear about in the First Reading (and the 613 laws found in the Old Testament regarding ritual, legal, and moral practices), now it's about living as Jesus lived; at its core is the love of God and love of neighbour. It's not dependant on Temple sacrifice and the various processes involved. It's about embracing personal sacrifice motivated by love, such as the giving of time and talent, a listening ear, acts of service...when in reality, we may prefer doing something else.

As hearers of the word in 2024, let us be open to encountering God this Lent as we are reminded of the wonderful gift of eternal life which has been offered to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the sanctuary and Temple of God.

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/third-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 this Sunday, 3rd March. All welcome. Feel free to bring along a plate.

Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates

First Holy Communion:

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 there will be a day of Retreat/Reflection. The day will commence with Morning Prayer and Adoration and then centre upon individual reflection and prayer. A visiting priest from Sydney will be present to guide us through the day. Morning tea and lunch will be available and the afternoon will conclude with a 2.30pm Anointing 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.

Cleaners for 8th March: Veronica Jordan, Christine French, Mimi Lambert, Laila Dawe.

Readers Roster:

There is a new Readers' Roster being prepared and it will be available for distribution shortly.


Servers for 9th & 10th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Bernie French

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

 **Baptism:** We warmly welcome Beau and Cruz Farham who will be Baptised this weekend.

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.

Thanks: Thanks to Joe and Rose Mondal at Bakers Delight Umina who have donated baked goods for the World Day of Prayer and the PPC morning tea.

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 : 26th Anniversary celebration on 2nd March; Mass at 12pm followed by lunch and prayers.

Christian Charity in the Words of St Francis de Sales:

At the core of St Francis de Sales' understanding of Christian charity is the principle of selflessness. He emphasises that true charity springs from a heart emptied of selfish desires, a heart wholly surrendered to God's love. In his inspiring work, "Introduction to the Devout Life," St Francis de Sales articulates charity as "that tender love which binds us to God, uniting us to one another, and making us ever ready to serve and help all men for the love of God."

For St Francis de Sales, charity is not confined to acts of material generosity, but encompasses a wide range of virtues and actions. It includes compassion for the suffering, forgiveness for wrongs endured, patience in bearing with the faults of others, and humility in serving one's neighbours. In his "Treatise on the Love of God," St Francis de Sales explains how charity extends beyond material assistance, permeating every aspect of human interaction. He writes, "It is not the actual suffering but the love of suffering which counts with God."

Furthermore, St Francis de Sales underscores the universality of charity. He teaches that Christian love knows no boundaries, extending to all people regardless of their social status, religious affiliation, or moral standing. In his pastoral letters and sermons, he exhorts believers to embrace a spirit of inclusivity and compassion, mirroring the boundless love of God who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Integral to St Francis de Sales' conception of charity is the notion of charity as a means of union with God. He suggests that through acts of selfless love, individuals draw closer to the divine source of all love. In his "Letters of Spiritual Direction," St Francis de Sales offers practical guidance on how to cultivate charity in daily life, emphasising the importance of interior disposition and intentionality in charitable deeds.

Moreover, St Francis de Sales underscores the transformative power of charity in fostering spiritual growth and building community. He envisions a society where charity reigns supreme, where individuals strive not for their own advancement but for the well-being of others. In his pastoral ministry, St. Francis de Sales worked tirelessly to promote reconciliation, peace, and harmony among diverse communities, embodying the spirit of Christian charity in action.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Ex 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honour your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting 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.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

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

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Gospel: Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.



Third Sunday of Lent
2nd & 3rd March



Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for **Leaia** and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

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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: Job Argame Leodones, Patricia Nesbitt,

Anniversary: Nenita Santos

Remembrance: Charlie Portelli

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, Jai Kurt, Jodie Fleming



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world, inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

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

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