



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



28th January 2024
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

31 Jan—St John Bosco

2 Feb—The Presentation of the Lord

5 Feb—St Agatha

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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SPEAKING WITH AUTHORITY

Mark makes it clear that, from the very first day of Christ's public ministry, his messianic power began to be manifested to those who saw and heard him. The Jews of Capernaum were "astonished" at his teaching and "amazed" at his power over the evil spirits. "What is this," they asked one another, "a new teaching and the unclean spirits obey him!" But they were still a long way from recognising him for what he was, the Messiah and Son of God. This is as might be expected, the astounding mystery of the incarnation was way beyond human expectation or human imagination. And it was our Lord's own plan to reveal this mystery, slowly and gradually, so that when the chain of evidence had been completed by his resurrection, his followers could look back and see each link in that chain. Then they would be ready to accept without hesitation the mystery of the incarnation and realise the infinite love and power of God that brought it about. We look back today through the eyes of the Evangelists, and, like them, know that Christ was God as well as man—two natures in one person. We should not therefore be "amazed" at the teaching of Jesus or at his power over the unclean spirits. What should amaze us really is the love that God showed mankind in becoming one of our race.

Today, while amazed at God's love for us, let us also be justly amazed at the shabby and grudging return we make for love. Many amongst us even deny that act of God's infinite love, not from convincing historical and logical proofs, but in order to justify their own unwillingness to co-operate with the divine plan for their eternal future. This is not to say that their future, after death, does not concern them; it is a thought which time and again intrudes on all men, but they have allowed the affairs of this world which should be stepping stones to their future life, to become instead mill-stones which crush their spirits and their own true self-interests.

While we sincerely hope that we are not in that class, we can still find many facets in our daily Christian lives which can and should make us amazed at our lack of gratitude to God and to his incarnate Son. 'Leaving out serious sin which turns us away from God if not against him, how warm is our charity, our love of God and neighbour? How much of our time do we give to the things of God and how much to the things of Caesar? How often does our daily struggle for earthly existence and the grumbles and grouses which it causes, blot out from our view the eternal purpose God had in giving us this earthly existence. How often during the past year have we said from our heart: "Thank you, God, for putting me in this world, and thank you a thousand times more, for giving me the opportunity and the means of reaching the next world where I shall live happily forevermore in your presence"? If the true answer for many of us is "not once," then begin today. Let us say it now with all sincerity and say it often in the years that are left to us.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2024-01-28>

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: Many thanks to all who were involved in helping with the St Francis de Sales celebration on Wednesday. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Readers and Acolytes: We are looking for Readers and Acolytes for Sunday Masses. If you are interested, please register your name and contact details on the list on the table in the Gathering Area.

Cleaners for 2nd February: Anne-Marie Young, Rose Kissing, Linda Potestas, Rano Spiteri.

Readers for 3rd & 4th February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Wendy Whiteman & Leonie King

Sunday 7.30am—Isaak Giunta & Veronica Jordan

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Dawn Torrens

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor & Kris Aitken

Servers for 3rd & 4th February:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Hanaa El-Khatib & 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.



Baptism: We warmly welcome Murray Dempsey and Seamus Dempsey who will be Baptised this weekend.



Cash Housie at Peninsula Community Centre, Saturdays 7.00pm, 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy. Proceeds benefit the Parish.

Parish Census: We are in the process of updating our records. You can now collect a blank Parish Census Form from the Gathering Area of the Church. Please place completed forms in the Census Forms box or email to woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au. If you have submitted a form in recent times, and your details haven't changed, there is no need to complete another one. Thanks.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES AND LITTLE VIRTUES

VIRTUE: Virtue is the moral excellence of a person. A morally excellent person has a character made-up of virtues valued as good. In practicing any virtue is well to choose that which is most according to our duty, rather than most according to our taste. Because of these virtues or positive character traits, he or she is committed to doing the right thing no matter what the personal cost, and does not bend to impulses, urges or desires, but acts according to values and principles. In this short article we shall focus on the little virtues of Saint Francis de Sales.

PATIENCE: Patience is the art of endless waiting; it teaches how to wait, above all, in times of trial and trouble. Patience is an attitudinal perseverance. Patience is the ability and the readiness to wait indefinitely to carry out a task that takes a long time. Patience sustains life. Patience makes us to endure pain without complaints, helps us to discern wisely and deal with issues of life

amicably. Practice patience, you will hold your own life in your hands.

Saint Francis de Sales Speaks...

It is a great art of living to bear with oneself. Francis knew the importance of bearing with oneself as also with one another. He puts it succinctly; "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." Basically we are prone to pinpoint the mistakes and limitations of others but fail to admit our own limitations. You have need of Patience so that doing the will of God you may receive what he has Promised. (Heb. 10: 36)

HUMILITY: The word "humility" is derived from the Latin humilis, which means low, humble, from earth which lies beneath us. The highest point of humility consists not only in the Voluntary acknowledgement of our abjection but in loving it and taking Pleasure in it. The words "humility" and "human" both derive from "humus" or earth. Humility is the act of bowing towards the earth, recognising that we are fashioned from the earth and return to it, acknowledging God's greatness and human littleness. The more we recognise God as our creator, the humbler we will be.

Saint Francis de Sales Speaks...

Humility and meekness are inseparable virtues; the former is pleasing to God, the latter pleasing to our brothers and sisters. St. Francis de Sales highlights "humility as the hallmark of Christian's spirituality." He explains it with it a simile: *The balm, which as I mentioned earlier always sinks, sinks to the bottom more than all liquids, symbolises humility. Olive oil which always floats on the surface symbolises gentleness and kindness, rising above all things, and excelling all things, which being the flower of charity, says St Bernard, comes to perfection when it is not merely patient, but gentle and cheerful. Give heed, then daughter, that you keep this mystic charism of gentleness and humility in your heart. {IDL Pg164.}*

GENTLENESS: Gentleness towards ourselves and others is real strength; the power of perseverance makes it even more perfect. Only when we are strong in the practice of virtues we can really be gentle. "Humility makes us perfect towards God, and gentleness toward our neighbour" [IDL Pg. 164] says Saint Francis de Sales.

Saint Francis de Sales Speaks...

According to him, gentleness and humility make the mystical chrisim, nothing by force, all by gentleness. Gentleness is a value that enables us to be compassionate and humane. Nothing by force, but all by gentleness can uproot violence and win almost everyone. Gentleness ranks first among the little virtues of Saint Francis de Sales. He struggled to become a gentle person for 25 years. His determination and perseverance made him the "Gentleman Saint." For him, nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Deut 18:15-20

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

Responsorial Psalm:

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Come in; Let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts as at Meriba, as on that day your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my works."

R. If today you hear his voice; harden not your hearts.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided. An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.



**If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.**

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

Recently deceased: Sidney Azie, Mildred Colville, Serge Fauvette, Christine Semark

Anniversary: Peter Hope, Dominic Tran

Remembrance: Mitchell & Butler Families

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



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

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.

Thank You



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DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY & SUNDAY (4.30pm to 9.30pm)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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