



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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**

Triona Meagher

**P: 02 4341 1073**

**Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327**

**E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au**



"Mary arose and went in haste!"

Today, in the Gospel reading we are told that Mary went "in haste" to the hill country of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth. We also know that Mary going in haste was informed by the news she heard from the angel Gabriel about the state of her cousin Elizabeth—that she was pregnant at an advanced age. There is something to be learned about the action of Mary as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

The essence of Christmas is to be there for one another, offering a helping hand and giving and receiving love irrespective of our difficulties and vulnerabilities. Mary had heard a "devastating news" of her own, she was to bear a son. But she never allowed her own difficult life to stop her from reaching out to her cousin Elizabeth. She stands up in confidence and goes to see her. We are told of what happened in the encounter and the blessings both women received at the sight of each other.

We are invited to walk with and in the midst of those suffering in our own time and place. We are also called to live together the call to intercultural, international and intergenerational community. In both calls, Mary can be a model to us, that amidst our own personal challenges we could rise in haste and respond to the call to be compassionate and loving.

As we approach Christmas, let us reflect on the true essence of the festival we celebrate. Let us rise in haste and reach out to those in need, with either our time or presence. When we do, like Mary, our souls truly will be filled with the joy of the season, and truly be about the work of resurrection.

**Sister Esther Adjoa Entsiwah, CSC**

**<https://www.cscsisters.org/2024-advent-reflections/#tve-jump-192a15956f0>**

**Parish News:**

**New Appointments:** Bishop Anthony has announced that Fr Alex has been appointed as Administrator at Wyoming Parish and Fr Vincent has been appointed as Chaplain to Gosford Hospital. Both Fr Alex and Fr Vincent will be resident at Wyoming Parish and the appointments are effective from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. We congratulate both Fr Alex and Fr Vincent and wish them all the very best in their new roles. We are thankful for all they have done for our Parish and we will be very sorry to see them go.

**Parish Office:** The Parish Office will close at 3.00pm on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will reopen at 8.30am on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January. In case of emergency outside of those dates, please call 0438 631 327.

**Defibrillator:** In the event of a medical emergency, we now have a defibrillator in the Gathering Area. It is situated on the wall next to the door of the confessional.

**Piety Stall:** Copies of 'Joy of the Gospel, Daily Reflections', are now available at the piety stall. Columban and Josephite calendars also available. Vinnies Christmas cards and envelopes in packs of #10 priced at \$2 per pack.

**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.

**Cleaners for 27<sup>th</sup> December:** Christine French, Rose Kissing, Mabel Torres, Brian Nairn.

**Readers for 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> December:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Marie Andrews, Leonie King, Kate Bravo

Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan, Phoebe Glacken, Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Jacqui Scholte, Don Matheson

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer, Peter Smith, Armella Dogillo

**Servers for 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> December:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Joel Bajo, Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib, Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

**Christmas Offering:** Christmas Offering envelopes are now available.

**Feast of the Holy Family and Opening of the 2025 Holy Jubilee:**

Bishop Anthony welcomes the People of God in Broken Bay to join him on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December for 9.30am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

**Parish census:** Welcome to all new parishioners. 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 them to [woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au).

**Mass of Remembrance:** There will be a Mass of Remembrance for Robert Baker at 11.00am on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January at St John the Baptist Church. There will be a lunch afterwards in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome.

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:**

**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December:**

5.30pm at SJB School Oval, 21a Dulkara Road

7.00pm at the Church

9.00pm at the Church

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December:**

7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

**Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> December:**

9.00am

**Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December New Year Liturgy:**

4.00pm Adoration and 5.00pm Thanksgiving Mass

**READINGS:**

**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December - The Nativity of the Lord:**

**Vigil:**

**1st Reading:** Is 62:1-5

**2nd Reading:** Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

**Gospel:** Mt 1:1-25

**Midnight:**

**1st Reading:** Is 9:1-7

**2nd Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

**Gospel:** Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:**

**1st Reading:** Is 62:11-12

**2nd Reading:** Titus 3:4-7

**Gospel:** Lk 2:15-20

**Day:**

**1st Reading:** Is 52:7-10

**2nd Reading:** Heb 1:1-6

**Gospel:** Jn 1:1-18

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**1st Reading:** 1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

**2nd Reading:** 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

**Gospel:** Lk 41-52

**Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> January - Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**1st Reading:** Num 6:22-27

**2nd Reading:** Gal 4:4-7

**Gospel:** Lk 2:16-21

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> January - The Epiphany of the Lord**

**1st Reading:** Is 60:1-6

**2nd Reading:** Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

**Gospel:** Mt 2:1-12

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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## **Reading 1: Micah 5:1-4**

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

**R. Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, make haste to help us.

**R. Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

God of hosts, turn again we implore you, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine which your right hand has planted.

**R. Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be with the one you have chosen, the one to whom you give your strength. We shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

**R. Lord make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## **Reading 2: Heb 10:5-10**

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" "First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## **Alleluia:**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

**R. Alleluia!**

## **Gospel: Lk 1:39-44**

Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



**Let us keep in our prayers:**

**Recently deceased:** Arthur Gapps, Luke O'Toole

**Remembrance:** Charlie Grima, Joseph Kasunic

**Sick:** John Aarts, Margaret Ayres, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, David Hopkins, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, Bill Hunt, Linda Italiano, Josephine Kennedy, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Oscar James Moretti, Robert Morrisset, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Jacqui Scholte, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December**

**For pilgrims of hope**

**We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.**

**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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