



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



10th March 2024
4th 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.

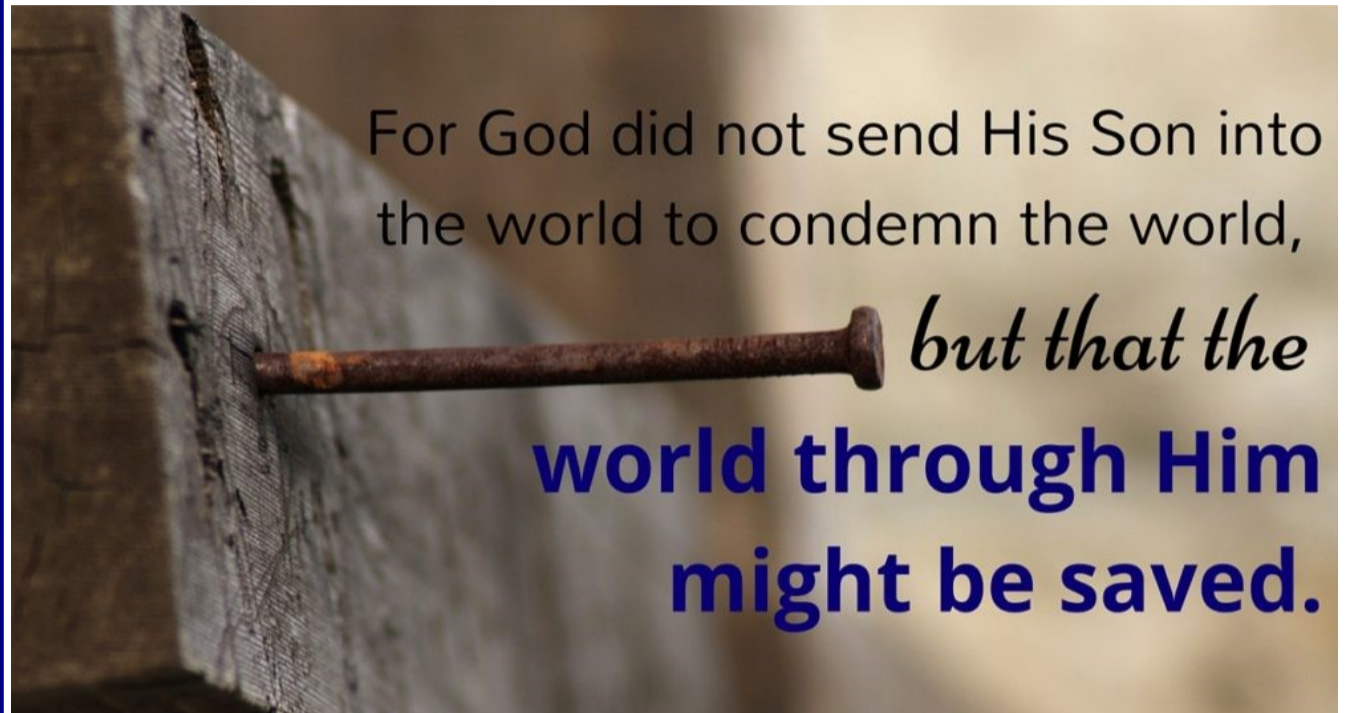
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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SALVATION THROUGH BELIEF: LIGHT SHINING IN DARKNESS

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Lætare* (Rejoice) Sunday, from the first words of today's liturgy. As on *Gaudete* Sunday in Advent, rose-coloured vestments may replace violet, and flowers may grace the altar, symbolising the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of Our Lord. The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God, given to us sinners through Jesus, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness, and grace extended to us in Christ.

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we see the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Today's Gospel provides a theme that parallels the Gospel, but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His Only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God. Then, by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9), Jesus further explains God's plan of salvation. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite from death through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus, because the love of God for mankind is that great.

<https://frtonyshomilies.com/2024/03/03/lent-iv-b-sunday-march-10-2024/>

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.

Thanks: Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make the service for the The World Day of Prayer a success. I would like to mention in particular Jane Rutherford and her husband Paul for the catering; Lyn Dwyer and the members of the Choir; Rita Sheil for playing the organ and of course Father Timothy—from Mary Ford, Ecumenical Co-ordinator.

Thanks: A grateful thanks to the members of the PPC and all who were involved in organising the morning tea last weekend.

Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates

First Holy Communion:

Lesson 3: Week of 11th March

Lesson 4: Week of 18th March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Friday, 22nd March at 4.00pm in the Church (please note this change of date). There will also be a rehearsal for First Communion.

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

Way of the Cross each Wednesday and Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection.

Lenten Retreat/Reflection: On Saturday, 16th March there will be a day of Retreat/Reflection. There will be no 9.00am Mass. 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 also. There will be a break for morning tea at 10.30am and a light lunch at 12.30pm. The day will conclude with a 2.30pm Anointing Mass. Please register your name on the list in the Gathering Area for catering purposes.

Sit n Chat: A group of seniors meet every 3rd Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. March's meeting is scheduled for 18th March. If you would like to join the group please contact Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.

Cleaners for 15th March: Rose Kissing, Jo MacMillan, Anne-Marie Young, Tom French.

Readers Roster:

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

Servers for 16th & 17th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French & Joesie Cameron

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.



Divine Will Cenacle: Please join us to study the writings of Luisa Piccarreta contained in the 36 volumes of the Book of Heaven. Living in the Divine Will is the complete fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We will learn about the greatest gift of God.

Meetings each Thursday in the Leo Mahon Room at 9.15am. All welcome. Any enquiries please contact Michael McCulloch on 0421 019 135.

Trinitarian model of Repentance (St Francis de Sales)

It is a divine call that entails the recognition of sins, contrition, and a commitment to amend one's life. This is considered a fundamental aspect for Catholics, representing a necessary step towards receiving God's forgiveness and mercy.

Recognition of Sin: Repentance begins with recognising and acknowledging one's sins. This involves an honest examination of conscience and an awareness of actions or attitudes that are contrary to God's will. In Psalm 51:3-4, we read, "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight".

Contrition: True repentance includes genuine sorrow and contrition for sins. we believe in the importance of a sincere and heartfelt sorrow for having offended God. In Psalm 51:17, we read, "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you God, will not despise."

Amendment of Life: Repentance is not just about feeling sorry for sins but also involves a commitment to change one's life and strive for holiness. This includes avoiding occasions of sin and actively living according to God's commandments.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: 2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

For it was there that they asked us: our captors, for songs, our oppressors for joy. "Sing to us," they said, "one of Zion's songs."

R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand be withered.

R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys.

R. Let my tongue be silenced if ever I forget you.

Reading 2: Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

Gospel: Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.



Fourth Sunday of Lent
9th & 10th March



As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

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

Recently deceased: Joan Bailey

Anniversary: Paul Hogan, Ruth Jordan

Remembrance: Pat & Joan Fitzgerald, Pat & Reg Hogan

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, 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, Alana Rose



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>

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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