



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



17th March 2024
5th 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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GLORIFICATION—DIVINE PURPOSE

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>

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: Thanks to Joe and Rose Mondal from Bakers Delight Umina for donating the baked goods that will be enjoyed at our Lenten Retreat on Saturday.

Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates

First Holy Communion:

Lesson 4: Week of 18th March

Reconciliation & rehearsal prior to First Communion: Friday, 22nd March at 4.00pm in the Church.

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.

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 25th March. Please contact Jane on 0419 233 284 for further information. 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. 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. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend. The Parish Bus will be available if transportation is required. Please register your name for the bus on the list in the Gathering Area.

Baptisms: We warmly welcome Poppy Priest and Violet Toomey who will be Baptised this weekend.

Cleaners for 27th March: Andrew Hopkins, Pam Hickey, Rano Spiteri, Brian Nairn.

Readers Roster for 23rd and 24th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Rutherford & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton & Phoebe Glacken

Sunday 9.15am—Violetta Chol & Emma Baker

Sunday 5.00pm—Peter Smith & Armella Dogillo

The new readers' roster is available in the servers' sacristy.

Servers for 23rd & 24th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman & Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Jose Torres

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson & Hanaa El-Khatib

Sunday 5.00pm—Charles Kivunja

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: The Divine Will Cenacle meetings continue each Thursday in the Leo Mahon Room at 9.15am. All welcome. Any enquiries please contact Michael McCulloch on 0421 019 135.

Meditation in the words of St. Francis de Sales:

St Francis de Sales, emphasised the importance of contemplative prayer and meditation in deepening one's spiritual life. He believed that meditation was a means to grow closer to God and develop a profound interior life. According to St Francis de Sales, meditation involves engaging the mind, heart, and soul in a focused reflection on spiritual truths, scripture and the life of Christ.

In his writings, St Francis de Sales outlined a method of meditation that emphasised simplicity, humility, and love. He encouraged individuals to choose a short passage from scripture or a spiritual text and to reflect deeply on its meaning, allowing it to penetrate their hearts and minds. This process of meditation, he believed, would lead to a greater understanding of God's love and mercy and inspire a desire to live a life of virtue and holiness.

St Francis de Sales also emphasised the importance of silence and stillness in meditation, creating an environment conducive to listening to God's voice speaking within the depths of the soul. He encouraged individuals to set aside time each day for prayer and meditation, even if only for a few minutes, and to approach this time with sincerity, openness, and trust in God's presence.

To practice meditation according to St Francis de Sales, one can follow these steps:

1. Choose a short passage from scripture or a spiritual text that resonates with you.
 2. Find a quiet and comfortable place for meditation, free from distractions.
 3. Begin by placing yourself in God's presence and asking for the grace to meditate attentively.
 4. Read the chosen passage slowly and attentively, allowing its words to sink into your heart and mind.
 5. Reflect on the meaning of the passage, considering how it applies to your life and what God may be saying to you through it.
 6. Engage your imagination and emotions in the meditation, allowing yourself to enter into the scene or story depicted in the passage.
 7. Respond to God's presence with love, gratitude, and a willingness to follow His will more closely in your life.
- Conclude the meditation with a prayer of thanksgiving and a resolution to live out the insights gained through the practice. In summary, meditation according to St Francis de Sales is a process of deep reflection on spiritual truths, scripture and the life of Christ, leading to a greater understanding of God's love and a desire to live a life of virtue and holiness. It involves simplicity, humility, silence, and a sincere openness to God's presence and guidance.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion, blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Reading 2: Heb 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Verse before the Gospel: Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Jn 12:20-30

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.



Fifth Sunday of Lent
23rd & 24th March



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

Recently deceased:

Anniversary: Daniel Hennessy

Remembrance:

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>

Name: St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy

BSB: 062 784 Account no: 10000 1742

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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