



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



**11th February 2024**  
**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

## Lenten Programme

**Way of the Cross & Mass:**

**First Friday** at 3.30pm,  
followed by Anointing  
Mass at 4.00pm

**Wednesdays & Fridays:**

6.30pm followed by Mass at 7.00pm



## 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.*

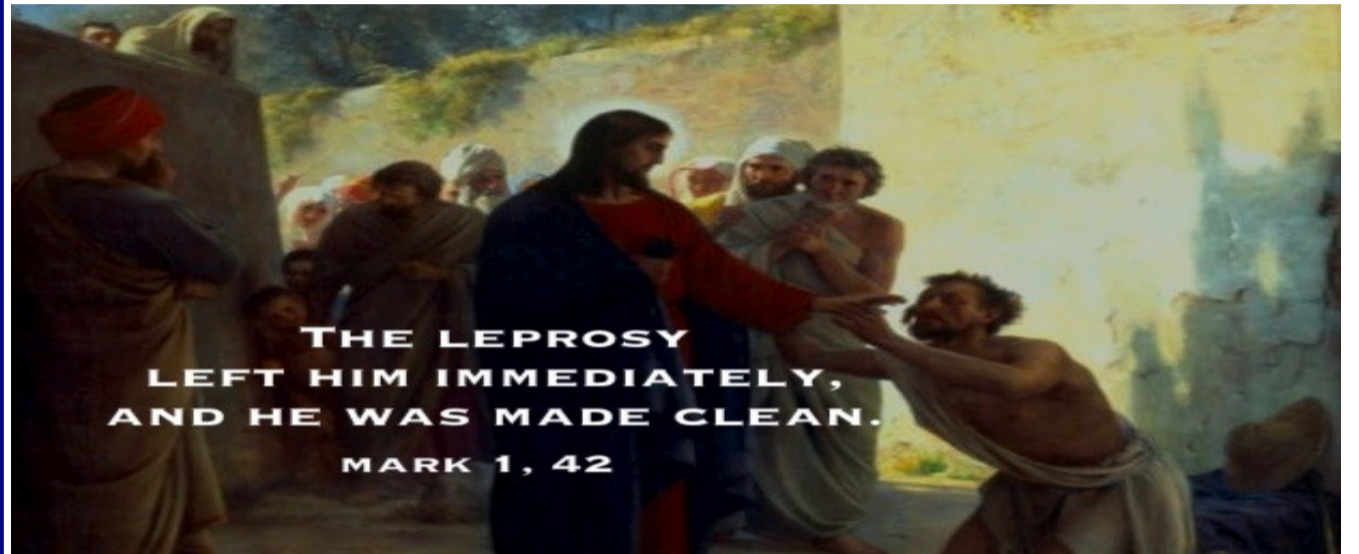
### Parish Secretary

*Triona Meagher*

*P: 02 4341 1073*

*Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327*

*E:woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au*



**THE LEPROSY  
LEFT HIM IMMEDIATELY,  
AND HE WAS MADE CLEAN.  
MARK 1, 42**

## COMPASSION

In biblical times, leprosy covered a wide range of skin diseases. Fear of contagion forced victims to live outside the community and endure the most frightful and humiliating form of isolation imaginable. Lepers were treated as outcasts, pariahs, untouchables. The miserable plight of lepers was made even worse by the ingrained belief that their disease was a punishment from God for sin. Thus, to their physical affliction was added the psychological and mental torment of feeling rejected not only by society but even by God. As our first reading from the Book of Leviticus makes clear, a leper was declared 'unclean' by one of the priests, compelled to wear 'his clothing torn and his hair disordered', to 'shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean", and to 'live outside the camp' (Lev 13: 45-46). Moreover, Jewish Law forbade anyone from approaching or touching a leper under the pain of incurring ritual defilement. Hence the life of a leper at the time of Jesus was nothing short of a 'living hell'. Death would have been preferable. This context makes the story of Jesus' cure of a leper in today's gospel quite remarkable. First, there is the extraordinary courage and faith of the leper. In spite of the frightful stigma he had to endure, he still has the courage to approach Jesus, trusting that he will accept and cure him. To come close to Jesus he had to risk the anger of the people around Jesus and the likelihood of being chased away with stones. With an exemplary combination of faith and humility he goes down on his knees before Jesus and pleads with him in words that must have wrung the very heart of Jesus: "If you want to, you can cure me" (Mk 1:40).

Even more extraordinary is the response of Jesus, especially the manner in which he cures the leper. Moved with compassion for the leper, he says: "Of course I want to. Be cured" (Mk 1:41). And, with a gesture not only forbidden by the Mosaic Law but profoundly counter-cultural, he reaches out and touches the leper with his hand. This gesture – touching the untouchable – spoke more eloquently than any words could and brought spiritual as well as physical healing to the unfortunate man. And despite Jesus' warning, the healed leper cannot keep the good news of his cure to himself. He must speak of it to everyone he meets with the unfortunate consequence that Jesus has to leave town and go to place where nobody lived.

Today's gospel reminds us that touch is one of our most fundamental human needs. Far more than words, touch conveys concern, empathy, support and affirmation. As disciples of Jesus we are called, like St Paul, to model our lives on Christ, to reach out to others with compassion and love, especially to those who are rejected and stigmatised in any way. The love of God impels us to imitate the example of Jesus and bring his compassionate and healing touch to the lepers of our time, the many isolated, despised and broken men and women longing for acceptance and love.

<https://sma.ie/homily-for-the-6th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-cycle-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:**

**Catechist Sunday:** The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally Catechist Sunday in the Diocese and this year will be held on **Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**. Catechist Sunday is an annual event in the CCD Calendar. Catechist Sunday originated in 1935 when the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education', which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities. To celebrate Catechist Sunday, there will be a **Morning Tea** presented by the Filipino ladies after 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

**Sit n Chat:** A group of seniors meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the Leo Mahon Room from 1.00pm to 2.30pm. February's meeting is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join the group please contact Jane on 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if necessary.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Sacramental Programme 2024—Important Dates**

**First Holy Communion:**

**Information Night:** 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm

Presentation Masses for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at 5.00pm

Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

**Lesson 1:** Week of 26<sup>th</sup> February

**Lesson 2:** Week of 4<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 3:** Week of 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 4:** Week of 18<sup>th</sup> March

**First Communion:** Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am and Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am

**Confirmation:** Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am

**Lenten Programme 2024**

**"A Resurrected Life"** - A Lenten Daily Reflection booklet is now available from the Piety Stall for a cost of \$10.



If anyone has their palms from Palm Sunday 2023, we ask if you could return them to the Church for use this year. There is a basket in the Gathering Area for collection.

**Ash Wednesday:** On Ash Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> of February, there will be Mass in the Church at **7.00am, 8.30am & 7.00pm**.

**Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection** except on the 1st Friday, 1st March, when Way of the Cross will be at 3.30pm followed by the Eucharist and reflection.

**Cleaners for 16<sup>th</sup> February:** Jo Salter, Jo MacMillan, Mimi Lambert, Christine French.

**Readers for 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville & Marie Andrews

Sunday 7.30am—Mabel Torres & Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker & Olga Mhilli

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer & Peter Smith

**Servers for 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Paul Nolan & Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French & Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

**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.

**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](mailto: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.



**Funeral Announcement—Patricia Molloy:**

Patricia's life will be celebrated on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February at 11.00am in St John the Baptist Church. We offer our sincere condolences to Patricia's family and friends.

**Humility According to St. Francis de Sales:** At the core of St Francis de Sales' teachings on humility is the recognition of God's sovereignty and the understanding of one's own limitations in comparison to the divine. St Francis de Sales draws inspiration from the teachings of Jesus Christ, particularly the Beatitudes, where Christ extols the virtue of humility, stating, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). For St Francis de Sales, humility is not self-deprecation or a false sense of inferiority but rather an honest assessment of one's gifts and limitations in relation to God. He encourages individuals to cultivate a spirit of gratitude for the talents and virtues bestowed upon them while recognising that these gifts ultimately come from God.

One of his key teachings is the importance of self-awareness. St Francis de Sales encourages individuals to reflect on their thoughts, words, and actions regularly, examining their motives and intentions. Through this self-awareness, one can identify moments of pride and arrogance, seeking to replace them with a humble and charitable disposition. This process of self-examination and repentance aligns with St Francis de Sales' belief in the transformative power of God's grace in overcoming human weaknesses. St Francis de Sales also highlights the significance of embracing humiliations with grace and patience. He recognises that life is full of challenges, criticisms, and setbacks, and he advises his followers to accept these with humility rather than resentment. By doing so, individuals align themselves with Christ's example, who endured suffering and humiliation for the sake of others.

Moreover, St Francis de Sales emphasises the importance of simplicity in thought, speech, and action. He cautions against the complexities of pride and the desire for worldly recognition. Instead, he encourages a childlike simplicity that finds joy in the ordinary and delights in serving others without seeking praise or approval. In cultivating this simplicity, individuals can detach themselves from the trappings of ego and open their hearts to the genuine pursuit of virtue.



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## **Reading 1: Lev 13:1-2, 44-46**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. "The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him, he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

### **R. In time of trouble I turn to you, O Lord.**

Happy those whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is forgiven. O happy those to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

### **R. In time of trouble I turn to you, O Lord.**

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: "I will confess my offence to the Lord." And the Lord has forgiven the guilt of my sin.

### **R. In time of trouble I turn to you, O Lord.**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult all you just! O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart

### **R. In time of trouble I turn to you, O Lord.**

## **Reading 2: 1 Cor 10:31- 11:1**

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## **Alleluia:**

### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.

### **R. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel: Mk 1:29-39**

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicise the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.





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

**Recently deceased:** Fr Kevin Bates, Gerard Charles Bohun, Fr Michael Kelly, Patricia Molloy, Russell Wallace

**Anniversary:** Frank Agresta, Bill Parbery

**Remembrance:** Judy & Luke Goodacre, Barrie Killalea

**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



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February

#### For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

### 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.

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You



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