



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



28th April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

FEASTS & MEMORIALS

29 April—St Catherine of Siena

29 April—St Pius V

1 May—St Joseph the Worker

3 May—St Philip & St James

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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Today's First Reading takes us to the immediate aftermath of the conversion of St Paul. So fearsome had been his reputation as a persecutor of the Church that it took a long process of introduction from his respected mentor Barnabas before his vigour and enthusiasm could be accepted into the mission of the Church.

Last week's reading from 1 John dwelt upon God's love for us. The extract that forms this week's Second Reading, 3:18-24, insists that the love we have received from God must flow through us to become a truly active loving in our own lives. When our 'hearts' are disquieted for fear we have not fulfilled God's commandments, we have only to look to see if we are fulfilling that of love, since that, along with faith, is the essence of all that God wants of us.

The Gospel takes us to one of the most celebrated sections of the Last Supper discourse in the Fourth Gospel, 15:1-8. The extended image of Christ as the "true vine" continues the theme of divine indwelling that we have already heard in the Second Reading. It has an Old Testament background in the sense of Israel as the "vine" God brought out of Egypt and "cultivated" in a new land.

Now the People of God is being reconstituted on Christ as the "true vine," with the disciples forming the branches that are to bear its "fruit." "True" has here the Johannine sense of what is coming to be in the present, messianic age, of which the scriptural images (such as that of the vine) were simply foreshadowings.

The passage gives two allegorical descriptions, one after the other, of what is essentially the same pattern of vinedressing activity on the part of God: branches bearing no fruit are cut away; branches bearing fruit are "pruned" so that next season they may bear even more fruit. What makes a branch yield fruit is the vigor of its union with the vine. Hence the need for believers to maintain the closest possible union with Christ. The "fruit" that they will bear will be specifically the acts of love (see the First Reading) that are the extension in their own lives of the love they have received in Christ from God.

Some hearers will probably fasten on the detail about the withered branches being collected and thrown on the fire and interpret it as a reference to Hell. It is not necessary to take the allegory so far in this direction; better to stay within the image, which simply wants to affirm the uselessness of such branches and hence the necessity of remaining united with Christ. Believers will be truly his disciples when their lives manifest the love displayed in his. This will be to the "glory" of the Father in the sense of revealing to the world that God is love.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/homily-notes-5-easter-year-b-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:

Thanks to all who made Fr Timothy's installation Mass a wonderful celebration on Sunday.



Fr Sam French: Fr Sam has recently had surgery and is recovering well. Please keep Fr Sam in your thoughts and prayers as he convalesces. Fr Sam has requested text messages rather than telephone calls at this time.

Soup Night: There will be a soup night after 5.00pm Mass this Saturday, 27th April. All welcome.

Thanks: Thanks to Joe and Rose Mondal of Bakers Delight Umina for providing the bread for our Soup Night this weekend. They will also provide bread for the remaining scheduled soup nights on 26th May, 27th July and 25th August.

Acolytes Mass: 9.15am Mass on Sunday, 5th May will be an Acolytes & Servers Mass. There will be a morning tea afterwards. All welcome.

Vigil Mass, 18th May: Most Catholics are familiar with the Church's great treasures of art, architecture and scholarship but are not as familiar with its treasure of sacred music: it is not so readily accessible. An opportunity to experience an example will be presented at the 5pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, 18th May (the Feast of Pentecost) when the local a cappella choir Ebb&Flow will sing in the context of the Liturgy for that day the Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd (1543 to 1623) one of the greatest of Renaissance composers whose music was so valued by the English Crown that he survived as a Catholic throughout the course of the English Reformation. The Gloria from this Mass was sung at the King's coronation.

Diocesan Count of Mass Attendance: The 2024 Diocesan Count of Mass Attendance will take place over the #4 weekends of May: 4th & 5th, 11th and 12th, 18th & 19th and 25th and 26th.

Sacramental Programme 2024:

CONFIRMATION:

- 13/05—Information Night
- 18/05 & 19/05—Presentation of candidates
- 20/05—Week 1 lessons
- 27/05—Week 2 lessons
- 03/06—Week 3 lessons
- 10/06—Break for a week

17/06—Week 4 lessons

30/06—Celebration of Sacrament at 11.00am.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Friday, 15th November at 4.00pm.

Cleaners for 3rd May: Andrew Hopkins, Reg Harrington, Linda Potestas, Jo Salter.

Readers for 4th & 5th May:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Rutherford, Marie Andrews & Jane Rutherford

Sunday 7.30am—Joel Bajo, Phoebe Glacken & Ann Hall

Sunday 9.15am—Emma Baker, Olga Mhilli & Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken, Marian Bowyer & Peter Smith

Copies of the new Readers' roster are now available in the Sacristy.

Servers for 4th & 5th May:

Saturday 5.00pm—Paul Cavanagh & Vincent Cavanagh

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French & Paul Nolan

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French & Jenny Fitzgerald

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.

Pastoral Works Broken Bay: We will launch our Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) May Appeal next month. The quota set for our Parish is \$28,759. Our shortfall stands at \$18,138.10. The May appeal is the last one for the financial year 2023/2024 and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please give generously.

St John the Baptist Men's Group: Meetings to be held the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 7.00pm-8.00pm in the Leo Mahon Room. Next meeting 6th May. For further information contact Allan Moore 0492 988 168.

Safeguarding Awareness 2024: The Diocese released a video with Bishop Anthony addressing the serious and increasing issue of domestic family violence. The theme for Safeguarding Awareness 2024 is The Voice of the Vulnerable. The video is called "A Catholic Response to Violence". It can be viewed on the Diocese website at [A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence - Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay \(bbcatholic.org.au\)](https://www.bbcatholic.org.au) where other resources, including a booklet, are also available.

Children's Liturgy: Children's liturgy is on a break for school holidays and will resume 12th May.

House Blessings: Please contact the Parish Office on 4341 1073 if you would like to have your house blessed.

Triple S Driving School: Service, safety & success. A competent, caring, driving instructor since 1990 is available for lessons for both manual and automatic. Refresher courses for older drivers also offered. Contact Rosie on 0421 780 957.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Acts 9:26-31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus. The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live forever and ever.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations shall worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust.

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: "These things the Lord God has done."

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Reading 2: 1 Jn 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

Alleluia:

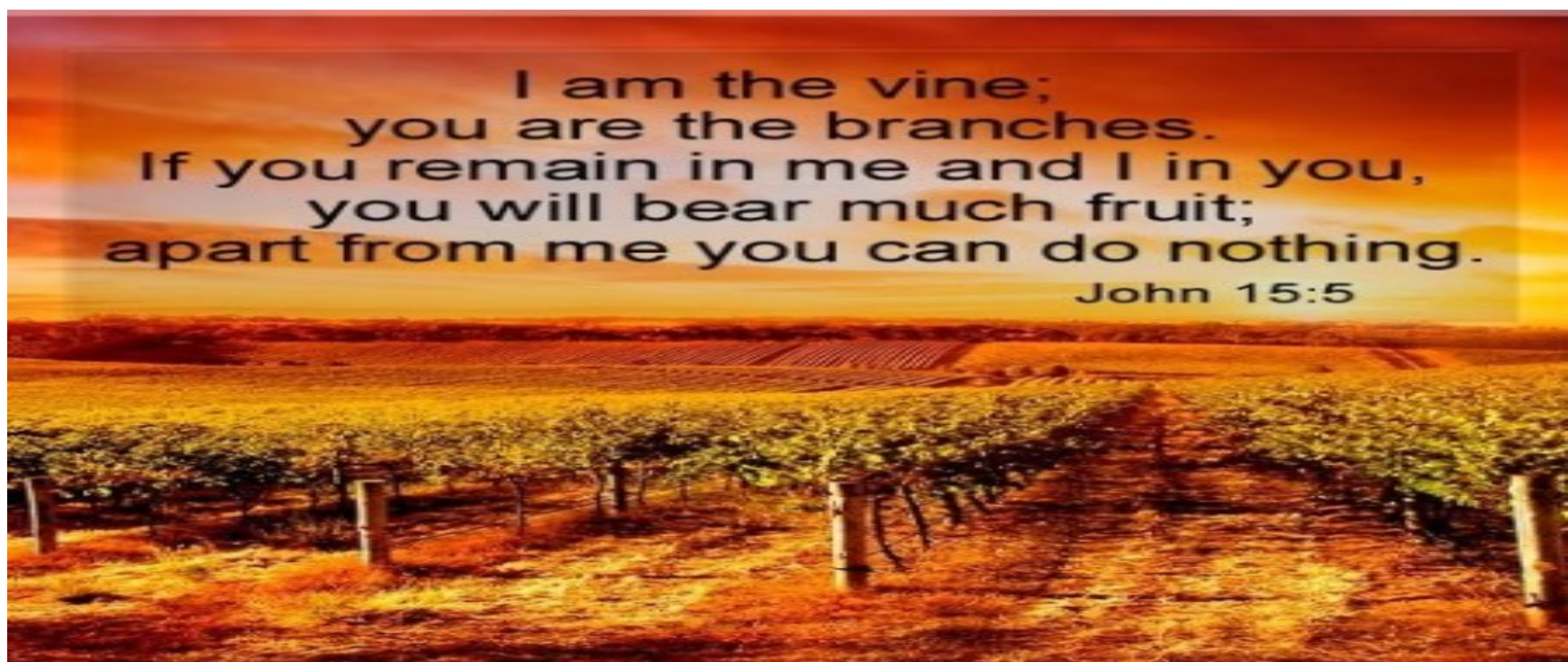
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Jn 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



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

Recently deceased: Saxon Smith

Anniversary: Tom Fauvette, James Filewood, Jim Filewood, Josephine Grima

Remembrance: Raelene Pitt

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, 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, Michael Juelg, Dr Richard Scolyer, Trevor Hailey, Joss Mitchell, Marie Day, Oakley Mitchell, Jessie Mitchell, Olive Drewett



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience.

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

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

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