



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



The Nativity of the Lord - 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph - 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

Mary, the Holy Mother of God - 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord - 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

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**



**St John the Baptist  
Woy Woy  
wishes you  
a joyous  
Christmas and  
New Year**

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Benefactors,

"Glory To God In The Highest and Peace To All" Lk 1:14

We come together once again to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas, and I, on behalf of Fr Alex Peter and Fr Vincent, extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you for a Christmas filled with joy, peace and happiness. This season of the year, invites us to pause, reflect and immerse ourselves in the mystery of God's love made manifest in the birth of Jesus Christ. The commemoration of our Lord's passage from His Divinity to our humanity, born in our homes and parish community, beckons us to place Christ at the centre of all our celebrations. The birth of Christ is not just a historical event. It is a living reality that continues to inspire and transform our lives. We are living in a world of remarkable change and innovation. Today's technology becomes obsolete tomorrow, and the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence and other inventions have transformed how we live, work and communicate. The technology dominates our attention, it may be a tool to connect, create and learn, and can bring new opportunities, but this also poses a challenge to our relationships and even our understanding of what it means to be human, and love which we are called to share as followers of Christ. Let this Christmas be a time to prioritise our connectivity – with God, our families and with one another.

Despite the changes and innovation we have encountered, the past year has been a testament to the power of faith and collective effort in our community. Together, we have not only strengthened the bonds within our community but also reached out in service to those in need. Whether it was through your active participation in parish ministries, your contributions to our programs, or your prayers and encouragement, you have truly embodied the spirit of Christian love and service. Your generosity, both of time and resources, has been a cornerstone in building a place where Christ's light shines brightly for all to see.

The simplicity of the manger in Bethlehem reminds us that true joy and peace are found not in material wealth but in the presence of God in our lives. Jesus, the Emmanuel, comes to us in humility, inviting us to walk with Him in faith, hope and love.

As we look forward to the New Year in 2025, a Jubilee Year of Hope, may we continue to journey as pilgrims of hope and grow as a community rooted in faith and united in our mission to serve. With Christ as our guide, let us approach the coming year with hope and trust, knowing that God is with us at every step that we take.

I pray that this Christmas brings you and your loved ones an abundance of joy and blessings. May the Christ child fill your hearts with peace and your homes with love and hope. As we embark on another year, I wish you good health, happiness and success in all your endeavours, with God as your guide.

Thank you for giving steadfast support to and for being very deeply an integral part of our parish family. Together, we will continue to build a community where faith is nurtured, hope is enhanced and God's love is shared.

**Wishing You A Blessed Christmas and A Grace-Filled New Year in 2025!**

In Christ's love  
Fr Timothy msfs  
Parish Priest

**Parish News:**

**Welcome:** A very warm welcome to all those who will be joining us over the Christmas and New Year period to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**Parish Dinner 20<sup>th</sup> December, Walter Baker Hall:**



Many thanks to each and every volunteer who was involved in making the Parish dinner last Friday, a huge success. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated. A grateful thanks to all volunteers, in all Ministries, who have given of their time and energy during the year.

**Shaping your year with God:** Five mornings from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January to Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 from 9.40am to 10.40am in the Leo Mahon Room with a cuppa beforehand. The session will start with pondering a paragraph or so of the Bible and continue with listening exercises and personal review exercises. If you have a bible, please bring it with you. All welcome.

**READINGS:**

**Wednesday, 25<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

**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY:**

The Feast of the Holy Family invites us to reflect on the example of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model of love, faith, and obedience to God. The family of Nazareth is not only an inspiration but also a call to holiness in our daily lives. The Holy Family exemplifies virtues such as humility, trust in God, and sacrificial love. Mary's fiat, "Let it be with me according to your word" (Lk 1:38), Joseph's obedience to divine commands (Mat 1:24), and Jesus' submission to His earthly parents (Lk 2:51) demonstrate their unwavering commitment to God's will.

Saint John Paul II, in *Familiaris Consortio*, emphasizes that families are called to "guard, reveal and communicate love." He notes that the Holy Family provides a shining example of how families can grow in holiness through love and faithfulness. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, reflecting on the Holy Family, remarked that "Jesus chose to live in a simple family to teach us humility and sanctity in our own homes."

**Practical Lessons for our family:**

**Prayer as a Foundation:** Establish daily prayer as a cornerstone of family life.

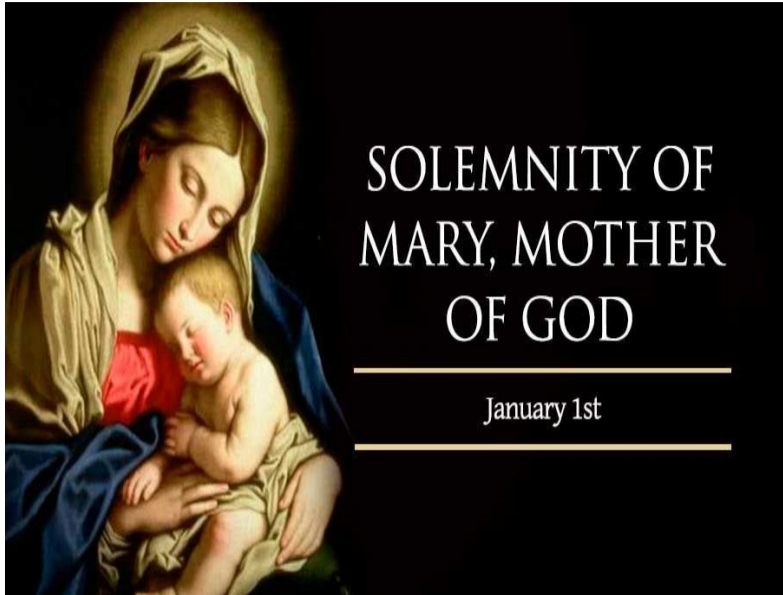
**Trust in God's Providence:** Emulate Joseph and Mary by trusting God's guidance during challenges.

**Sacrificial Love:** Show unconditional love by serving each other selflessly.

**Support Each Other's Faith Journey:** Encourage spiritual growth through Scripture reading and participating in the sacraments.

Let us strive to make our homes a "domestic church," reflecting the love and unity of the Holy Family, and seek their intercession to sanctify our own families.

**SOLEMNITY—MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:**



Every once in a while, I get into a “get rid of the clutter” mode. I was recently making my way through a closet, garbage bag next to me, when I found a card my mother had sent me shortly before her death in 2002. It was signed “Always Love and Prayers, Mom.” I decided to cut the signature from the card and place it in my Breviary, my prayer book, as a memento. But, “Always Love and Prayers, Mom” also summarises Our Lady’s role in my life and in the lives of all who believe.

“Woman, behold your son...son behold your mother...” At the cross, Our Lord entrusted Mary to John, His beloved disciple. And he “takes Her into his home.” This act of entrustment is not simply the Crucified Lord’s wish that John cares for His mother after His death. Jesus entrusts Mary to the Church as “Mother,” establishing her in a maternal relationship with believers in every age. As St John Paul II taught us, “Mary’s spiritual motherhood transcends the boundaries of time and space. It is part of the Church’s history for all times, because she never ceases to exercise her maternal office or to help us.” (Signum Magnum 33)

Luke tells us that Mary “kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Mary constantly contemplates the meaning of the events of salvation as they unfold in Her and in Her Son. In this, she is a model of prayer that seeks to discern God’s presence and action in the world. But She also “actively cooperates” in those events. She surrenders Herself to God’s work in Her Son and repeats Her “fiat”, “Let it be done!” throughout the whole of Her life, from Gabriel’s joyful announcement, to the cross, the resurrection, and with the newborn Church on the day of Pentecost.

This “pondering in the heart” and “active participation” in God’s work in Jesus Christ is the heart of the Rosary. If you haven’t prayed it recently, I urge you to do so. If you don’t know how to pray the Rosary, we have pamphlets available that will teach you. By reflecting on the mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, we “ponder” God’s work in Christ so that we too can become “active cooperators” in it. Today we honour Mary, the Mother of God, the Mother of the Word Incarnate. But she is also the Mother of the Church, our Mother, drawing us more deeply into the mystery of Christ and the Church through Her love and prayer. Through our own pondering of the mystery of Christ and active participation in the life of the Church, may the Heart of Mary draw us more deeply into the Heart of Jesus. “Always Love and Prayers, Mom.”

Msgr Joseph G. Celano

<https://immaculateconception.org/news/reflection-for-the-solemnity-of-mary-mother-of-god>

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:**



Throughout the calendar year, the New Testament biblical narrative is condensed down to fit within the confines of 52 weeks. Two weeks ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and naturally, not so long after, we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the words “epi” (to/upon) + “phainein” (show/ appear/shine). Hence its modern definition: a newfound revelation, an “aha moment”, a grand discovery or appearance.

Today’s feast celebrates Jesus’ revelation to the Gentiles (non-Jews) represented by the three Magi who visited from the East. These three magi are often referred to as kings, although we are not told of their occupation in Matthew’s gospel. Magi were understood as

people who possessed superior knowledge and experts in their field, in this case probably astronomy. Through the Magi’s experience and expertise, they believed that the heavens marked the birth of great leaders. And so they went off on a journey following a star to where they believed an infant king, who was to be the king of the Jews, would be born.

Upon arrival in Bethlehem, the star had led them to a dwelling, and they paid homage to baby Jesus, offering gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They then went home via a different route as they had been warned not to return to King Herod.

The story of the magi is very much our story also as we are all on a pilgrimage through life. The star in our lives can be many things, guiding us and leading us to an exciting future. Sometimes it shines brightly, other times we see glimpses here and there. It points us to what is true, good, and beautiful; ultimately leading us to Jesus, whom God desires to reveal to all people.

Throughout life we gain realisations about ourselves—little epiphanies. We realise that we were more courageous than we thought, or we hadn’t dealt with something in our past which is holding us back from all we could be, or we realise that there is so much more to life than the narrow worldview that we had. These epiphanies change us; we become transformed into different people. It is the same when we encounter Jesus.

When we truly allow God into our lives, (often it begins with praying during the difficult moments only, but I encourage you to pray and invite God into your heart at every moment), we will find realisations and revelations previously unbeknownst to us. Perhaps we realise that God loves us more than we could ever know, or that God’s mercy is greater than our biggest sin. Maybe we even realise the beauty of prayer discover a dialogue with God.

Whatever our revelation, like the magi who encountered the infant king Jesus, we first offer gifts; our presence is our present. We then realise that we can’t go back the same way. The epiphany is too great. The revelation has changed us so that our lives are changed for the better.

<https://www.caloundracatholicparish.net/front-page-reflection-00159/>

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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

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

**Remembrance:** Arthur, Muriel, John & Helen Brown & Brown Family, Noëlle Davidovic, Allen Edgcombe

**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 Reddcliff, 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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