

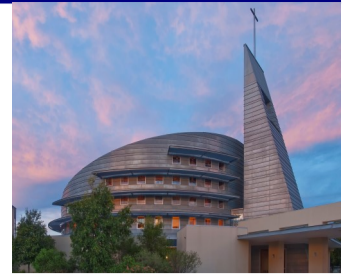


WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

12th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord



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.

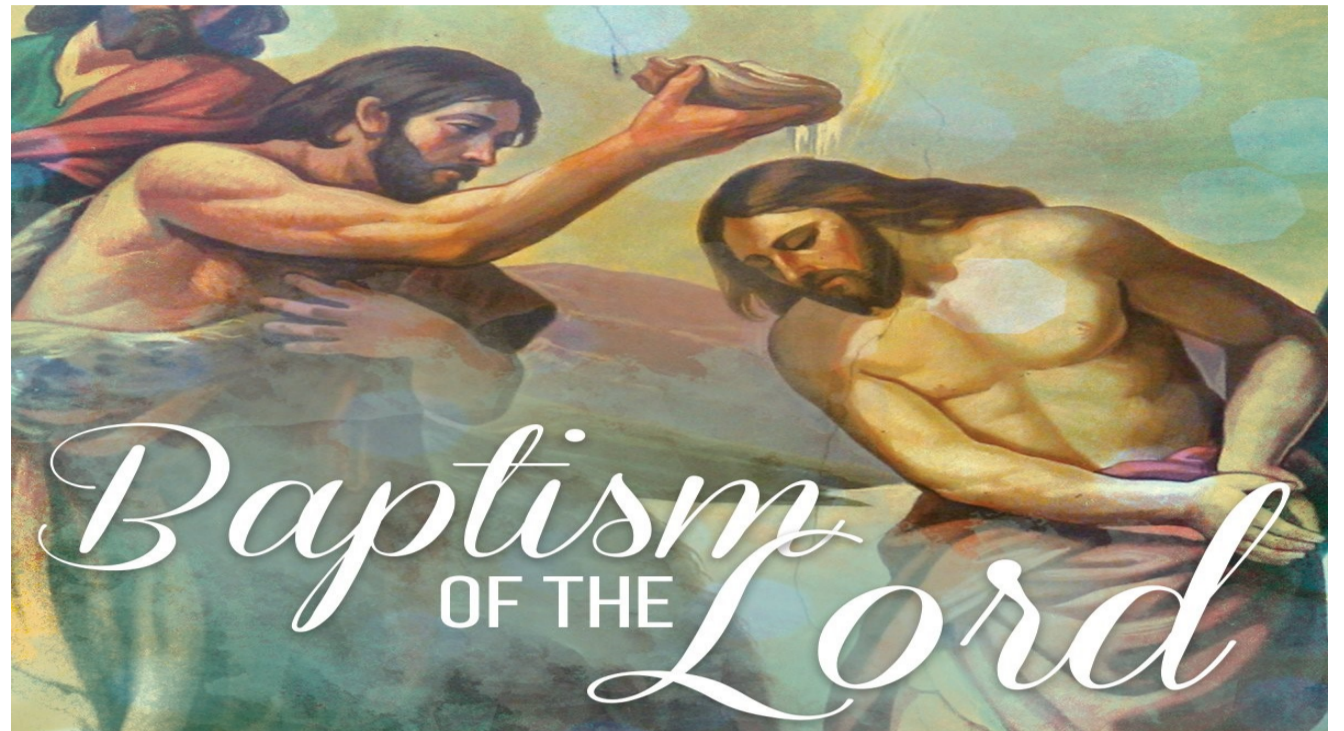
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

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The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptising you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptised and Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (Lk. 3:15-16, 21-22).

A people's experience

It is interesting to note that the Evangelist Luke recounts that Jesus' baptism was an experience of the people: "After all the people had been baptised". By being in the midst of the people, Jesus manifests profound solidarity with His sinful people, giving from the very beginning a certain "stamp" to His mission. Jesus reveals that He is the One who has come to "get His hands dirty" so as to bear the sins of humanity.

The baptism

Unlike the other evangelists, Luke does not dwell on the baptism, but leaves it in the background, using a simple phrase: "Jesus also had been baptised". What the evangelist highlights is Jesus' behaviour: "He was praying". This is a particularly dear theme for Luke that he repeats often in his Gospel. In this climate of prayer, Jesus receives the gift of the Spirit and is confirmed by the Father who recognises him to be "the beloved" and that He is "well pleased" with Him, or that He has placed His trust in Jesus. This is a way of indicating that Jesus' way of drawing near to the people, of being in solidarity with them, is the reason why He was sent.

Prayer

In the context of prayer, Jesus receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. This detail suggests that every time we pray, when we are speaking one on One with God (Saint Teresa of Avila), it is possible to experience the Holy Spirit. To pray is to return to Him, to remain with Him. It is the breath of our being children of God which we were introduced to in our own baptism. Only in prayer can our lives as God's children be nourished. In moments of prayer, we allow God to say over us: "You are the beloved", "You are important for me".

The Lord's beloved

In Jesus, the Father's chosen Son, each of us is "the Lord's beloved child", with whom God "is pleased". This is true for me, but it is also true for every brother and sister, independently of our condition of being sinners. In baptism, what happened at Christmas happens again: God descends, He enters within me so that I might be reborn in Him as a new creature. But we are asked to bear witness to this "new life" (cf. Is. 43:19) so that just as Jesus could say, "those who have seen me have seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9), so too can other people say of us, "I see Jesus in you". Humanly this is impossible, certainly. But "nothing is impossible with God" (Lk. 1:37).

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/feast-of-the-baptism-of-the-lord.html>

Parish News:

The Feast of St Francis de Sales is celebrated on the 24th of January. We will have a Novena in his honour during every Mass starting 15th January. On the Feast Day, Mass will be celebrated at 8.30am and 5.00pm. After 5.00pm Mass there will be a light supper served in the Walter Baker Hall. All welcome. Please register your name on the list in the Gathering Area for catering purposes.

Parish Pastoral Council: The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th January at 7.00pm.

Cleaners for 17th January: Geraldine Baxter, Tom French, Reg Harrington, Patrick Donnellan.

Readers for 11th & 12th January:

Saturday 5.00pm—Dawn Torrens, Jane Somerville, Wendy Whiteman

Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan, Phoebe Glacken, Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Therese Carroll, Michael Dixon, Emma Baker

Sunday 5.00pm—Kris Aitken, Pio Savea, Marian Bowyer

Servers for 11th & 12th January:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French, Joesie Cameron, Joseph French

Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

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. This month's meeting is scheduled for the 20th. Please contact Jane for further information 0419 233 284. Transport can be provided if needed.

Shaping your year with God: Five mornings from Monday, 13th January to Friday, 17th 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.

Know our Patron St Francis de Sales: St Francis de Sales was a 16th-century Catholic bishop and theologian, known for his deep spirituality and writings on the Christian life.

Birth and Early Life: St Francis de Sales was born on August 21, 1567, in the Château de Thorens, Savoy (now Thorens-Glières, France). He came from a noble and devout family. His father, François de Sales, was Lord of Boisoy, and his mother, Françoise de Sionnaz, was a devout Catholic.

Education: Francis de Sales was born into a noble family. His father, François de Sales, wanted him to pursue a career in law and politics, but Francis felt a calling to the priesthood from a young age. He was sent to Paris to study at the Collège de Clermont and later to the University of Padua, where he obtained a doctorate in law.

Decision to Enter the Priesthood: Despite his legal studies and his father's wish, Francis de Sales continued to feel a strong pull towards the religious life. After a profound spiritual experience, he decided to dedicate himself fully to

God. He was ordained a priest in 1593.

Mission in Chablais: St Francis de Sales is perhaps best known for his missionary work in the Chablais region. He used his gentle and persuasive preaching style to win back many to the Catholic faith. His approach was characterised by kindness and respect for others' beliefs.

Bishop of Geneva In 1602, St Francis de Sales was appointed as the Bishop of Geneva, a city that was predominantly Calvinist. His approach to leadership emphasised patience, understanding, and dialogue rather than force. He worked tirelessly to restore Catholicism in the region and gained a reputation for his compassion and gentleness.

Founding of the Visitation Order: St Francis de Sales, along with St Jane Frances de Chantal, founded the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary in 1610. The order focused on the virtues of gentleness and humility.

Writings: St Francis de Sales is also known for his writings on spirituality. His most famous work, "Introduction to the Devout Life," is a classic guide to Christian living. He also corresponded extensively with people seeking spiritual advice, leaving behind a wealth of letters and other writings.

Death: St Francis de Sales died on December 28, 1622, in Lyon, France. He was canonised as a saint by Pope Alexander VII in 1665. St Francis de Sales is remembered as a gentle and compassionate spiritual guide, emphasising the importance of love and humility in the Christian life. His teachings continue to influence Christian spirituality, and he is recognised as a Doctor of the Church.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and
the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by a strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

O give the Lord you children of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court.

R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

R. The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: "Glory!" The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as King forever.

Reading 2: Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good. When the kindness and generous love of God our saviour appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our saviour, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Alleluia:

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

John said: One mightier than I is coming; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptising you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptised and Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."



Readings for the Week:

Monday, 13th January:

St Hilary - Heb 1:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 6-7, 9/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday, 14th January:

Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2, 5-9/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday, 15th January:

Heb 2:14-18/Ps 104:1-4, 6-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday, 16th January:

Heb 3:7-14/Ps 94:6-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday, 17th January:

St Anthony - Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 77:3-4, 6-8/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday, 18th January:

Heb 4:12-16/Ps 18:8-10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday, 19th January:

Is 62:1-5/Ps 95:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Noel Bjorndahl, Betty Carr, Charles Law

Anniversary: Irene Cavanagh, Serge Fauvette

Remembrance: Tom Fauvette

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 Reddacliff, Jacqui Scholte, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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.

Thank You



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