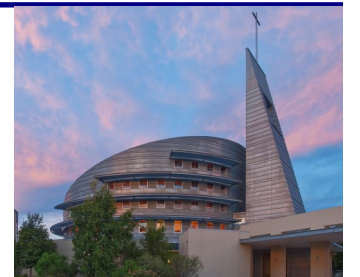




WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

23rd March 2025
Third Sunday of Lent



Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

LENTEN PROGRAMME:

Way of the Cross

& Mass:

Fridays at 6.30pm
followed by Mass
at 7.00pm and
reflection afterwards.



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.

Assisting Priest (resident in Wyoming)

Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

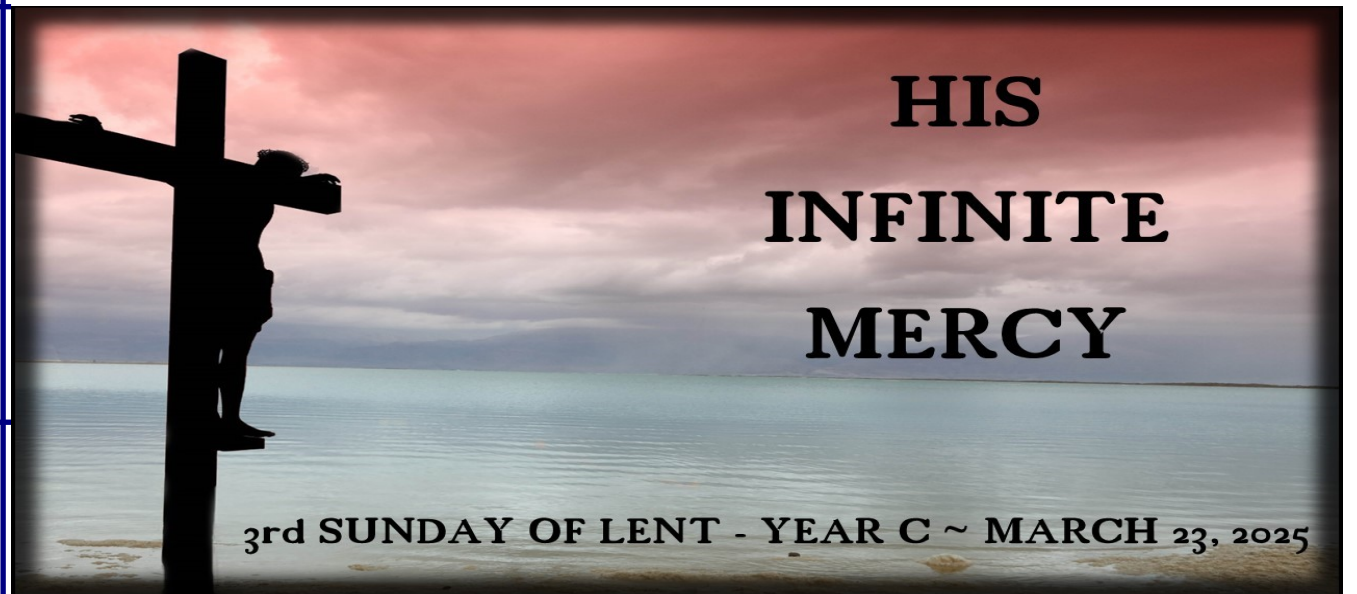
Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Who doesn't love a second chance? Second chances allow us to learn from our mistakes, reflect, make amends, and achieve success where we may have previously fallen short. In fact, the season of Lent is rooted in second chances. It's a time for us to reflect on our lives as Christians, to meditate and evaluate our success as people of the Gospel. Thank goodness God gives us the opportunity for a second chance—to make amends and be a better person, a better Christian.

The readings for this Sunday highlight how God provides us with second chances. In the First Reading, we encounter Moses, a tormented soul with an identity crisis, forced to flee Egypt as a murderer. In his wanderings through the wilderness, he hears God's call to 'turn his life around' and become the agent of His salvific work by rescuing the Hebrew people from slavery. This is Moses's second chance—a chance to turn away from his mistakes and realign himself with God.

The Psalm reminds us that our God is "...compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy", while in the Second Reading, Paul reminds the Corinthians that they must not rest on their Baptism but must continually strive to be Christ-centred, always aware that spiritual failings and turning away from God are constant risks.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds those listening that second chances are limited, and the opportunity to turn back to God will not always be there. When confronted with the news of a massacre of Galilean Jews fulfilling their duties at the Temple, Jesus challenges those listening by asking, "Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than other Galileans?" The common belief was that their suffering was a punishment for sin, but Jesus makes it clear that they were not more sinful than others. He then warns everyone that they must repent and turn away from sin or face similar destruction.

Jesus continues, mentioning the eighteen people killed when a tower collapsed in Siloam. Again, He emphasises that they were not more sinful, but everyone must repent before time runs out, as it had for those unfortunate victims. Jesus uses a parable about a fig tree to reinforce the need for repentance. The people of that time would have understood the symbolism of the fig tree that bore no fruit. The waste of time and resources on a fruitless tree would have been a burden to any gardener. But instead of removing it, the gardener pleads for more time, another season to nurture the tree with careful digging and fertilising in the hope that it will bear fruit. If not, it can then be removed. This parable symbolises God's love and mercy, which sees the potential in us all. He nurtures us with love, hoping we will respond to his call as Moses did. However, Jesus reminds us that we have the responsibility to listen and respond to God's call, he invites and waits, but we must be the ones who chose to respond. The time to repent and realign with God will not always be there. We must act now.

<https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/third-sunday-of-lent-year-c>

Parish News:

Parish Database: We will soon be migrating to a new database and in preparation for this, we will be tidying up existing records and archiving records that are no longer needed. To assist with this task, we ask that you please provide us with your contact details including name, address, telephone number and email address. Please complete a sheet for each person living at your residence. There are sheets on the table in the gathering area. If you have recently completed a census form and your details haven't changed, there is no action required. Many thanks in advance for your kind assistance.

Lenten Pilgrimage St Mary's Manly: There will be a Lenten bus trip to St Mary's Church, Manly on Wednesday, 26th March departing from the Church at 7.30am. The group will attend 9.15am Mass celebrated by Fr Sam French, pray the Stations of the Cross and Fr Sam will give a short talk afterwards. Please bring morning tea and lunch. Spaces are limited so please record your details on the list in the gathering area if you would like to travel with the group.

Way of the Cross: Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection.

Lenten Program 2025, A Promise of Hope: The Diocese has prepared a Lenten booklet which can be accessed online <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ArticleDocuments/12855/Lent%20Book%202025.pdf.aspx>. There are printed copies on the table in the Gathering Area.

First Holy Communion Programme 2025—Important Dates:

Lesson 2: Week of 24th March

Lesson 3: Week of 31st March

Reconciliation prior to Communion: Fri, 4th April at 4.45pm

Lesson 4: Week of 7th April

First Communion: Sunday, 27th April and Sunday 4th May at 11.00am.

Confirmation: Thursday, 7th August at 6.00pm.

Cleaners for 28th March: Andrew Hopkins, Anne-Marie Young, Rano Spiteri, Anthony Kearns.

Readers for 29th & 30th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jane Somerville, Leonie King, Kate Bravo

Sunday 7.30am—Veronica Jordan, Phoebe Glacken, Dorothy Fulton

Sunday 9.15am—Violetta Chol, Jacqui Scholte, Don Matheson

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer, Peter Smith, Armella Dogillo.

Servers for 29th & 30th March:

Saturday 5.00pm—Joel Bajo, Darrin Patterson

Sunday 7.30am—Bernie French, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib

Sunday 5.00pm—Laurie Jarvis

Bus drivers needed: We are currently looking for volunteer bus drivers for 7.30am Mass on Sundays. If you can help, please call Jim Dixon on 0417 021 675 for further details.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: We currently offer Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9.15am Mass most 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month, excluding school holidays. This year, CLOW will be celebrated in alignment with the theme of this Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. For further enquiries contact Christine French 0431 765 401 or Frances Giunta 0414 274 402.

Safeguarding: Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548. If anyone needs assistance with child restraint installation in vehicles, we have a volunteer who can help. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

Scripture, Catechism & Footnotes: For the Jubilee of Hope, there is a Jubilee indulgence available for those who study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It will run weekly on Fridays from 10.00am—11.00am in the Leo Mahon Room and will continue on most Fridays in 2025.

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

Grace and Truth Event: You are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on Wednesday, 30th April for an evening of prayer, formation, and fellowship. Open to men and women of all ages. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Sister Elena Marie and Father James Baxter. The event will run from 5-9PM, starting in the crypt of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and moving to the Cathedral Hall. Fee: \$20. For more information, contact the Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you." God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. "This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul give thanks to the Lord all my being bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

It is He who forgives all your guilt who heals everyone of your ills who redeems your life from the grave; who crowns you with love and compassion.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord does deeds of justice; gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to the children of Israel.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Reading 2: 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert. These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilise it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"

Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education. **Please donate today.**



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code provided.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Anthony Deguara, Peter Lawson

Anniversary: Grace Bewley, Mary Rose & Manueal Bugeja, Carmen Catania, Sinforosa Castillo, Bruno de Souza, Jim & James Filewood, Virginia Grech, Dudley Juratowitch, Bridget Phelan

Sick: John Aarts, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dymrna Fitzpatrick, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, David Hopkins, Bill Hunt, Linda Italiano, Marge Lawrence, Tresa Mary, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Ronald Matthews, Oscar James Moretti, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddaciuff, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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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not just notes
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