

OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY
0438 631 327

"He must increase, I must decrease"

Fr. Timothy Raj. M.S.F.S.
Administrator

Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.
Assistant Priest

Office Staff
Helen Cameron & Raelene Spithill

SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Vigil Saturday 5pm;
Sunday 7.30am, 9.15am, 6pm.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
Monday-Friday 7.45am (Monday & Tuesday with Lauds)
Saturday and Public Holidays 9am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
First Friday 4pm Mass

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Friday after morning Mass;
First Friday 3.30pm;
Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm;
Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptism Preparation - 9.30am second and fourth Sunday of the month
Sacrament of Baptism - 11.00am first and third Sunday of the month . Please contact the parish office for more information.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am
Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am)
Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

PARISH CHOIR
Enquiries: 4341 3367
Practice Wednesday nights in the church @ 7pm

St John the Baptist Church
Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy
Ethel Cox Parish Centre
100 Blackwall Road Woy Woy
Parish Office: Open Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.00pm
54 Victoria Road / P.O. Box 264 WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256
Phone: (02) 4341 1073 Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au
St John the Baptist Primary School:
Principal: Nicole Cumming, 21a Dulkara Rd, South Woy Woy
2256. P 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.dbb.org.au

Psalm Response © Colin D. Smith cfc



To you I lift my soul, O God.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 9th December 2018
Baruch 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6.
Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

Keep Us In Your Prayers OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Bronia Leonard, Ken Moses, Margaret Wahlin

Remembrances: Mary Justic

Sick: Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morreti, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido, Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittliff, Leon de Pradines, Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor, Amanda Sheridan, Marta Panczyna, Sue James, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle, Paul Hennessy, Sue Rose, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Elaine Finlayson, Louisa Dunne, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Leo Fry, Karen Chorazyczewska, Joan Kelleher, Carolyn Jupp.

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WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

Mission and Vision

Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL, through:

Worship and Liturgy

Outreach

Our Parish School

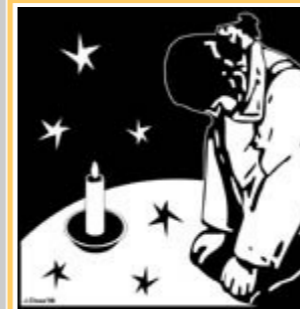
Hospitality

Adult & Child Faith Formation

1st Sunday of Advent

2nd December, 2018, Year C (Psalter Week 1)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



Toward the end of 1999 people were gearing up to welcome in the new millennium. Some Christians who take the scriptures literally joined in the fun and declared that the end of the world was nigh and that Christ would return on his two-thousandth birthday.

They seem to subscribe to the old adage that, 'one should never let the facts get in the way of a good story'!

Christianity took over the Roman calendar in what we now call the 4th Century of the Christian era. At Rome in 526, a scholarly monk named Dionysius Exiguus compiled a list of the dates of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. He assigned dates in the new Christian calendar for each of these events. Given the tools at his disposal, he did an extraordinary job. We know, however, from other historical sources and from the New Testament, where it mentions who the various Jewish and Roman rulers were in Palestine, that Dionysius was four years out with his dating. The church became aware of this mistake in 1582, but to correct it the world would have lost four years! So we have all lived with it ever since.

We can, however, safely assume that Jesus knows the year in which he was born and that if our fundamentalist Christian friends are right in believing he was going to return on his 2000th birthday, he would have done so in 1996!

The facts are that in every generation we have had people tell us that the sun, moon, stars, wars, famine, tidal waves and earthquakes, mentioned in today's Gospel, all demonstrate that Jesus is about to return. Clearly, we are still waiting. If only the Christians who give out these dire predictions, every so often, would take as seriously Jesus' words, 'You will know not the time, nor the place when the Son of Man will return in glory'.

Luke's community thought that Jesus would return quickly and spectacularly. They were surprised that the first generation of Christian believers was dying without seeing it all happen. Given the terrible suffering they were enduring for Jesus, the early Christians no doubt hoped that the end of the world would be soon and would demonstrate to everyone that they were not foolish to cling to Christ in the face of all opposition and persecution. The early Christians knew that there was no point professing faith in Jesus Christ unless our daily behaviour reflects his kingdom. It has been a telling point ever since. If every Christian lived out the Gospel in his or her daily life, the world would be transformed and Christ would come in spectacular fashion.

I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment.

May this first Eucharist of the Church's year be a taste for us of the Kingdom of God that is both present amongst us and still to come. And may the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.

Parish News...

Candidates for Reconciliation Please keep these children in your prayers as the Sacrament will be celebrated on the 3rd & 5th December.

Children's Liturgy 9/12/18: Marian Bowyer, Carol Yates & Michael Dixon.

Christmas Cards are available in the Piety Stall for \$5. Columban calendars also on sale for \$9.

Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers: List of various types of hampers needed are on display in the gathering area. Hampers to be returned by next weekend 8th/9th December.

St. Vincent de Paul Cash Appeal: this weekend 1st/2nd December. Envelopes in the church this weekend. Your generosity would be appreciated. The need is great and support is sought in giving what we are able to give. All monies are used to support local families on the Peninsula.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 7/12/18: Pam Hickey, Veronica Jordan, Brian Jordan & Mary McCumstie.

Anointing of the Sick will be administered during 4pm Mass, Friday 7th December.

Immaculate Conception: Personal Prayer. Hour of Grace. Saturday 8th December, 12noon-1pm, Walter Baker Hall. Please use the entrance from Victoria Rd

Blessing of the Jesse Tree: Sunday, 3rd December, after 9.15am Mass in the Leo Mahon Room.

Donations towards flowers for the church: can be made by placing money in an envelope marked "Altar flowers" & placing in either the 1st or 2nd collection.

Bethlehem the Musical: Proudly presented by St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School Woy Woy (Music written by Mark and Helen Johnson Out of the Ark LTD) 11th December at 7pm St Edward's College East Gosford Families and friends welcome Entry by donation on the night.

An initiative of the youth and other ministries, this Advent 2018: St Patrick's Parish East Gosford will celebrate four Sunday night 8pm Masses open to all parishioners on the Central Coast. The Masses will be preceded by an hour of Adoration from 7pm, with light supper provided after each Mass. Reminiscent of the early Church that would celebrate the Mass underground, St Patrick's Parish would like to welcome all parishioners to attend what will be a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist by candlelight. For more information, please contact Matthew French on 0411792587.

Gospel Bible Diary: available in Piety stall discounted to \$10

Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers: List of various types of hampers needed are on display in the gathering area. Hampers to be returned by next weekend of 8th/9th December.

Pope Francis' Prayer

Intention for December

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS' : A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

@ St Patrick's Church, East Gosford on Sunday 16th December 3pm at the church. St Patrick's Choir and its helpers present 'The Glory of Christmas', a 50 minute musical wherein we journey with Mary and Joseph as they prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, and the emotions they feel as the chosen parents of the Messiah. Come for this experience! Tickets \$10, at door

Plenary Herald on Fellowship

Communion, or as, the word is translated in the New Testament, fellowship has been a deeply embedded characteristic of Christian communities since the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. It is apparent from the account of the apostolic community that took shape in Jerusalem there was among them a great sense of love and commitment to each other (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37). As Paul, furthermore, founded more and communities among the Gentiles his letters spoke boldly about the importance of fellowship.

We are the successors of this tradition. Now, however, the theology and spirituality of community has matured to include our lives in the Trinity. We now acknowledge that our fellowship, our communion, is a participation in the divine fellowship of the Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are interdependent. They share in one life. They are one God. The Christian community today is a fellowship modelled on the Trinity. Several persons, one community. Each person nourishes and sustains the being of the others.

Our Christian communities today do not have the same intensity about their lives as the early communities of the church but Francis wants some of the zeal and the care for the material welfare of each other to be reignited in our fellowship.

Dialogue sessions, in which people share their stories of their experience and understanding of life in God, their spirituality of communion, are one powerful means by which fellowship can grow and become a meaningful part of our lives

You are invited to attend one of three dialogue sessions in the Leo Mahon Room during advent.

Dialogue Sessions

Tuesday, 4th December from 10:00AM-12:00NOON
Wednesday, 12th December from 2:00PM-4:00PM (Note change of time)
Saturday, December 15th from 10:00AM-12:00NOON

St Vincent de Paul Society on the Peninsula assist and give a hand up to people in need. We have two Conferences with volunteers sharing the visiting or office work. We always welcome new Volunteers to our Conference. Please ring Ken 0400 335 351 or Joan 0422 272 339.

"Mary Mac's Place" Hospitality: volunteers provide nutritious, freshly cooked meals and information and referrals to appropriate community services. Open Monday to Friday, 11am-1pm, at the Ethel Cox Parish Centre. For more information, please contact 4341 0584.

Christmas Concert Saturday, 8th December, 2018.

Conspirito Community Flute Ensemble will be showcasing the music they have explored during the year in a special Christmas Concert in our church on Saturday, 8th December, from 2.30 pm to 4 pm. Music performed will include works from Bach as well as modern composers including incredible local talent Jennifer Hankin. The Concert would not be complete with some wonderful Christmas carols for you to sing along with. Entry is by donation at the door and all proceeds will be donated to Mary Macs Place. Enquiries conspiritoce@gmail.com.

Cash Housie every Saturday night at Peninsula Community Centre, Cnr Ocean Beach Rd & McMasters Rd, Woy Woy. Games start at 7.30pm and finish 10.20pm, cash prizes. Ticket sales from 6pm. Proceeds benefit Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

St John the Baptist Youth Group: Held once a fortnight during school terms for high school students (Years 7-12), in the Leo Mahon Room. For more information, contact Matthew French on 0411 792 587.

Catechists conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

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