

**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.

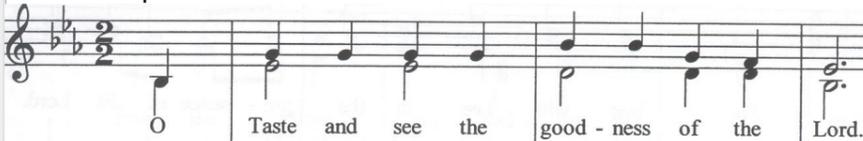
**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**  
Baptism Preparation - 9.30am second and fourth Sunday of the month  
Sacrament of Baptism - 11.00am first and third Sunday of the month . Please contact the parish office for more information.

**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



O Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**  
*Alleluia, alleluia!* Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. . *Alleluia!*

Readings: 2nd September 2018  
Deut 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.  
Readings can be found at [www.usccb.org/bible/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/)

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

**Recently Deceased:** Simon Pollard, Jon Perez, Margrate Sofie, David Johnstone.

**Anniversaries:** Warwick Munro, Patricia Jehan, Agnes Nesbitt, David & Ellen O'Regan, Saffa El-Khatib.

**Remembrances:** Mary Justic.

**Sick:** Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Joy Ball, 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, Vicki Pirie, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo Farrelle, Yvonne Beattie, John Buatava, Paul Hennessy, Sue Rose, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Ron Goodwin, Janice Green, Elaine Finlayson, Louisa Dunne, Peter Brunty, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Mary Drinan.

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## WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

### St John the Baptist Catholic Church

Mission and Vision

Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL, through:

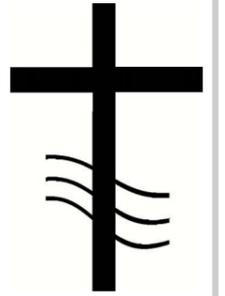
Worship and Liturgy

Outreach

Our Parish School

Hospitality

Adult & Child Faith Formation



**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**26th August, 2018, Year B (Psalter Week 1)**

**Gospel Reflection** © Richard Leonard SJ.



I have some sympathy for the response of the Jews to Jesus' hard teaching in today's Gospel! For a Jew to be asked to drink blood is as abhorrent as it gets. It is the same as demanding that an ultra Orthodox Jew eat pork!

In almost all the stories in the Gospel of John there are insiders and outsiders, those who understand the message and those who take Jesus too literally and are offended or confused. The flesh and blood given for the life of the world is at one and the same time the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus celebrated in the Eucharist. Jesus was not, literally, offering his arm for his followers to chew! He was referring to the gift he was soon going to give his followers: the example of utter fidelity to God's Kingdom

even unto death, and the meal of that Kingdom, the Eucharist. We are the recipients of both gifts and the commission to live them out. The Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation is given to us for our mission in the world today and for our journey toward the World to come.

The other response in today's Gospel gives us great hope. In spite of being confused and deserted by his friends Peter hangs in there with Jesus. He holds on to faith when all the signs show that a hasty retreat may be a better course of action. We all know people who remain faithful in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Some of these we can understand – parents with sick children or spouses with ill partners. It's heroic, but understandable. But sometimes fidelity is heroic and inexplicable: when a spouse welcomes back his or her partner after an adulterous affair; when a foreign-born priest or religious will not abandon an oppressed community; when a person will fight a just cause and be persecuted all the way to the end. These are powerful signs of faithful love at work too. It's a fine line to know when fidelity is 'dying to self' not 'killing self'. We are called to the former and often seduced by the latter.

James Keenan in his excellent book, 'Virtues for ordinary Christians' says that fidelity is the bottom line of the Christian life. He argues that the Church has spent too much time preaching about 'infidelities' and too little time teaching about those things that strengthen fidelity. 'Each person', he says, 'has two major moral goals in life: to be just and to be faithful'. Being faithful to his Father, and to us, sums up what Jesus does for our salvation and is exactly what He calls forth from the disciples in today's Gospel. Perhaps because we too easily think it is something difficult, we presume that being faithful to our friends is hardly a moral issue. Yet once we see that friendship is the key to the moral life then we can come to see that living the moral life is about the ordinary interactions of our day.

James Keenan writes, 'To this end we may need to make more calls, write more letters, cook more dinners, take more strolls, linger a little longer with a friend. We may also need to disengage ourselves from the habit of counting or measuring what the other does or does not do or say'.

May this Eucharist enable us to respond to the invitation of the Holy One of God to place fidelity and friendship at the centre of our moral life and attend to the everyday activities that will sees us live it out.

## Parish News...

**Planned Giving Envelopes** now available in the gathering area. Please note your envelope number may have changed. The new envelopes start Sunday, 2 September.

**Parish Office will be closed** Monday, 27th August.

**Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion rosters:** will be available in the servers sacristy for collection this weekend

**Garden Working Bee:** Saturday, 8 September from 10am-4pm. Lunch provided.

**Bus Trip:** to Windsor, Wednesday 5th September, leaving 8:45a.m. Cost \$20, morning tea included. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

### The Live, Pray, Love, Project:

**Healing in the Family** with Sister Margaret Scully RSC

**When:** Weekend 29-30 Sept 2018

(Saturday 10.15am

, concluding with Mass at 5pm) (Sunday 11.00am to 2.00pm, preceded by Mass at 9.15am)

**Where:** Leo Mahon room, *Please bring a plate to share*

**Cost:** \$10 registration before 21 Sept 2018:

- cash into Woy Woy parish office or

- BSB 062784 Acct 12006100 Reference [Initial and Surname] 'LPL'

**Information:** Please contact Gladys on 0421 312 362 for more information.

It is recommended that if you can only attend on one day, it should be the Saturday.

**Tax Receipts** for Charitable Works Fund (CWF) for last financial year are available in the gathering area.

**Pilgrimage with Fr Timothy:** to Fatima, Spain, Lourdes & Medjugorje. 16 days, 17 May –1 June 2019. \$6,950. More detailed information is available on the gathering area table. Those interested may leave their names with the Parish Office.

### Donations for LED Lighting Upgrade

The Parish Finance Committee has approved the proposal to reduce ongoing electricity costs by upgrading the lighting within the site to LED's with NSW's Energy Saving Scheme. The upgrade will cost \$15 192. Donations may be placed in an envelope clearly noting "LED lighting upgrade" & may be placed with either collection bag or brought to the Parish Office. For your convenience a supply of these donation envelopes is available on the gathering area table.

## Thank You

A huge thank you and prayerful congratulations to Don Matheson for his wonderful work, knowledge, . dedication and patience in training & rostering senior & junior servers for our P a r i s h f o r o v e r 35 years (*exact years difficult to confirm before printing!*). He will hand this role over to Bernie French & Arthur Gapps from 1 September 2018.

**15 Days Pilgrimage of a Lifetime to Jordan and Israel, May 2018** By Phil Curtis. (continued).

**Jerusalem.** From the Mount of Olives we had a view of the old city. In the Garden of Gethsemane we saw the thorny bush from which the Crown of Thorns would have been made. We visited the church of St Peter at Gallicanta - this church commemorates the traditional site of Peter's reported denials of Christ. We visited the old city, saw and touched the Western Wall, the via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) walked by Christ on the way to his Crucifixion. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher believed to be the site of Christ's Crucifixion and tomb. On one of our last nights, we visited the church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. We shared a Holy Hour with a group of American Pilgrims. A replica of the rock on which Jesus prayed was in the Sanctuary of the church. The Communion Rail on the Church was the result of a donation from Australia. The Franciscans recently celebrated 800 years of caring for the Holy Places in the Holy Land. I found this trip one of the best I have ever done. It was spiritually rewarding and different in the landscape, the people and the culture. I feel fortunate and privileged to have made such a journey. I also felt safe and welcome in the Holy Land. If you have the opportunity to make such a trip, do take it. Indeed, this was a trip of a lifetime.

Why are we involved in a movement for Christian Unity? Come and hear Rv. Professor Gerard Kelly the chair of the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA). Warnervale Catholic Church, Mary MacKillop Drive off 91 Sparks Road, 7pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018. ALL WELCOME

**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 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 Peter 0425 358 376 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.

**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.

**Catechist Helpers:** We have temporarily lost two valuable teachers and one helper and we are finding that our class numbers, particularly in composite classes, is putting an extra burden on teachers. In an ideal world every class would have a teacher and a helper, a **valuable member of the ministry** who is there to assist individual children with activities, help the children focus, lead them in prayers and help with reading. It's a lovely role and you can be as involved in the lesson as you want. **We'd love to have more helpers, so if you have an hour a week, please call me and learn more. Susie 0411 566 622.**

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