

**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



**Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!* My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.  
*Alleluia!*

Readings: 23rd September 2018  
Wis 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37.  
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:** Mary Drinan, Ron Goodwin, Joan Donnelly, John Hill, Joan Gostellow.

**Anniversaries:** Leonora (Leah) Esposito, Lous Panos.

**Remembrances:** Mary Justic, Remegio Ambrosio Sr.

**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, Janice Green, Elaine Finlayson, Louisa Dunne, Peter Brunty, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop.

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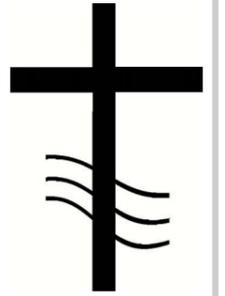


## WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

### 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



**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**16th September, 2018, Year B (Psalter Week 4)**

**Gospel Reflection © Fr Michael Tate**



**Peter: earthquaked and then upside down**

Simon must have felt the earth quake. His Master had just called him: 'Satan'. What had gone wrong?

After all, Peter had been going quite well. He perceived that Jesus was more than just another prophet, another religious leader in the Jewish tradition. In fact he recognised that Jesus was the fulfilment of the hope of that Jewish tradition: the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ (in Greek).

But for Peter that word 'Christos' filled his head with all sorts of images of political power and sovereignty. He thought a political revolution was at hand. The Roman occupying army would be expelled and Jesus would rule from Jerusalem as the anointed liberator.

Jesus did not deny that he was the Christ, the Anointed One. But he knew that as he remained true to His mission, the authorities would move against him in deadly fashion.

What was his mission? A mission of embracing those put on the margins of society, the 'untouchables' of his time; the lepers, the prostitutes and the collaborators collecting tax;

his mission of conversing easily with women, and encouraging their discipleship against all the taboos;

his mission to embody and advance the Reign of God.

Our Lord had no illusions. It was Peter who was living in a fantasy world, an imaginary world of easy victory for the kingdom of God.

Jesus had to take the strongest possible stand against Peter's point of view so that Peter would be prepared for the worst. Of course, it didn't work. As we know, Peter denied Jesus three times when the cross eventually loomed as reality.

Can we blame Peter? Here in our Australian democracy, we hardly feel the force of this gospel passage forewarning the followers of Jesus that they could be faced with a cross of persecution.

So we trivialise the meaning of 'taking up the cross' to make it refer to bearing a chronic ailment or putting up with a particularly irritating family member or work colleague: 'the cross I have to bear'.

No, Our Lord is referring to the truly deadly situation where if his followers remain true to *His* way of life so that the dominant powers in society feel threatened, then those powers will try to silence such followers.

It is very telling that the ISIL cult, the most barbaric torturer and murderer of Christians to emerge in recent times, contemptuously refers to Christianity as 'the religion of the cross'. They have actually perceived that reality. But, of course, not in the perspective and dimension of the resurrection.

There are many examples of Muslim persecution of Christians from Iraq to Nigeria.

Our Lord is saying to his persecuted followers: 'Persevere, don't renounce your allegiance to me. There is a power more dominant than the political power oppressing you. The really dominant power lies in my victory over death and I will give you a share in that victory.' I know this is easily said from the safety of Australia. But it is our post-Resurrection faith. Even Simon Peter, with the benefit of the Resurrection, eventually understood that Jesus was indeed the Christ, but One whose victory lay through the passage of death on the cross.

Tradition tells us that Peter was crucified upside down at the foot of the Vatican Hill in Rome: no longer 'Satan', but Martyr, co-Founder of the Church in Rome.

Let us pray during this Mass, and where appropriate give our political support, for our fellow Christians wherever they are suppressed and persecuted, forced to bear the true cross in ways barely imaginable to us. May God give those Christians the victory which was Christ's, victory over the worst those diabolical forces can do, victory over death itself.

## Parish News...

### Fransalian Spirituality Retreat:

Come to know about St Francis de Sales. Conducted by Fr Mario D'Souza over all weekend Masses 22nd & 23rd of September, with a **special Mass on Friday 21st September at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sam French Acolyte Installation:** On Sunday 30th September, our parish seminarian Sam French will be instituted to the ministry of acolyte during the 6pm Mass at St John the Baptist, Woy Woy. The Mass will be celebrated by our Diocesan Administrator Fr. David Ranson. This event is an important step in Sam's ongoing journey towards the priesthood. Parishioners are welcome to attend the Mass, and are all invited to a small celebratory supper in the Leo Mahon room afterwards.

**Catechists** - Thursday 27 September 9:00a.m. We will be completing our questionnaire for the Plenary Conference. This is specifically targeting the Catechist Ministry and how we see ourselves within the Church in Australia, now and in the future. It's the chance to have your say. CCD has asked as many of you as possible contribute to this and I can say, having already taken part, it makes for a vibrant discussion. Please do your very best to attend.

### Courtesy Bus Service: URGENT

The Courtesy Bus Service has been serving our parishioners for about ten years. Over that time many people have given their time to drive the bus. Age & impairment of one sort or another have taken their toll and we no longer have sufficient drivers to continue to provide the service at the same level. Women and men who have a licence to drive a car are invited to share in this invaluable ministry. Please call Vince (0418 485 417) or Bernard (0422 292 759) for more information.

### Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/9/18:

Jo Salter, Cheryl Sillick, Jo McMillan & Rano Spiteri.

**Children's Liturgy 23/9/18:** Therese Carroll, Michael Dixon & Emma Baker.

**Morning Tea Roster 23/9/18:** Spanish Prayer Group.

**SVdP Volunteers Mass:** Saturday, 22nd September, 9am.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday, due 17th September, 1.00pm-2.30pm. This month at Ettalong Bowling club. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided.

**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.

### Plenary Herald

Reform is an integral part of the life of the church. The need for reform in the church has been urged, in recent years, by several bishops, most noticeably, Geoffrey Robinson, Patrick Power and Vincent Long van Ngyuen. Among the archbishops, Peter Comensoli and Mark Coleridge have contributed to the call for reform of the church's structure and culture.

*"As hard questions of justice, honesty and accountability are asked of the church, it is fair to say that the call for reform will become a recurring theme." (Peter Comensoli, Interview with the ABC, 2013)*

Reform in the church must involve the whole People of God. *Lumen gentium*, the dogmatic constitution of the church, promulgated at the close of the Second Vatican Council makes clear that the infallible voice of the church is the voice of "the entire body of the faithful" (*Lumen gentium*, 12).

The instrument that the church employs for "the whole peoples' discernment in matters of faith" (*loc. cit.*) is the synod or council which is the earliest and traditional form for collegial discussion, debate and decision-making in the church. Since the Second Vatican Council, canon law advises that councils include the laity. The Plenary Council to be held in Australia in 2020/21 cannot complete its mission without the full and honest participation of all the People of God in Australia: clergy, religious and laity. We all share in the prophetic office of Christ and the council will give us all an opportunity to exercise that office.

The children, young and vulnerable people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay must be kept safe.

We will be kept safe by ADULTS who...



We will be kept safe by ADULTS who...



**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 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.

**Rachel's Vineyard** (healing lives touched by abortion) offers retreats for men, women, couples, grandparents and anyone affected by the termination of pregnancy. The next retreat is in Sydney, 16th-18th November. [www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au) Otherwise feel free to talk to Lisa on 0422 504 143.



**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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