

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! If we love another, God will live in us in perfect love. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 14th October 2018
Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30.
Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

Anniversaries: Frank Schmidt, Barry Follet, Mollie Quinn, Noelle Davidovic, Mary Grealy, Peter Grealy, Charles Dreis.

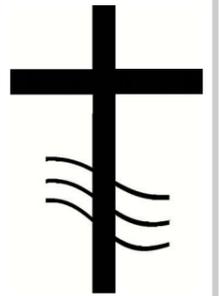
Remembrances: Sally King, Patricia Hogan, Bruno de Souza, Vera Tracey, Edward & Doreen Baker, Lydia & Alfred Dreis .

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, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbib, Karen Chorazyczewska, Sheila Rogan.



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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
7th October, 2018, Year B (Psalter Week 3)
Gospel Reflection © Fr Michael Tate



Counter-cultural on Marriage

Very occasionally, I am asked: 'What is the most important sacrament, Father?' There is a case to be made for Baptism, or Holy Communion, and no doubt I could mount the arguments. But marriage has to be a strong contender. Why? God wants human beings to exist in his 'image and likeness', imaginative ways of mirroring God's life in material creation. But we are, to a greater or lesser degree, shattered or fractured images. We need restoring, reintegrating, to be made whole again. And the sacraments do this in their various specific ways.

One of the differences between human beings is that between male and female. These distinctive ways of being human are meant to be integrated into a unity which does not abolish the difference. Our Lord reminded his Jewish audience of this by going to the Jewish creation stories and alluding to the passage in Genesis. He says: 'But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the *two* become *one* body. They are no longer *two*, therefore, but *one* body.'

So, Our Lord is saying that when a man and woman cleave to each other in marriage, that is 'a Paradise moment'. Gender difference is incorporated into a new unity which does not abolish, but paradoxically enhances the difference.

Same sex partners can, of course, bring many virtues and loving dimensions to their relationship: enduring friendship, care in troubled times, joy. But they cannot embody the celebration of difference in the way a heterosexual couple do when cleaving into a new unity. That latter deserves its own title: '*Marriage*'. Of course, marriage is present in every phase of human history, and in every culture, religious and non-religious alike. It is not a creation of the Church.

But the Church celebrates this 'Paradisaal' unity by way of Sacrament, restoring male and female as an holistic image of God.

What happens when that unity is fractured? Our Lord teaches: '...what God has united, man must not divide.' This was counter-cultural in the Jewish and Roman societies of his day, as it is in the Australian society of today.

But, we all know of instances, some very close to us, where the sad trauma of this dividing has occurred. Is the Church sufficiently a place where an injured or wounded party can find the healing presence of God? Can we have pastoral practices which give the 'medicine of immortality' to a wounded party within the communion of the Church?

We could pause a moment to pray for the Church to be a minister of grace to help hold men and women together in the gender-enhancing unity of marriage, and to be a minister of mercy when that unity is fractured.

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