

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! Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Readings: 16th December 2018
Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18.
Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

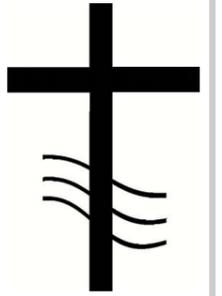
Keep Us In Your Prayers OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF
Recently Deceased: Marie Carter, Alan Ford, Kathleen Keltey, Leon
Chalker, Gertrude Wilson.
Anniversaries: Patricia Hogan, Jerzy Uminski.
Remembrances: Trevor & Kath Spear, Nell Thom, Molly Molloy, Cathy
Carroll, Ellen & David O'Regan, Barbara Cooper, Hm Doyle, William
Estcourt, Mary, Frank & Katerina Justic.
Sick: Vicki Pirie 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,Carolynn 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

2nd Sunday of Advent
9th December, 2018, Year C (Psalter Week 2)
Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist encourages his followers to be patient, as the wait for salvation will soon be over. The Israelites longed to see the day when the Messiah would come. Each generation hoped and prayed that they would be the one to witness the appearance of God's anointed. The Jewish people still hope and pray for this event in every generation.

But Jesus did not come as many expected. Some thought he would arrive in a dramatic event and the end of the world would occur. Others expected a regal entrance or a political overthrow of the Romans. Luke's Gospel repeatedly points out that the very people who longed for the day to see the Messiah missed out because they were looking for the wrong signs.

John the Baptist is the first to see Jesus for who he really is for the world. He recognises that Jesus' sacrificial love can fill our valleys, lay mountains low, make crooked paths straight and rough ways smooth. Advent is not a season where we have to pretend that we do not know Jesus is coming and then put on mock surprise at Christmas. Advent is the season which celebrates a 'patient yes'. Every year all of us in the Church stand in a queue and remind ourselves of how blessed we are to have seen our salvation in Jesus. We remember the faith of those who longed to see what we see and to know what we know. And we cultivate our patience for life's valleys, mountains and crooked paths where sometimes we can feel Jesus' absence more than his presence, where only when we look back we can see he was with us all the way. So, as we all wait together in line this Advent let's say yes to all that salvation holds for us: yes to God's personal love; yes to Jesus' kingdom of justice and peace; yes to every opportunity to serve the Gospel and yes to knowing that our God is a companion to us at every step of our journey, even in the most unexpected ways.

Scottish poet John Bell expresses it this way:
'Light looked down and saw the darkness.
"I will go there", said light.
Peace looked down and saw war.
"I will go there", said peace.
Love looked down and saw hatred.
"I will go there", said love.
So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down and crept in beside us.'

Parish News...

Christmas and New Year Mass Times

<u>December 18th: 7pm</u> 2 nd Rite of Reconciliation	<u>December 26th</u> <u>Boxing Day</u> 9:00 a.m.
<u>December 24th</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> 6:00p.m. 8:00p.m. 10:00p.m.	<u>December 31st</u> <u>New Years Eve</u> 6:00pm (Adoration) 7:00pm
<u>December 25th</u> <u>Christmas Day</u> 7:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. (No evening Mass)	<u>January 1st</u> <u>New Years Day</u> 9:00am



Thank you: A big thank you to Dorothy and her Sacramental team for all their hard work in preparing our children for the Sacrament of First Confession.

St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal:

Thank you for the generosity of all who contributed. An amount of \$5009.00 was raised.

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.

Christmas Offering Envelopes: are in the church for those who do not have weekly envelopes.

Children's Liturgy 16/12/18: Therese Carroll, Anne Maree Tonkin & Michael Dixon.

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.

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

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 14/12/18: Mabel Torres, Elena Egan Anisha Burns, Judith Easterbrook.

Church Cleaning Roster 2019: Available for collection in the Leo Mahon Room.

Garden Fundraising: Next weekend, December 15th/16th we will be having a special fundraiser to gain much needed funds to create a warm, welcoming environment for our neglected church grounds. Our wonderful volunteers have been doing a fantastic job so far however, for them to continue takes the right equipment; upgrading of our watering system, tools for ongoing maintenance and the cost of new plants including a useful rose garden in the reflection area. Volunteers will be putting on a cake stall after all weekend Masses and, if you're looking for Christmas gift ideas, handcrafted chopping/tapas/serving boards will also be on sale. Then Sunday morning after both Masses, we will have a mouth-watering barbeque breakfast available. Your generous donations towards this project will be extremely appreciated.

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE****

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

Dialogue sessions are being held in our parish during Advent as a means of assisting the planners of the Plenary Council in 2020 in developing a relevant agenda for the council. The first of three dialogue sessions was held during the first week of Advent. A perceptive group of ten parishioners gathered to reflect on what God is asking of us, followers of Jesus, in Australia at this time.

Discussion focussed on our experience of church and on what the Holy Spirit is calling the church to be in the world today. The shape of the church that would be relevant to the needs of the country today varied according to each person's experience of church. There was a consensus, however about a church that is inclusive and accepting of differences among people; a church that is clear about what it stands for; a church that is contemplative and reflective; a church in which the people connect with and support each other. It became clear in this dialogue session that the Church is, as it is described in its constitution, a holy mystery. In the scriptures and tradition many metaphors are used to describe the Church established by God through Jesus Christ. Images such as a sheepfold; a flock; a vineyard; a building; a mother; a spouse. The most powerful image used by the bishops in the constitution of the Church is the mystical body of Christ (*Lumen gentium*, 7-8). For this reason, many theologians have stressed the importance in the church of contemplation.

The next dialogue session will be held in the Leo Mahon Room on Wednesday, 12th December, from 2:00PM-4:00PM.

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.

Patients Admission to Gosford Private Hospital

If any parishioners, family or friends are to be admitted to the hospital and if they wish to receive Holy Communion on Sunday morning, please ensure that you complete the question on the Admission Form (see below) that asks "Religion" and tick the box "Religious Visit". Alternatively please ask a relative/friend to contact the Wyoming parish office on 4324 3962 to request a hospital visit. We have been advised by the hospital that their policy has been reviewed because of the Privacy Act and we are not able to visit a patient unless the patient specifically requests it.

Cash House 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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