

**OUT OF HOURS MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
0438 631 327

"He must increase, I must decrease"

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

**Office Staff**  
Raelene Spithill, Johnson Mani, Triona Meagher.

**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 9.30am (after  
morning Mass) & 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: 0417 659  
526. Practice Wed nights in the church  
@ 7pm. New members welcome.

**Christian Meditation** Thursday  
afternoons from 2-3pm and Monday  
evenings 6-7pm, in the Leo Mahon  
room. All welcome!

**St John the Baptist Church**  
Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads, Woy Woy  
**Ethel Cox Parish Centre**  
100 Blackwall Road Woy Woy  
**Parish Office:** Open Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30 am - 4.00 pm and  
Tues & Thu 8.30 am - 3.00 pm  
54 Victoria Road / P.O. Box 264 WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256  
Phone: (02) 4341 1073 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



In his days ju - stice shall flou - rish and peace 'till the moon fails.

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

Readings: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
Is 35:1-6, 10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**Keep Us In Your Prayers** OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF:  
**Recently Deceased:** Fr Barry Nobbs, Reg Herbert, Fr Paul Stenhouse  
msc, Sr Elizabeth Carr.

**Remembrance:** Bianca Tignani.

**Sick:** Helen McKeon, Marie Dixon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina,  
Geoff Floyd, Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Bill Seton, Joan Kelleher,  
Brian Smith, Jason Simon, 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 & Rose Aloisio, Amanda Sheridan, Audey Barsenbach, Marta  
Panczyna, Sue James, Mary Wood, Therese Horner, Jack Dummett, Jo  
Farrelle, Anne Singleton, Tina Cohen, Janice Green, Robert Parker,  
Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczewska,  
Ian Wilks, Michael Hourigan, John Horrigan, Ed Hyland, Daphne  
McNab, Shirley Crotty, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Tim Parker, Lorraine  
Smith, Larry Cresswell, Ken Joyce, Alison Richmond, June Townsend,  
Andrew Muggs, Sheila Houghton, Chrissy Toms, Frank Levy,  
Dorothy Fulton, Roger Mitchell.

Quotes from Amoris Laetitia... "The Joy of Love"  
Pope Francis

We also find it hard to make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations. We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them.

Meet your local finance expert   
**Amanda Lawer**  
0478 055 609 **\$300 donation to a local community centre\***  
Home and Car Loans Business Loans SMSF Loans Personal Loans  
\*For St John's parishioners or their friends who settle a home loan by 30 April 2020. Amanda will donate \$300 to a local community centre. Approved applicants only. Lending criteria apply. Amanda Lawer has access to a panel of lenders through Liberty Network Services Pty Ltd (ABN 65 151 158 628) Australian Credit Licence 408042 (LNS) including Liberty Financial Pty Ltd (ABN 55 077 248 983) which owns LNS.



# 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**  
**8<sup>th</sup> December, 2019, Year A (Psalter Week 2)**  
**Gospel Reflection - © Fr Richard Leonard SJ**



Even in Church circles these days it is quite common to engage a management consultancy company to help find people for a particular diocesan job. This is a good idea and often these companies find excellent people for the task.

I recently saw a consultancy profile, however, for a diocese seeking a lay chancellor. We all know these people must be upright citizens, but I am convinced that Jesus himself may have been challenged to fill this job description! Apart from having degrees in civil and canon law, the desired applicant had to have 'outstanding Catholic faith, an exemplary moral character and have nothing in his or her background that could cause the Church embarrassment or scandal in the future.'

A couple of days later I came across a tongue-in-cheek summary of a management consultant's report on those who had applied to lead the earliest Christian Church:

'John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and picks fights in public with religious leaders. 'Peter: Has a bad temper, even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive. A loose cannon.

'Paul: Powerful, CEO type of leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with young ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

'Jesus: Has been popular at times, but once when his following grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and it dwindled down to some faithful women and his best friend. Seldom stays in one place very long.

'Judas: His references are solid. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. Great possibilities here.'

In today's Gospel we hear what a fierce character John the Baptist was. He lets the Pharisees and Sadducees have it with both barrels. These groups were the publicly devout churchgoers of their day. They were often hypocrites, professing one thing and doing another. We know they regularly demanded observances of ordinary Jews that they did not live out themselves. No wonder John disliked them so much.

Their religious observance was a charade, focused on their needs, their souls, their salvation. They were going to get to heaven, and everyone else be damned! They even come out to the wilderness to get baptised. This was like going to salvation mega-store. They buy a little of everything, just to be sure. John attacks them violently and in doing so condemns their privatised religion and lack of social responsibility.

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners. If all we want is to be left alone, to come to Mass, say our prayers and save our souls, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again.

May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'



## Parish News

**Sound system:** We are in the process of changing our sound system. The first phase will be the Radio Mic System upgrade and second phase will be the upgrade of the PA System. If you would like to contribute to the upgrade, the cost is due to be \$6,165.50. Work will commence soon.

**IT Upgrade:** We are in the process of updating our IT systems. We will keep you updated with progress.

**Piety Stall:** Columban calendars and SvDP cards are now available for sale at the Piety Stall. Calendars \$9 & cards \$5 for a pack of 8. "Joy of the Gospel, Daily Reflection" \$10.

**Thank you:** Willy Woods has decided to step back from her role as Parish Counter. The Parish would like to sincerely thank Willy for her 15+ years of service.

### St Vincent de Paul Society Cash Appeal

Our members on the Woy Woy Peninsula assist people in need with food, clothing and furniture. We also link them with Support Services such as Financial Counselling. We also Advocate for people with Government Agencies and Utility companies. We do this by visiting those seeking our help in their homes and each day do 15 visits Monday to Friday. This Christmas we are providing hampers, toys and extra financial help to 160 people and families in addition to our daily visitations. Our aim is to provide a "Hand Up" to those who ask for assistance and to show them the face of Christ's love in our actions. We ask for your prayers in our work. Your generosity is appreciated.

### St John Paul II Pilgrimage

20 days Pilgrimage to Croatia and All Italian Shrines with Fr Timothy Raj MSFS Spiritual Director. Francis Williams (Travel Coordinator)  
Depart Sydney Thursday 3 September 2020 and return Sydney Tuesday 22 September 2020 (17 nights)

#### Trip includes

Round-trip airfare Sydney/Dubai/Zagreb/Dubrovnik - Venice/Dubai/Sydney. One way flight Split/Rome  
17 nights centrally located 3 stars hotels: (or similar)

04-08 September 2020	Medjugorje	4 nights
08-11 September 2020	Rome	3 nights
11-13 September 2020	San Giovanni Rotondo	2 nights
13-16 September 2020	Assisi	3 nights
16-18 September 2020	Florence	2 nights
18-21 September 2020	Padua	3 nights

Cost from Au\$6,700 per person twin/Double sharing (cost is based on 20 pilgrims) Single supp from Au\$7,700.

## 2020 Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Training Programme

### Equipping the Saints for the work of Ministry Eph. 4:12

Two Foundational training programmes in Pastoral/Spiritual care will be offered on the Central Coast in 2020 from February to September. If you feel called to support people with Pastoral/Spiritual care these Units are an exciting way for you to discover and develop your pastoral ability and become equipped for this ministry within a public or church setting. During training placements are in Gosford or Wyong Hospitals. The training can be used towards formal chaplaincy qualifications with the Sydney College of Divinity.

If you would like to know more please contact: Chaplain

Frank Wortley on:

4320 2253 or [Francis.Wortley@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Francis.Wortley@health.nsw.gov.au)

### Rosters

**Volunteer Church Cleaning 13/12/19:** Warren Sparrow, Christine Thorson, Elena Egan, Linda Potestas.

**Children's Liturgy 15/12/19:** Frances Giunta, Rose Giunta, Mimi Lambert.

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

<u>December 18<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm</u> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation	<u>December 26<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Boxing Day</u> 9:00 am
<u>December 24<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> <b>5:30 pm (School Oval)</b> 8:00 pm (church) 10:00 pm (church)	<u>December 31<sup>st</sup></u> <u>New Years Eve</u> 6:00 pm (Adoration) 7:00 pm
<u>December 25<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Christmas Day</u> 7:30 am 9:15 am	<u>January 1<sup>st</sup></u> <u>New Years Day</u> 9:00 am

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

## Our Pope's call to all Catholics

**"Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization"**

(Apostolic Exhortation : *Evangelii Gaudium*)

There is no better way to be actively engaged in evangelization than to be a catechist teaching the catholic students of our parish who attend the state schools. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry, ring the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

### Tap & Go

**Cashless society** - we have installed #2 Tap & Go machines to facilitate those who would like to donate to the Church via card. One machine operates in denominations of \$2 and the other operates in denominations of \$5.



## Donation Point Tap

### Immaculate Conception

**Sunday 8 December:** Rosary 11.30 am, followed by Hour of Grace 12 noon - 1 pm, St John the Baptist Church. We will keep in those prayers the young people going to the 3 day Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth which starts 8

### Fransalian Quote

"Love is the first act and principle of our devout or spiritual life. By it, we live, feel and move."

**St. Francis de Sales**

### SJB Parish Youth Ministry

As our Parish Vision is **Bringing Jesus Christ to All**, we will continue to reach out to our young people, our sons and daughters who are in High Schools Year 7 - Year 12 and those who have just left school.

The purpose of Catholic Youth Broken Bay is to Evangelize, Gather and Send with the goals of:

1. Empowering young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today
2. Draw young people into active participation in the life and mission of our faith communities
3. Promote a culture of youth discipleship by fostering the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

We will be using the Australian Vision for Catholic Youth Ministry as given to us by the Australian Catholic Bishops. So the plan for St John the Baptist Parish is to:

1. Recruit for a Team (Parish Youth Ministry Team - Leaders) - December 2019 and January 2020
2. Train the Team (all these leaders) in **Anointed and Send Model** - January 2020 ongoing
3. Youth Group Ages 12-17 and Young Adults Group Ages 18-35 - February

Anyone interested in joining the Youth Ministry Team/ Youth Group or Young Adults Group please contact the parish office at 4341 1073 or Kiliti Na'ati on 0412 731 979. "He must increase, I must decrease." This is an intergenerational Ministry. Please sign up with whatever gifts and talents that you have. Let us build the Kingdom of God in our family and our Parish.

### Office for Safeguarding

We the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.

**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 the Parish. Enquiries Rob: 0427 990 818.

**Ethel Cox Parish Centre - "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.

**CALVARY FUNERALS**  
LOW COST FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Tel: 1300 663 753  
1/77 Rawson Rd Woy Woy

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*Caring For Your Family*



**Tanti Financial Services**  
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1300 661 424  
admin@tfs.com.au



**Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services**  
1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy.  
**Free Call:** 1800 032 225  
100% Australian Owned Family Operated Company.



**Hardwick's on Blackwall**  
(Opposite corner to our church)  
4/115 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy  
**Café and catering services**  
Ph 0422 561 439