

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 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! I have chosen and sanctified this house, says the Lord, that my name may remain in it for all time. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 24th November 2019

Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Paul Houghton, Pat Hennessy,
Remembrances: Mary & George Hilliard, The Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, The Mills Family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price, Kevin, Nora & Eli Houghton.
Sick: Michael Taylor, Kathleen Bezzina, Geoff Floyd, Elaine Finlayson, Tom Searle, Bill Seton, Joan Kelleher, Kerry Baldwin, 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.

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*For St John's parishioners or their friends who settle a home loan by 30 April 2020. Amanda will donate \$300 to St Vincent De Paul Society. 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



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th November, 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 1)

Gospel Reflection - © Fr Michael Tate



Have you ever prayed for a parking spot? Which reminds me of the Irishman who went around the block twice looking for a spot, and in his frustration lifted his eyes towards Heaven and prayed 'Almighty God, if you find me a spot I'll go to Mass every Sunday and give up the Guinness.' Just then, a parking spot opened up and he dashed in to the space, raised his eyes to heaven and said 'Almighty God, disregard the previous conversation, I just found a spot by myself.'

Our prayers can tell us a lot about the image of God we really have. For some it is of a Divine Parking Attendant in the sky. For others a sort of weather God who with sufficient entreaty can stop the rain during the second day of the Test Match. But if you were in Syria and your town was being strafed and bombed by government and rebel forces, with innocent people being wantonly killed, then your prayer would

be very different.

Your image of God would be of a Liberator from warfare, of a Saviour from crimes against humanity, and if it came to it, a Strengthened in time of torture and impending death.

In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers for what he knew would be times of persecution in the immediate and ongoing futures for the Christian community.

Imagine hearing these readings in a Catholic church in Syria, as the congregation fearfully gathers in the wake of murderous violence by some Muslim extremists against Christians, or in a church in a village in China with the Catholic community trying to keep its ties with the Pope, fearful of denunciation and betrayal by family and friends, as predicted by Jesus in today's gospel. There would be a yearning and heartfelt hope which would be a real prayer by those Syrian and Chinese disciples. They would be looking for vindication of their perseverance in persecution.

They would cling to Our Lord's assurance: 'Your endurance will win you your lives.'

They would listen to the prophet Malachi:

'The day is coming now ...evildoers will be like stubble ...But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.'

What a wonderful image of God, putting our rather pathetic parking spot attendant and weather God images to shame.

'The sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.'

This is the image for God which would mean something very heartening in the midst of the seemingly endless darkness of persecution. God will do what the sun does, flooding the world with light and warmth, making our fragile planet habitable for human beings.

It is our faith that out of the inky blackness of the cold tomb carved out of a hill near Calvary, the *Son* of righteousness did rise, shining out with healing in His rays.

That is what the early church believed during those early centuries of persecution. They believed that Son when he had said: 'Your endurance will win you your lives.'

This belief is what sustains the martyrs of our present era.

The word 'martyr' is the Greek word for witness. It simply means somebody who witnesses to something.

A Christian martyr witnesses to Our Lord Jesus Christ, the pre-eminent martyr. Their blood is shed, as was His. They do so with the faith that for them, the Son of righteousness will shine out with healing.

That is our faith, that is the faith of the church. What was in the future tense for Malachi, is a present reality for those in parts of Nigeria, of Indonesia, of China, of Syria and elsewhere. This is what sustains them. There will be vindication. Justice will be done. Because the Son of Righteousness rose with healing in His rays.

Parish News

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Please keep these children in your prayers as the Sacrament will be celebrated on Friday 22nd November.

The Book of the Names of the Dead will be in the Church during November. You are invited to write the names of the faithful departed in it. A lamp will be lit at all Masses.

November Envelopes: Available from the gathering table.

Dedication of St John the Baptist Church: The Feast of the Dedication of the Church will be celebrated during 9.15am mass on Sunday 17th November. There will be a morning tea following mass.

Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers: List of various types of hampers needed are on display this weekend. Hampers to be returned by the weekend of 7/8 December.

Cuppa and a Chat: A group of Seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon Room, due 18th November, 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm. If you would like to join us phone Pat on 0403 672 077. Transport provided.

Sound system: We are in the process of changing our sound system and works will commence soon.

Accommodation Needed: Lady requires a granny flat, cabin or studio in any of the following areas; Point Clare, Tascott, Koolewong, Woy Woy, Umina, Ettalong, Empire Bay or Kincumber. Please call Lilly on 0422 524 436 if you know of anything suitable.



Charitable Works Fund:

An amazing \$20,142.85 has been collected in the first and

second of **three** collections for this financial year. We are so grateful for your kindness and generosity in helping the Parish reach our target of \$37,17.00. The money raised helps provide faith based services to those in our local community. Donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

Hospital Holy Communion: If any parishioners, family or friends are admitted to one of our Hospitals and wish to receive Communion while there, can they please contact the Parish Office on 4341 1073.

Rosters

Volunteer Church Cleaning 22/11/19: Kevin Glacken, Reg Harrington, Rano Spiteri, Warren Sparrow.

Childrens' Liturgy 24/11/19: Jenny Fitzgerald, Ingrid Stevens, Michael Dixon.

Retreat Day Saturday November 30th, 9.00 am to 3.30pm St John the Baptist Church

"Living in the Divine Will" with Fr. Hugh Thomas C.Ss.R. Fr. Hugh Thomas is a Redemptorist missionary priest who worked in the Philippines for over 22 years and has given retreats and missions in all the States of Australia. Jesus came only to do the Will of the Father. He taught us to pray that God's Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Come and hear of the new movement to help us live in the Divine Will, a movement inspired by the Italian mystic, Luisa Piccarreta, an extraordinary person who lived only on Holy Communion for 60 years. This retreat can truly be a life-changing experience. The retreat will begin with the Mass at 9.00 am, followed by Adoration until 10.00 am, during which confessions will be heard. A short break for Morning tea will follow and the talks will follow in the Walter Baker Hall. The

Tap & Go

Cashless society - we will be installing #2 tap & go machines shortly to facilitate those who would like to donate to the Church via card. More details to follow.



Donation Point Tap

Fransalian Quote

"The heart is a source of love and as long as love flows from the heart it will never be unreasonable."

St. Francis de Sales

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.

You are invited to the Annual Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay MASS OF INCLUSION

When: Sunday 1 December 2019

Time: 9.30am

Where: Our lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Yardley Ave, Waitara

Enquiries: Colleen Smith Phone: 8379 1642 or Email: colleen.smith@bbcatholic.org.au

YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY
MASS OF INCLUSION 2019



9.30am at Our Lady of the
Rosary Cathedral, Waitara

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

World Day of the Poor - 17 November 2019



On Sunday, 17 November, Pope Francis calls us to commemorate the third World day of the Poor. This year, the theme is "the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever" (PS 9:19), in which "the Church in Australia is recognising volunteers who work to bring hope to those in need." (ACBC Media Release Oct 2019) In his 2019 World Day of the Poor message, Pope Francis reminds us that "Before all else, the poor need God and his love, made visible by "the saints next door", people who by the simplicity of their lives express clearly the power of Christian love. God uses any number of ways and countless means to reach people's hearts. Certainly, the poor come to us also because we give them food, but what they really need is more than our offer of a warm meal or a sandwich. The poor need our hands, to be lifted up; our hearts, to feel anew the warmth of affection; our presence, to overcome loneliness. In a word, they need love."

DROUGHT

The Catholic Bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for Drought to take place during November. People across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The Bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national - and so should the response be national. Access resources and find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/drought

Pastoral Plan - Vision and Mission on Hospitality

Where are we with the Hospitality Plan?

The hospitality team will be sharing with you the work that has been happening behind the scenes on how we can build upon the hospitality culture we provide here at SJB. Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL through hospitality is for everyone and that includes those who do not attend our church. What will hospitality look like here at SJB? We are very excited with this new initiative and we ask for your prayers, your ideas, your gifts and your talents. If you have any questions please contact the Parish Office 4341 1073.

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