

**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! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!*

Readings: 23rd December 2018  
Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44.  
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:** Doris Galea, Joseph Calleja, Kathleen Hodges.

**Anniversaries:** Margherita Bigeja, Frank Ryan, Bon Anderson, Ann Culmer.

**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, Carolyn Jupp, Lynette Durie, Sr Pat Barton.

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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

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**16th December, 2018, Year C (Psalter Week 3)**

**Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.**



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas. 'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.' 'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again. 'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.' Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.' Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church. He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Cantic from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In today's Gospel John's disciples are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ.

# Parish News...

## Christmas and New Year Mass Times

<u>December 18<sup>th</sup></u> : 7pm <i>(not 20th as notified last week)</i> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation	<u>December 26<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Boxing Day</u> 9:00 a.m.
<u>December 24<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> 6:00p.m. 8:00p.m. 10:00p.m.	<u>December 31<sup>st</sup></u> <u>New Years Eve</u> 6:00pm (Adoration) 7:00pm
<u>December 25<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Christmas Day</u> 7:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. (No evening Mass)	<u>January 1<sup>st</sup></u> <u>New Years Day</u> 9:00am



**Thank you:** A big thank you to Susie Casey and all the helpers for delivering the Christmas hampers. Thank you to all the wonderful parishioners for donating so generously. Many recipients have called the Parish Office thanking everyone involved for their lovely hampers.

**Garden Fundraising:** This weekend, December 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> we will be having a special fundraiser. 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.

**Cuppa and a Chat:** A group of seniors meet every third Monday in the Leo Mahon room, due 17th December, 1.00pm-2.30pm. If you would like to join us phone Bernard 4341 6343. Transport provided

**God's Word 2019—Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary:** available in Piety stall discounted to \$10. Includes Readings of the day & reflection.

## Bus trip –Local Christmas Lights

Fr Timothy invites anyone wishing to see some local Christmas lights to book a seat on the bus. Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, leaving the church at 8pm (after 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation). Home pickups also available before 8pm. Please call the Parish Office on 4341 1073 to secure a place on the bus. The bus is expected to return to the church at approx. 10.30pm.

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

**SVdP Christmas Appeal:** Receipts will be available in the gathering area after 19.12.18.

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

**Children's Liturgy 23/12/18:** Celeste Boonaerts, Rebecca Beisler & Emma Baker.

**Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 21/12/18:** Reg Harrington, Tom French, Jo McMillan & Christina Thorson.

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

**Ecumenical Advent Service:** Saturday 22nd December, 7pm. Ettalong Baptist Church, Corner Barrenjoey Rd and Maitland Bay Rd, Ettalong.

**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.

**2nd Rite of Reconciliation in other Parishes:** Wednesday, 19th Dec, 7.30pm—East Gosford; Thursday, 20th Dec, 7.30pm—Kincumber; Friday, 21st Dec, 7.30pm—Wyoming.

## Plenary Herald

### The Role of the Lay Faithful in the Church

The Plenary Council to be held in Australia in 2020 will be, without doubt, a reforming event for the Catholic churches of Australia.

The leadership of the Catholic Church, in recent times, has suffered considerable damage in the public arena for a few reasons. The church has allowed a culture of clericalism to develop which has, in a number of cases, expressed itself in destructive abuses of power; the message of the Gospel has been proclaimed in ways that make it no longer relevant to the lives of the faithful; and there have been instances of a lack of personal integrity and credibility among the leaders of the church in Australia.

One significant focus in the reform agenda for the Australian church is the role of the laity in the mission of the church. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen gentium*), promulgated over 50 years ago, breaks new ground on the relationships among the people performing different functions in the church. The constitution begins by declaring that all the People of God are, by baptism, equal. They comprise one body in Christ; they all share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; they all participate in the mission of the whole Christian People; and the Holy Spirit lives in and inspires all.

Francis recognises that the mission of the church to proclaim the good news of salvation is a collaborative mission exercised by clergy and laity. This model of church is the soul of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. The collaboration between clergy and faithful laity is clearly expressed at the local level in article 37 of *Lumen gentium*:

*They (the laity) ...are permitted and sometimes even obliged (emphasis mine) to express their opinion on those things which concern the good of the church....let this be done through the organs of the church erected by the church for this purpose. (37)*

The faithful, reborn through Baptism as sons and daughters of God....are more perfectly bound to the church by the sacrament of confirmation, and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith both by word and deed, as true witnesses of Christ. (*Lumen gentium 11.*)

During 2018, around 475 children from our Parish participated in **Special Religious Education** Classes. All year long, these children prayed for our Church Community. And now, at Christmas-time, the children from Ettalong, Umina, Woy Woy and Woy Woy South Primary Schools continue to pray for you, asking God to bless you and your families with the joy, peace and love that is Christmas. The children wish you the happiest Christmas Season and a safe, healthy and hopeful New Year.



**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 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.

**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.

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