

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.

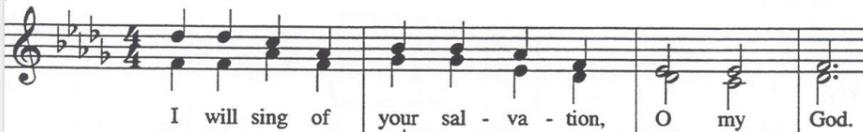
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptism Preparation - 9.30am second and fourth Sunday of the month
Sacrament of Baptism - 11.00am first and third Sunday of the month . Please contact the parish office for more information.

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 Lord has sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 10th February 2019
Is 6:1-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11.
Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

Recently Deceased: Tony Schumacher, John Charles Carr, Fr Leo Donnelly, Louis George Chapman.

Anniversaries: Carlton Tavares, Richard Culmer, Bill Wise.

Remembrances: Mary & George Hilliard, Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills, the Mills family, Bernie Hanna, Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.

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, Robert Parker, Maureen Wardrop, Ros Harbig, Sheila Rogan, Karen Chorazyczevska, Joan Kelleher, Carolyn Jupp, Ed Hyland, Carmel Diorio, Maureen Frost, Paul Smith, Ian Wilks, Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty.

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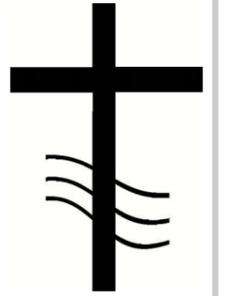
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WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 February 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 4)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



At the end of today's Gospel we hear how Jesus' hometown crowd were so outraged by his words that they wanted to throw him off a cliff. How things have changed! These days many young adults tie a rope around their ankles and willingly hurl themselves from any precipice available!

It seems that some young people enjoy the challenge of facing down their fears, trusting the generally good track record of those who have done it before them and publicly showing their courage, even to the brink of death. Those of us not courageous or stupid enough to attempt a bungee jump have to concede that to do it, for whatever reason, is heroic stuff.

Heroic stuff is at the heart of today's readings. Even though the crowd hated what they heard, Jesus preached boldly to his own people. Jeremiah was similarly courageous in his teaching, in the face of enormous persecution from his people. And Paul knows the only reason one can endure hardships and rejection and even be seen as stupid in the eyes of the world is for the sake of love.

The word 'love' has to be one of the most misused words in our language. We say we love our house, holiday, car, and even ice cream. But using love in this way we scarcely come close to what Christian love is all about. St Paul teaches today that love is not primarily about warm fuzzy feelings and violins. Paul knew that Christian love is an intensely practical business. There is no point in any of us saying we love anyone unless our actions follow the profession we make.

Indeed as St John was to sharply say in his letter in the New Testament, 'If you say you love God and hate your neighbour, you are a liar'. We can say the right words about loving God and each other all we like, but if we do not show it in how we live, then we are noisy gongs and clanging cymbals.

There is no getting around it: Christian love always and everywhere involves sacrifice.

So, how can we love like this? Why should we love like this?

We can love sacrificially because other people have loved us in the same way. When anyone has been gentle, kind and patient with us, when they did not insist on their own way, were not irritable, resentful or enjoy our downfall, we were on the receiving end of love. They showed us how to do it. That's love.

We can take this enormous gamble to love like this only when others have loved us enough to tell us the truth about ourselves and we in turn have spoken the truth to them. That's love.

And we can plunge into the unknown, even to the brink of death, because along with others we have held on to hope in the face of difficult times. That's sacrificial love and that is what Christian love is all about.

Jesus does not promise us in the Gospel that any of this is going to be easy, just necessary if we are going to live life to the full. And we also have legions of companions who have been down this road before us.

From Jeremiah to Jesus to Paul to the martyrs and saints and to our own families, we know that it is possible to face down our fears, trust the track record of those who have done it before us, publicly show our courage, even to the brink of death and leap into the future with only three ropes tied to our ankles.

On one is written 'faith'. On the second is written 'hope' and on the third and strongest rope is written 'love'.

Let's pray in this Eucharist, then, for the grace to be foolish in the eyes of the world and heroic in the courage it takes to love others sacrificially, and be loved by them, even to the point of death.

Parish News...

Parish Pastoral Council gathering:

Pina Bernard & Tania Rimal, from the Office for Evangelisation will be speaking to council members on Tuesday, 12 February at 7pm in the Leo Mahon room. *All parishioners are welcome* to attend, to hear what the Evangelisation team has planned for this year.

Lenten Discussion Groups:

During Lent our Parish encourages parishioners to come together in groups to pray and reflect on the significance of the season. We are calling on you to consider hosting a group. You only need to *lead* (not teach) others through a prepared programme of prayers, readings and reflections over 6 weeks, so we can deepen our understanding and journey spiritually towards Easter. Copies of this years Diocesan Resource have arrived for anyone wishing to have a copy now "Discerning the Way of Jesus", Lectio divina, Praying the Scripture in Lent, Year C 2019.

Please contact the parish office 4341 1073:

- if you can lead a group;
- if you wish to participate in a group or;
- you would like a copy of the booklet.

Listening to God: Continues 12noon-2pm, Tuesday 5 February, in the Leo Mahon Room. All welcome. "The Lord began to show me that I could not strive to hear as someone else hears."

Morning Tea Roster 10/2/19: Parish Pastoral Council.

The Live, Pray, Love Project: is a parish ministry which aims to build and foster a sense of belonging to the parish community through faith formation and fun activities.

We are seeking new members and if you are interested or would like to know more about this work, please contact Gladys on 0421 312 362.

Bus trip to Nelson Bay: Wednesday, 6 February, leaving at 8:45 a.m. Cost \$20. Contact Susie Casey 0403 417 639.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 8/2/19: Kathleen Cullen, Anisha Burns, Reg Harrington, Pam Hickey.

Children's Liturgy 10/2/19 – Celeste Boonaerts, Mimi Lambert, Michael Dixon.

Fransalian Quote

"Never be in a hurry;
do everything quietly and
in a calm spirit.
Do not lose your
inner peace for anything
whatsoever,
even if your whole world
seems upset."

St. Francis de Sales

Reflection by © Fr Michael Tate

Nazara was a village of 300-400 people and it had a small town mentality. The inhabitants were enraged when Jesus found good precedent for extending his saving mission to foreigners outside the community of the Chosen People. Jesus embodied the boundary-breaking nature of God's grace.

Many Christians recite the old formula: 'No salvation outside the Church.' But we Catholics believe that, by responding to God's (often anonymous) grace, a person can lead a good life which prepares them for heavenly glory.

This means that the billions around the world who will never hear the Gospel, or who hear it distorted through the megaphone of an alien culture, can be saved. There is no limit/boundary to the Merciful God's finding a way into the hearts of all human beings.

We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for our graced privilege of being members of the Church, nourished within it by the Sacraments and the Gospel, but whose boundaries can never circumscribe the mercy of God.

Fransalian Spirituality

Fransalian Spirituality is a lived and living tradition inspired by St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and St. Jane de Chantal (1572-1641). It emphasizes common sense and the power of doing little, ordinary and everyday things for God and others with great passion and great love. It is a down-to-earth way of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.....wherever you find yourself.

St. Francis de Sales tells each of us to "bloom where we are planted." This spirituality offers practical ideas on how to journey through the spiritual life with great hope and joy as we embrace the duties of "where we are planted" and respond to the universal call to holiness. It's a "spirituality of the heart" as relevant today as in the time of St. Francis and St. Jane, an all-embracing, down-to-earth spirituality for everyone.

What is Fransalian Associates ?

The Fransalian Associates is a spiritual family, is made up of lay Catholics—single, married, or widowed—who choose to live their lives grounded in the Gospel and according to the teachings and virtues. We follow our "Gentleman Saint" along our journey towards God.

The Fransalian spirituality, which offers a simple way of reconciling the often conflicting demands of home, family, career, church and community. And we are assured by St. Francis De Sales that our daily duties in life are the most important tasks we have on our path to holiness. As we walk this path, we will see more and more clearly what God wants us to be and to do.

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.

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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