

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! Rejoice and be glad; your reward is
great in heaven. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 24th February 2019
1 Sam 26:2, 7-9,12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38.
Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

Recently Deceased: Cancio Fernandes, Damian Gray, Tony
Schumacher, Joyce Farnham.

Anniversaries: Fatima Fawzy, Auguste Meyer, Saviour Grima,
Mary Catania, Lilia Mendoza.

Remembrances: Sara Selim.

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 Chorazyczewska, Joan Kelleher, Carolyn Jupp,
Ed Hyland, Carmel Diorio, Maureen Frost, Paul Smith, Ian Wilks,
Daphne McNab, Shirley Crotty, Mary Dolan, John Corrigan.

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St John the Baptist Catholic Church

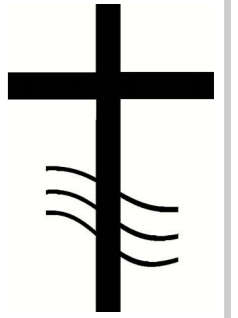
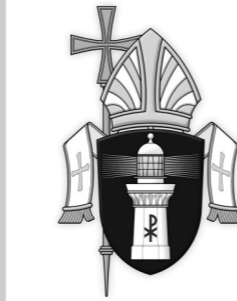
Mission and Vision

Bringing Jesus Christ to ALL, through:
Worship and Liturgy
Outreach
Our Parish School
Hospitality
Adult & Child Faith Formation

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 February 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 2)

Gospel Reflection © Fr Michael Tate



Blessed are the poor? – the hungry? – those who mourn? Is this some cruel celestial joke? What is Jesus doing in these Beatitudes? The short answer is that *he* is trying to create a different world. But *we* have to start in Thailand. Have you ever seen, on TV, Buddhist monks in Thailand? Every morning they go out from their monasteries in pairs with little bowls to beg for food. They are utterly dependent for food on householders who come out and put a morsel of food in the bowl until it ends up with enough food in it for the day.

The people call the monks 'a blessing'. It allows them to perform acts of generosity, acts of unselfishness, everyday. The abbot of such a monastery could well say to his monks every morning: 'Blessed are you who hunger, you shall be satisfied.' They are 'blessed' in view of a coming act which will deliver them from hunger.

And the abbot could say that with confidence because Buddhism has created in Thailand a *social* reality, a *communal* reality, a *mutual* reality, which allows for that need to be satisfied.

Jesus of Nazareth tried to create a social reality, a communal reality, a mutual reality he called 'the kingdom/reign of God'. In it, those who are poor, hungry or weeping would find generous compassionate companions on the journey of life.

Jesus was not a 'pie in the sky' dreamer saying: 'You are destitute, hungry now. Don't worry, you will be okay in some paradise in the long distant future.' How callous would that be? *That* would be a cruel celestial joke.

Don't forget the nature of the society of his day and the great cities of the Eastern Roman Empire for which St Luke was writing his Gospel.

Social stratification was intense. The elite enjoyed wealth, status, prestige, power. The ordinary person was very, very inferior, always on the edge of destitution. The men were mostly day-labourers: no work on the day, no food for the family. This was the Greco-Roman Empire into which the Gospel burst and Jesus wanted to challenge and change that social system. It is always a danger to reduce Jesus to one dimension, but *one* dimension *is* that Jesus is a radical reformer of the relations between classes of people.

He sets about the task of creating a new sort of society, the *ekklesia*, the church in which the destitute, the starving, the weeping, are *blessed* in the sense that they can expect their suffering to be alleviated, companions to be found in their distress.

Why? Because if those with wealth, power and prestige want to join this new phenomenon, the Christian church, they *must* – it is a divine imperative – *must* break out of their comfort zone of plenty of money, full stomachs, plenty to laugh about. They must radically redistribute their wealth and enter into the harsh reality of other people's destitute, starving, weeping lives.

Woe to them if they do not.

It was a challenge to those listening to Jesus. It is still a challenge for us today.

There are still hundreds of millions of destitute people throughout the world.

There are still hundreds of millions starving and malnourished.

There are still widows weeping because their husbands, the day labourers in some square in Kabul, have been blown up by suicide bombers.

Can Our Lord look into the heart of each one of us, of you, of me, living in our comfortable world, and then with confidence turn to that *other* world and say:

'Blessed are you who are without the necessities of life, you will be provided for.

Blessed are you who are hungry, you will have enough food for yourselves and your families.

Blessed are you who mourn, you will be comforted.'

Our Lord's credibility is on the line. He depends on us.



Parish News...

Choir members needed!

Singers and Musicians from across the Diocese are warmly invited to lead the congregation in prayerful song at

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Cathedral
23 Yardley Ave WAITARA, for the following diocesan events:

Rite of Election

10 March 2019 (Sunday).

Rehearsal on the day in the Cathedral from 12:45 p.m. for 2:00 p.m. ceremony start.

Chrism Mass 2019

16 April 2019 (Tuesday).

Rehearsal on the day in the Cathedral from 6:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m. Mass start.

(Supper provided).

Run Sheet will be sent out closer to the date.

RSVP To ensure we have enough seats and music/hymn books for everyone please RSVP ASAP to cathedral@bbcatholic.org.au - on the subject line type "**CHOIR RSVP**"

Listening to God: Continues 12noon-2pm, Wednesday 20 February, in the Boardroom. All welcome. "You were created with the ability to hear from Him."

Please note : change of day for this week only.

World Day of Prayer: Friday, 1 March.

This years service will be held at 10.30 am St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 8 Jumbuck Crescent, Woy Woy.

Followed by refreshments

Please ring Mary Ford on 0407911904 or our Parish office on or before Monday 25th February if you intend to come.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 22/2/19:

Kevin Glacken, Laurie Jarvis, Christina Thorson, Bev Whackett.

Parish Retreat: Saturday, 23rd March to Wednesday, 27th March. More information on the following page. Please note there will be **no morning Mass** on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday (25th March-27th March).

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. 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.

Lenten Group: Katherine & Mike McCulloch will be hosting a Lenten program at their home in Umina on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Please call the Parish Office for more details.

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.

Morning Tea Roster 24/2/18:
Live Pray Love Project.

Children's Liturgy 24/2/19 —
Mary Wood, Christine French & Sue McKay.

SVdP Volunteers Mass: Saturday, 23rd February, 9am.

Retreat on Eucharist, The Word of God & The Passion of our Lord For Healing.

Saturday, 23 March to Wednesday, 27 March.

Fr. Gilbert Carlo svd (Divine Word Missionary), will be conducting a retreat in our Parish church during Lent.

The Retreat is focused on Prayer, Meditation, Contemplation, Eucharist & the Word of God, which deepens our relationship with God & one another...

Saturday/Sunday, March 23/ 24 : Homily at weekend Masses.

Monday, March 25: 7.00pm Mass, followed by talk & reflection; 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Healing through God's Love and Forgiveness: Reflection Isaiah 53.5; 'By his wounds, we are healed'.

Tuesday, March 26: 7.00pm Mass followed by talk & reflection; 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Healing through the Word of God & Eucharistic Adoration: Reflection Matthew 8.8; 'By our faith on the Word of God, we are healed'.

Wednesday, March 27: 7.00pm Concluding Mass with Reflection on Eternal life. 'By His Body and Blood we are healed'.

Confession: Monday - Wednesday: 6pm -6.45pm.

Please call the Parish office if you need transport to attend the retreat.

Fr. Gilbert Carlo svd (Divine Word Missionary), has been conducting scripture based meditative retreats since 1989, in India, Australia, USA, UK, Germany and many other countries to promote contemplation in the Church.

Contact details of Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD:
Divine Word Missionaries, 22 Woodvale Road, Boronia VIC 3155. Mobile: 0466179556; 0424202191
Email: gilbertcarlo@gmail.com



Fransalian Quote

"When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time."

St. Francis de Sales

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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