



ORDINARY TIME

Dedication of the Parish Church 19th November 2017

OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF

- **Anniversaries:**
John Quinn, Peter Quinn,
Br. Michael Cowls.
- **Remembrances:**
Mary and George Hilliard,
Hilliard Brothers, Kevin Mills,
Mills Family, Bernie Hanna,
Leslie Denning, Valerie Price.
- **And the sick:**
Pat Burgmann, Mary Drinan,
Margarita Gomez, June Towson,
Therese Corner, Audrey Barsenbach,
Margaret Davin, Helen Taylor,
Patricia Dwyer, Roy Beverage,
Brian Finlayson, Laura Krauss,
Marylou Tafilagi, Matilda Tawake,
Mick Nino, Kevin Houghton,
Nellie Brown, Ken Thorson
Ian Wilks, Janet Dean,
Bobby Sutherland, Dianne Briemer,
Grace Wellins, Courtney Wellins,
Tom Thorton, Olive Brittliff,
Audrey Kirkman. Malina Tugaga,
Abigale Tugaga, Maria Wise,
Elizabeth Skinner, Beryl Reynolds.
Terry Wilkinson, Helen Tilkins,
Victor Gauci.

Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula THE VOICE

Our Parish Church

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish Church, might I draw some of its features to your attention?

The reason I do this is that a well designed church should have a catechetical impact. We can always learn from our friends in the eastern churches, where the faith is passed on and strengthened, not so much by instruction as by taking part in the Divine Liturgy in a church designed to draw the mind to heavenly things.

Our church is built around the idea of the Christian as pilgrim. The pebble surface that begins at the pedestrian gate continues under the covered way, through the main doors and the gathering space to the pews, and is also visible around the altar, ambo and chair. As we enter the worship space, we see on the doors the words (in four languages) from the pilgrim psalm 120 (8): 'The Lord will guard your going and coming, both now and forever.'

The gathering spaces doubles as a devotional space—an area where we can engage in our private devotions. There are the Way of the Cross and chapels in honour of the Sacred Heart, the Blessed Virgin, St Joseph and St Anthony.

Inside, the stained glass draws our attention to the Patron, Saint John the Baptist

(the upper windows, in the colours of red [martyrdom], blue [his baptism], and desert colours), and to our worship in the community of saints and the angels (especially the faces and the angels' wings).

The altar, ambo, chair and font form a set, made from Persian travertine and highlighted in Roman travertine. They are the focal points of the building, according to what is happening, and they emphasise the unity of sacramental action. It is around these that we gather at various important events on the journey, especially when we assemble on Sunday. The exact centre of the church is just in front of the altar steps, in the centre. In church-building tradition, this is called the *omphalos* or "navel", where really important events take place. The priest stands there to distribute Communion; marriages and ordinations take place there.

The pilgrim route which we mostly follow (in and out the main doors) is not the way in which we finish our journey. We have a special set of funeral doors, like those in mediaeval monasteries, and after the Mass or Service of Christian Burial, the body is taken through these doors to the hearse waiting outside.

(WITH PERMISSION) FR JOHN HILL.

CWF UPDATE - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support of our November CWF Appeal. This month our target is \$12,049. So far we've collected \$10,567. We are so close! Thank you! Can you please help us raise the final \$1,482?

CWF envelopes are available in the church.

Donations are tax deductible. - Fr Timothy

Psalm Response

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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!*

Around the Parish

SJB School Concert and morning tea at SJB school: Wednesday 22nd November 10.30am. Featuring school bands and choirs from St John the Baptist School, St Edward's College & St Joseph's College. Followed by morning tea. All parishioners welcome.

The Live Pray Love Project - On Sunday 3rd December (1st Sunday of Advent) Fr Philip will speak on: "*Understanding the mystery of Christ's Incarnation through scriptures and traditions focusing on Jesus and Mary*". Immediately following the 9.15 Mass in the Leo Mahon room 10.45 - 11.30am. Please phone Gladys Leger 0421 312 362 if you have any questions

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 24/11/17: Cate O'Connor, Reg Harrington, Rano Spiteri, Warren Sparrow.

Children's Liturgy Roster 26/11/17: Frances Giunta, Isakk and Rose Giunta, Shadeeqh Quai Hoi.

Parish Family Ministry Christmas Hampers: List of various types of hampers needed are on display in the gathering area. Hampers to be returned by the weekend of 9/10 December. Single items may be left in boxes at the back of the church.

For more information contact Susie Casey 4344 1742 or 0403 417 639 or Mary Dolan 4343 1401 or 0407 431 401.

Columban Calendars 2018 \$9.00 each. **Christmas Cards** \$5 a packet, now on sale in the Piety Stall.

St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Toy Appeal: SVDP is appealing in November for donations of children's toys, new if possible. Over 100 families are visited by SVDP members each week on the Peninsula, many with children. The appeal is focusing on children up to age 12. A toy box will be in the gathering area for toys to be placed in. Your generosity is appreciated.

Upcoming Events for Mary Mac's Place: On 25th November, Patonga Beach Hotel and Ettalong Diggers present "Giving Back to Mary Mac's" night fundraiser—hosted by Scott McRae. (to be held at Ettalong Diggers from 7.30pm).

7th December Frantastics Choir "Family and Friends Christmas Concert". Walter Baker Hall. Watch this space for further information. If you need to discuss, please call Louise Degeling on 040 155 1864.

Morning Tea Roster 26/11/17 will be our Craft Group.

Parish Bus: A reminder to parishioners who use the Parish bus service that walkers or walking frames **cannot be taken on the bus**. This is due to the damage caused to the seat upholstery. These expensive repairs must be done before registration. Please let the bus driver know if you need assistance.

Social Justice

Alarming rise in cost of incarceration:

INDIGENOUS incarceration is costing nearly \$8 billion annually and will grow to almost \$20 billion a year by 2040 without further intervention, according to a report prepared by PwC Australia.

PwC's Indigenous Consulting report highlights the social costs of incarceration and points to the economic and social benefits of Indigenous-led, evidence-based approaches in addressing the issue.

Justice system costs related to Indigenous incarceration in 2016 were \$3.9 billion, and are forecast to grow to \$10.3 billion annually by 2040, while

economic costs will reach more than \$9 billion a year.

The social costs and consequences are no less significant. Those who have been incarcerated are at a greater risk of financial stress, low levels of educational attainment, poor employment prospects, and find it harder to access accommodation. As a result, they have a greater chance of recidivism, poor health and wellbeing. The impacts on the individual can also have inter generational consequences.

The report says that annual savings to the economy of nearly \$19 billion could be achieved by 2040 if the gap between Indigenous and non-

Indigenous rates of incarceration were closed. This is based on the implementation of recommendations including: putting Indigenous self-determination at the heart of the solution; improving cultural awareness across the system; and investing more in prevention and early intervention.

The report was a collaboration with the Change the Record Coalition, Richmond Football Club and the Korin Gamadji Institute, aiming to "unlock the facts" and raise awareness about the disproportionately high rates and social and economic costs of Indigenous incarceration.

Australian Catholic Social Justice Council

From the Diocese and beyond

CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay is looking for everyday families who might consider taking a child or young person into their home—to love and support them whether for one or two nights, a few weeks, months, or long term. This just might be you...If you have space in your home and room in your heart, please reach out now. You can attend our information evening, speak to one of our team or check out our website

for more information. Please help these children.

Information Evening Thursday, 23rd November, 7pm. Suite 1, 32 Central Coast Highway, West Gosford.

CatholicCare Foster Care: Phone 4320 700. Email: catholiccarefoster@dbb.org.au

2018 Pilgrimage to Poland and the Holy Land : To be led by Fr Tadeusz Seremet, SDS, Parish Priest of St Patrick's

Parish, Gosford. Register your interest now. Dep Sydney Wednesday August 29 – Ret Sydney Tuesday 18 September, 2018 [8 nights in Poland – Warsaw, Czestochowa & Krakow & 9 nights in the Holy Land – Nazareth, Jericho & Jerusalem]

\$6,600 per person twin/double share [+ \$1,500 single supplement]

Contact office on 4325 1042.



Until we all meet again

Mary Ann Paulukonis (edited)

Voices in the cathedral narthex were hushed as people waited to see their relative's name inscribed in the Book of the Dead. Some caressed the calligraphy, others held back, and more than a few had tears on their cheeks. Slowly they slipped through the doorways and into pews. Most had gathered at the July evening Mass of Remembrance because they had lost a loved one in the previous year, while some were returning for a second or third year.

Why we remember the dead

Why would people attend a memorial service months or even several years after the funeral? Why would a parish bereavement team offer a memorial? Because a memorial service is a way of praying for the dead that consoles the living, helps to heal ruptured relationships between living and deceased loved ones, and nurtures relations among all who are members of the communion of saints.

Praying for the dead consoles Christians by maintaining connections between the living and the dead. Since my father died, I continue to treasure memories of him, look at photographs, recall stories about things we did together, and keep mementos around the house. These things console me by keeping me connected and reminding me of his significance in my life. Prayer also helps us remember loved ones and the importance of their life on earth. Giving due honour to the dead assuages some of our grief that we can no longer see or touch them. When a parish leads prayer for the deceased, it tells the living that this is good to do.

Community prayer also helps console those in their midst who are grieving. I remember noticing a few months after my father's death that no one had spoken to me about him for a long while. I winced at the thought that the world would go on without this good man. Even after friends have stopped offering messages of condolence, parishioners continue to reach out. Being together at a service offers hope that loved ones will be reunited with us at the final resurrection. It can also connect grieving persons with others who mourn so that no one is alone.

Memorials help to heal hurt relationships between family members. Human relationships are never perfect; death often leaves unfinished business. Through prayer for the deceased person, we stay connected and allow God to mend hurts and repair rifts. If on account of the hurt relationship a bereaved person seals off the relationship, complete healing cannot take place. Even for non-conflicted relationships, cutting off the deceased interrupts normal grief resolution, resulting in negative effects in the family system. A grieving person needs to say the loved one's name, acknowledge the good times, laugh at ways the relationship misfired, and see the humorous side of the person's faults. Memorials and

prayer promote healthy relationships with deceased relatives and friends, enhancing the strength of the family for future generations.

A parish offers memorial opportunities because we believe in the communion of saints. We believe that our loved ones still belong to us and that our relationship with them continues to grow even after death has separated us physically. Our prayer is mutually efficacious. While we are adjusting to the loss of being able to see loved ones, they may be adjusting to the bright light of God. Perhaps the deceased has not fully let go of earth, nor have we fully let go of him or her. In shared pain we pray for one another, enhancing our communion in Christ.

Calling to mind the communion of saints, a memorial service might help the living realise the legacy left them by the dead. A book given me by a pastoral minister led me to think about attributes my dad had bequeathed me to carry on with his advocacy. A memorial event can likewise prompt realisation of ongoing communion with those who have walked before us in faith and who can ask the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into us.

Times to help the living remember the dead
Several opportunities during the year lend themselves to remembering the dead in church. The feast of All Souls is an obvious choice. The parish death register or Book of Remembrance is often displayed that day and remains in a place of honour throughout the month of November. An attractive binder with good quality pages could be set out for parishioners to inscribe names for several weeks in October, culminating with the placement of the book in the sanctuary on Nov. 2. Candles representing each named person may be lighted from the Easter candle and placed around the book, and perhaps given to a family member at the end of Mass or left to burn in church throughout a day of prayer. The prayer of the faithful on the feast of All Souls should remember parishioners who have died during the year.

Ways to remember all souls

Parishes can choose from a variety of ways to help people remember deceased relatives, friends, and parishioners. Possible formats are an annual Mass of Remembrance, morning or evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, a locally created ritual, or a day of reflection.

An annual Mass of Remembrance held at the same time each year becomes a parish tradition. A memorial service can take the form of morning or evening prayer. As the *Order of Christian Funerals* notes, morning prayer from the Office for the Dead "relates the death of the Christian to Christ's victory over death and affirms the hope that those

(Continued on page 4)

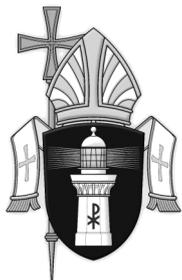


The "worthy wife" described in today's first reading is a perfect example of active stewardship, reaching out her hands to the poor and extending her arms to the needy.



Catholic Parish of Woy Woy Peninsula

Woy Woy,



Woy Woy South, Umina, Umina Beach, Ettalong, Ettalong Beach, Koolewong, Blackwall, Booker Bay,

St Hubert's Island, Empire Bay, Horsfield Bay, Pearl Beach, Patonga, Woy Woy Bay, Daley's Point, Phegan's Bay and Wondabyne.

St John the Baptist Church,
Cnr Blackwall and Victoria Roads,
Woy Woy

Parish Office Ethel Cox Parish Centre
P.O. Box 264 100 Blackwall Road.
54 Victoria Road
WOY WOY N.S.W. 2256

Phone: (02) 4341 1073
Fax: (02) 4341 0214
Email: parish@woywoycatholic.org.au
Website: www.woywoycatholic.org.au
Out of hours **medical emergency**
0438 631 327.

"He must increase, I must decrease"

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

Assistant Priest: Fr. Philip Thottam. M.S.F.S.

Office Staff: Helen Cameron, Raelene Spithill.

Office Hours:

9.30 a.m.—4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday

Deadline for The Voice:

3.30 p.m. Wednesday.

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(Continued from page 3)

who have received the light of Christ at baptism will share in that victory" (350). Through evening prayer the community gives God thanks for the lives of the deceased and gives praise for redemption by Jesus, "who is the joy-giving light and the true source of hope" (351).

A parish remembrance service for the dead, whether a Mass of Remembrance, morning or evening prayer, a locally designed prayer service, or a day of reflection picks up where the funeral left off. Such remembrances "help us who remain to comfort one another with assurances of faith, until we all meet in Christ and are with (God) and with our brother/sister for ever" (Prayer of Commendation, OCF 175). We remember the dead because we believe in the resurrection.

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Mary Ann Paulukonis presents Ministry of Consolation training (National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved) and other pastoral formation for parishes and dioceses. From *Ministry & Liturgy*, copyright © Resource Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under licence number 6744.

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; First Friday 4pm (with Anointing of the Sick).

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday after morning Mass; First Friday 3.30pm; Saturday 11.30am & 4.30pm; Sunday 7.00am.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sundays, 11am; (5th Sunday during 9.15am Mass by arrangement only).

Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practising Catholics, at least sixteen years old. If there is at least one godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents and godparents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 9.30am.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Saturday after 9am Mass until 10am; every Monday until 9am (Public Holidays 10.15am). Every Thursday 7.30pm-8.30pm for the needs of the Parish.

MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION . Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Every Thursday night, 7.30pm-8.30 pm.

PARISH CHOIR - Practice Wednesday nights in the church, 7pm. Enquiries:

4341 3367.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,

21a Dulkara Rd South Woy Woy 2256. p 024341 0884 www.sjbwoywoy.org.au

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.

CATECHISTS conduct special religious education classes at the four Primary State Schools in our Parish. Experience isn't necessary—but Volunteers are always needed—to teach and help. Details: Susie 0411 566 622 without any obligation.

CATHOLIC CARE Counselling and Family Relationships 4356 2600.

MARY MAC'S PLACE 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 Christine on 4341 0584.

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 Peter 0425 358 376 or Joan 0422 272 339.

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.

For Sale

Parish Car

2012 Mazda 3 Maxx Sport Sedan

BL Series 2 Auto MY13

4 Cyl, 2 litre engine.

79 000 km's. Black.

Rego until 1.9.18.

Great condition. \$14,300.

Please call the Parish Office,
4341 1073 if interested.