

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



Lord, ev - ry na - tion will a - dore you.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his star in the East; and
have come to adore the Lord. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 13th January 2019
Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16. 21-22 .Readings can be
found at www.usccb.org/bible/

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

Recently Deceased: Frances Borg, Dorothy Dahlberg,
Fr Tom Shanahan.

Anniversaries: Jack Moulds, Auguste Meyer, Dr Walter Baker,
Fr Bill O'Connor, Marie Therese & Pierre Stanislas.

Remembrances: Elise Winkel.

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, Leo Fry, Karen Chorazyczewska, Joan Kelleher,
Carolynn Jupp, Lynette Durie.

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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

The Epiphany of the Lord

6 January 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 2)

Gospel Reflection © Richard Leonard SJ.



Recently some Christian scientists got to work trying to explain the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem. They came up with a complicated, and no doubt plausible, astronomical theory about how a certain brilliant star may have appeared around the time of the birth of Jesus. Though I was intrigued by their methods, I wondered why they bothered. Matthew's wandering star is not about astronomy. It's religious shorthand for describing how the heavens preside over and guide the events of the world. The image of a star is used in similar ways in the Books of Deuteronomy, Numbers, Isaiah and the Psalms. This entire feast is all about symbols, not science.

Reported by Hippolytus as early as the third century, it is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, the number itself echoing God's goodness in creating and recreating us.

The wise men's star is on a par with the other images Matthew uses. At the centre of each of the first three chapters of his Gospel there is an extraordinary event. In chapter one Joseph hears the message of an angel in a dream. In chapter two the wise men find Jesus by following a star. And by chapter three the heavens open and God speaks at the baptism of the Lord. By any standards that's quite an opening to a biography! It's all about the manifestation, or epiphany, of God's glory in the world.

And let's look carefully at where and for whom this glory is revealed. The first instance is to Joseph while he's in bed asleep. The second is to gentile astrologers who, by reporting their news to Herod, set up an immediate threat to Jesus. The third instance is to all those Jews who were coming to hear John the Baptist. Within three chapters of Matthew's Gospel the circles of God's glory revealed in Jesus become more public and change lives. The lives of Joseph, the star gazers, John the Baptist and those who heard Jesus preach will never be the same again.

The Feast of the Epiphany is not an ancient version of Halley's comet. It is about how God's glory changes human hearts. T.S. Eliot got this point in his poem 'The journey of the Magi'.

'Birth or death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.'

And so may this feast change our hearts and enable us to die to self so as to be born to God's glory that can and does shine through us. And may we remember that this epiphany is not meant for us alone, but that we are called to go public with it and demonstrate our belief in today's feast by the way we live, the world we help create, and the one we strive to recreate.

Parish News...

Volunteer Lunch: All you wonderful volunteers who keep this Parish functioning, are invited to a lunch on Sunday, 20th January, 2019 from 12 noon in the Walter Baker Hall. For catering purposes, please call the Parish office to confirm your attendance.

Volunteer Church Cleaning Roster 11/1/19: Linda Potestas, Michael French, Pam Hickey & Rano Spiteri.

Readers Roster for 2019: Available in the server's sacristy.

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

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.



Plenary Herald

Share the Story. Shape the Future

As we begin the year immediately preceding the year of the Plenary Council it would be wise for each baptised person to think seriously about the role that she or he plays in the communion of the church whose mission is "to proclaim and to spread among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of Gods and to be, on earth, the initial budding forth of that Kingdom". (*Lumen gentium*, 5.)

It is baptism, not ordination, that gives people a place in the mystical Body of Christ and makes them sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ. Baptism, therefore, requires of peopled the participation in the mission of the Church.

It is incumbent on each baptised person to discern what charisms or gifts and talents she or he has to contribute to the mission of the Church. This discernment, for some, may mean consulting with the parish priest, or bishop, so that the yearnings of the Holy Spirit can be clarified. It is in this discernment and commitment to works of ministry that each person will live out her or his baptismal faith. This is the revolution that the Spirit is effecting in the Church today.

Each person, by virtue of her or his baptism, is required to ask oneself *What is God asking me to do in order to do my part for the mission of the Church today?*

Share your story. Shape our future.

There are cards on the seats this weekend. Take one home. Write your answer on the back. Return the card next weekend and put it in the box on the table in the gathering area.

Welcome to all for

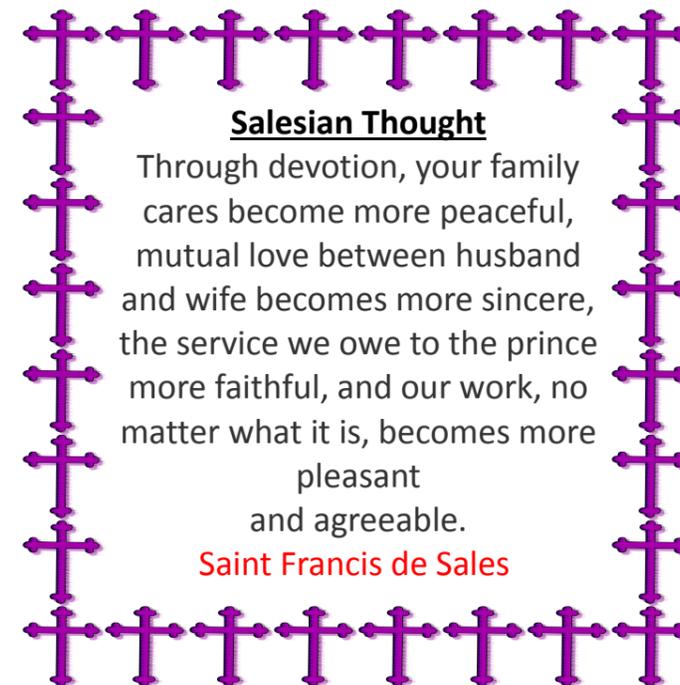
Membership of Fransalian Associates

Fransalian Associates are men and women who embrace the vision and spirituality of the missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (Fransalians), founded in Annecy, France by Peter Marie Mermier in 1839.

- To know about St. Francis De Sales
- To know about the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales
- To know the Spirituality of St. Francis De Sales

Please register your name with your phone numbers at the gathering table.

The First gathering of Fransalian Associates will be held on 6th January after the evening Mass at 7.00 p.m. Fr Mani Malana msfs will be our resource person for that day.



Fransalian Corner

Make friends with the angels, who though invisible are always with you. Often invoke them, constantly praise them, and make good use of their help and assistance in all your temporal and spiritual affairs.

Saint 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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