

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 TIMESVigil 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 PENANCEFriday 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.auWebsite: 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**

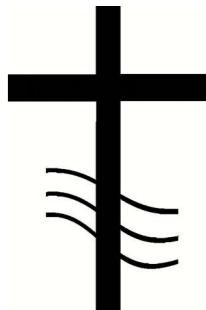
© Colin D. Smith cfc

**Gospel Acclamation***Alleluia, alleluia!* John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. *Alleluia!*

Readings: 20th January 2019

Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11. Readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/**Keep Us In Your Prayers** *OF YOUR CHARITY PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF***Recently Deceased:** Alaa El-Khatib, Lisa Dineen, Arnold Diorio, Brian & Mary Harnett.**Remembrances:** Elise Winkel.

Sick: Vicki Pirie, Patricia Dwyer, Donna Vella, Donna Briemer, Oscar James Morretti, Betty Fraser, Luis Emilio Garrido, Audrey Kirkman, Malin Tugaga, Pamela Power, Mary Scarf, Louis Aloisio, Olive Brittiff, 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, Carolyn Jupp, Lynette Durie, Ed Hyland, Carmel Diorio.

Advertising Space**Advertising Space****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 Baptism of the Lord****13 January 2019, Year C (Psalter Week 1)****Gospel Reflection** © Richard Leonard SJ.

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practise of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'. This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before. We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not simply baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

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 18/1/19: Veronica Jordan, Brian Jordan, Anisha Burns & Kathleen Cullen.

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

Thankyou to all leaders, helpers, and participants of Children's liturgy 2018. Children's liturgy resumes during 9:15am Mass 10th February 2019.

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.

Listening to God: Weekly study group for people who want to hear God more clearly in their lives. It will have time for learning, time for personal prayer (30 mins) and time for sharing experiences and praying for each other. Starts Tuesday 15 Jan 2019 for an initial 10 weeks in the Leo Mahon Room from 12noon till 2pm. All welcome.

Plenary Herald

The baptism of Jesus is the lead story in today's lectionary. There are, however, two parts to Luke's story.

The first part is about the baptism by John, a baptism of repentance with water. Baptism, a word derived from a word for washing, was widely used in Judaism. The second part concerns a new kind of baptism, baptism by the Holy Spirit and fire. This latter baptism is what Jesus experiences. In the gospel according to Matthew it is reported that Jesus consented to baptism with water because He thought it was appropriate behaviour for an adherent to Judaism.

Baptism by the Holy Spirit is the main event. This baptism is what followers of Jesus receive today. This baptism is empowering; it carries with it an obligation, energised by the Holy Spirit, to contribute to the mission of Jesus to proclaim the good news of the reign of God. Living out this obligation is what is called ministry.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit carries with it a call, a vocation, to minister to others using the gifts, the charisms, with which each person is endowed by the Holy Spirit. When a person signs up to Baptism then that person signs up to ministry and participation in the mission of Jesus to proclaim and bring about the reign of God in the world.

At the conclusion of each Eucharistic Celebration the community is blessed and dismissed with an instruction reminiscent of the Great Commission at the conclusion of Matthew's gospel: *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* (Matt.28:19)

Listen carefully and prayerfully to the presiding minister as he commissions the community to continue the mission of Jesus in their daily lives:

"Go Forth. The Mass is ended"



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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