



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

"He must increase, I must decrease" (Jn 3:30)

6th April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

LENTEN PROGRAMME:

Way of the Cross

& Mass:

Fridays at 6.30pm
followed by Mass
at 7.00pm and
reflection afterwards.



MASS TIMES & OTHER WORSHIP

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm

Sundays - 7.30am, 9.15am and 5.00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday: Morning prayer at
8.15am followed by the Mass at 8.30am

Saturdays & Public holidays - 9.00am

Healing Service

First Friday of the month during Mass at
4.00pm

Nursing Home Masses:

Hillview House—3rd Thurs of the month
10.30am

Peninsula Village—4th Thurs of the month
10.00am

BlueWave—2nd Fri of the month 9.30am

Reconciliation/Confession

Fridays—9.00am

First Friday of the month - 3.30pm

Saturdays - 9.30am and 4.30pm

Sundays - 7.00am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday evenings from 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Mon—Fri - 8.30am—3.00pm

Christian Meditation

Monday evenings - 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Marian Bowyer - 0432 882 776



This is a wonderful gospel. In the story, John wants us to put ourselves not in the shoes of Jesus but in the shoes of the woman taken in adultery, the poor lady who stumbled and got lost along the way, and was dragged into the temple and thrown to the ground in front of Jesus, by some Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses. And what hope had she? The Law must be obeyed for it came, not only from Moses, but from God himself. And so the Pharisees said to Jesus, "What do you say?" And Jesus was silent. More to the point: what are we supposed to do? If we claim to be Christians, we must forgive. But on whose authority? By what right do we forgive this woman? How can we forgive her, and this is the point of the gospel, for the woman is us. We, too, are believers. We, too, go astray very quickly. We, too, are worthy to be brought before a tribunal, to be judged for our sins and found guilty for what we have done. And we have no response but to say, "Forgive me Father for I have sinned..."

In our Mass today, we acknowledged first our own need for forgiveness when we said, "I confess to Almighty God that I have sinned, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault..." St Francis of Assisi used to say, "Of all the sinners, I am the worst," because he's the only one who can look and search the depths of his own heart and find the many ways he refused to love enough and care enough. And Francis would say to them, "What I say is the truth. I cannot see into the hearts of others, but I can look into my own, and I know that without the forgiveness and mercy and grace of God I would be lost forever." Jesus knows that he's being put on trial by his enemies. He also knows the rule is clear that that a woman caught in adultery should be stoned to death. And yet, in all the history of Israel, people died of many, many things, but it has never once been recorded in that long history that a woman taken in adultery was ever stoned to death by anyone. These are cautionary tales, handed down to make us understand, which we can understand today, that marriage vows are sacred and not to be broken.

The nice part is when Jesus rises and he says to the men, when they ask that question, what he thinks of the situation, the nice thing was his words, and his words would live for ever: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And then he kneels down again and he's very quiet and one by one the men walk away, dropping their stones behind them. And all of a sudden, they're caught again, surprised, and we must remember that in a crowd it took great courage of many of those men to turn away because they were turning away when they thought it was decent and true and preserving the fidelity of the Israeli people.

The final little bit is my favourite part. There's nobody left. And Jesus rises up again and he looks at the lady and he says these words, "Woman, 'Woman.'" The last time we heard "woman" was Jesus talking to his mother at the marriage feast of Cana. And he says to this lady, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." The last little bit between Jesus and the lady you must think over and recognise that God is a God of love, a God of forgiveness, a God of reaching out, a God of caring, and a God that we learn to love, not because of his power and might, and we learn to love him because he's weak. And what is God's weakness? We are his children and he cannot help but love us all the time.

<https://fatherhanly.com/journey-with-father/5th-sunday-of-lent-year-c/>

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest

Fr Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

Assisting Priest (resident in Wyoming)

Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

P: 02 4341 1073

Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327

E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish News:

Way of the Cross: Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection.

Easter/Mother's Day Raffle: We are having an Easter/Mother's Day raffle of a hamper. Proceeds go to the Building Fund. Tickets available from the Gathering Area. Hamper will be presented on Mother's Day.

First Holy Communion: Please keep the children in your prayers as they continue to prepare to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday, 27th April and Sunday, 4th May.

Confirmation is scheduled for Thursday, 7th August at 6.00pm.

Cleaners for 11th April: Amanda Gray, Jo Salter, Andrew Hopkins, Renelyn Keighran.

Readers for 12th & 13th April:

Saturday 5.00pm—Marie Andrews, Leonie King, Jane Rutherford, Kate Bravo, Dawn Torrens

Sunday 7.30am—Joel Bajo, Phoebe Glacken, Isaak Giunta, Dorothy Fulton, Veronica Jordan

Sunday 9.15am—Violetta Chol, Ingrid Stevens, Michael Dixon, Therese Carroll, Emma Baker

Sunday 5.00pm—Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith, Armella Dogillo, Pio Savea, Marian Bowyer

Servers for 12th & 13th April:

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joel Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Jose Torres, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French, Joesie Cameron

Sunday 5.00pm—Darrin Patterson

Chrism Mass: The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, 15th April at 7.30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. Please register your name on the list located on the table in the Gathering Area if you would like to travel on the Parish Bus to the Cathedral. Places are limited.

Baptisms: We warmly welcome Olive O'N and Summer S who will be baptised this weekend.

Anointing of the sick/confessions: If there are homebound parishioners who would like to receive communion, anointing or confession, please contact the Parish Office.

Bus drivers needed: We are currently looking for volunteer bus drivers for 7.30am Mass on Sundays. If you can help, please call Jim Dixon on 0417 021 675 for further details.

Safeguarding: Should a parishioner have any safeguarding concerns please contact our Safeguarding Team Members: Jenny Dempsey 0438 423 293 or Margaret Dixon 0422 277 548.

Scripture, Catechism & Footnotes: For the Jubilee of Hope, there is a Jubilee indulgence available for those who study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It will run weekly on Fridays from 10.00am—11.00am in the Leo Mahon Room and will continue on most Fridays in 2025.

Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

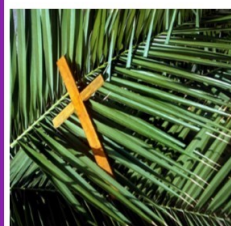
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

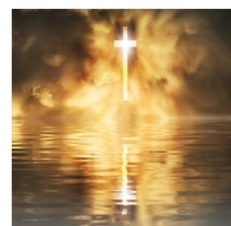
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

EASTER 2025



2nd Rite of Reconciliation
7.00pm - Thu, 10th April

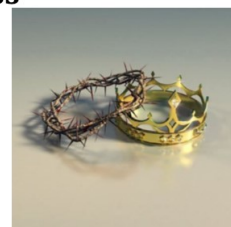


Palm Sunday
Sunday, 13th April

Holy Thursday
7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's
Supper

Good Friday
8.00am - Stations of the Cross
at the Church

10.00am - Stations of the
Cross
at SJB Primary School
21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy



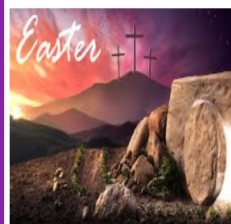
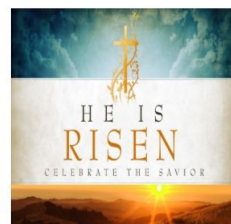
3.00pm - The Lord's Passion

Easter Saturday
8.00am - Devotion to Mother
of
Sorrows

6.00pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday
7.30am, 9.15am,
5.00pm

Easter Monday
9.00am



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LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who leads out chariots and horsemen, a powerful army, till they lie prostrate together, never to rise, snuffed out and quenched like a wick. Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers. Wild beasts honour me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, to us it seemed a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and on our lips were joyous songs. **R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.** They go out full of tears. They carry seed for sowing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. They come back full of song, joyously carrying their sheaves.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord has worked for them!" What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed our hearts were glad. **R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.**

R. The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

Reading 2: Phil 3:8-14

Brothers and sisters: I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Jn 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."



Fifth Sunday of Lent
5th and 6th of April 2025

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Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently deceased: Don Anderson, Karen Chloefaye, Valda Hartas

Anniversary: Alan Knight

Remembrance: Sergei de Souza

Sick: John Aarts, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Rae Busby, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Janice Hayward, David Hopkins, Bill Hunt, Linda Italiano, Marge Lawrence, Tresa Mary, Kay McCormack, Betty & Sean McDermott, Ronald Matthews, Oscar James Moretti, Maureen Mullane, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddcliff, Brooke Simmons, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April

For the use of new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

1st collection: Goes to the Clergy Remuneration Fund for the financial support of the priests

2nd Collection: Funds the operational management of the Parish

You can also donate via Bpoint, which will take you to our Website for secure online payments. <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/woywoyparish>

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