



WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



14th December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

Under the Pastoral Care of
The Fransalians since 2016

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

PARISH DETAILS:

Address: 54 Victoria Road, Woy Woy, NSW 2256

Postal Address: PO Box 264, Woy Woy, NSW 2256

Website: www.woywoyparish.org.au

Phone: 02 4341 1073

Office Hours: 8.30am to 3.00pm M-F

Email:

woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest — Fr Timothy Raj MSFS

Assistant Priest — Fr John Prince VC

Parish Secretary — Triona Meagher

For emergencies requiring a Priest, please call 02 4398 9076



This Sunday, December 14, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent.

Gaudete is Latin for "rejoice", a reference to Saint Paul's words in the Letter to the Philippians where it says: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice... The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5).

Pope Benedict XVI said this joy at God's closeness was not only about a nearness to Christ's return or to Christmas, but rather a closeness of His love.

"The Church, illumined by the Holy Spirit, already at that time understood increasingly better that God's 'closeness' is not a question of space and time but rather of love: love brings people together," he said.

"This coming Christmas will remind us of this fundamental truth of our faith and in front of the manger we shall be able to savour Christian joy contemplating in the newborn Jesus the Face of God who made himself close to us out of love."

In several churches, vestments and altar clothes will change from violet to rose, and the rose-coloured candle of the Advent wreath will be lit. The change in colour is a sign of joy, moving from the penitential violet to the more vibrant rose.

In the middle of this penitential season, this Sunday offers us a glimpse at the nearing celebration of Christmas, when God was made flesh and became man.

Most Reverend Bishop Anthony Randazzo, Bishop of Broken Bay

BBNeighbourhoods Issue #372 10 December

Parish News:



Thanks: Due to the generosity of the donations received, we were able to collate #100 bags of goodies to be distributed to #30+ families in need in the school and the Parish. We have been overwhelmed by parishioners' willingness to contribute and thank you most sincerely.

Reinstitution of the Chalice at Communion:

The reinstitution of the Chalice at Communion will happen this weekend. If anyone who served pre-Covid with the distribution of Communion would be willing to do so again, please contact the Parish Office. We are looking for volunteers for Christmas and for new volunteers also and full training will be provided.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Children's liturgy will go ahead during 9.15am Mass this Sunday but will then break for school holidays. It will resume on 8th February 2026.

Pilgrimage to Vietnam and China: Fr Timothy is planning on co-hosting a Pilgrimage to Vietnam and China from 7th to 27th April 2026. He will be travelling with Fr Vinh Dong from the Diocese of Perth. For those who are interested please contact Fr Timothy for further details. Final numbers will be needed before Christmas. The cost of the trip is \$5,700 AUD Twin share and \$750 AUD for single supplement. Everything is included eg Airfare, accommodation, visa, etc except travel insurance.

Piety Stall: Copies of 'Joy of the Gospel, Daily Reflections', priced at \$15 are now available at the piety stall. Columban calendars also available. Vinnies Christmas cards and envelopes in packs of #10 priced at \$2 per pack.

Cleaners for 19th December: Carmen T Hernandez, Anthony Kearns, Linda Potestas, Maria Wickens.

Readers for 20th & 21st December:

Saturday 5.00pm	Kate Bravo, Jane Rutherford, Maryrose Barlow
Sunday 7.30am	Phoebe Glacken, Theresa Gibson, Joel Bajo
Sunday 9.15am	Christine French, Michael Dixon, Merlin Tony
Sunday 5.00pm	Pio Savea, Kris Aitken, Lorena Lalor

Servers for 20th & 21st December:

Saturday 5.00pm	Paul Cavanagh, Vincent Cavanagh
Sunday 7.30am	Jose Torres, Pio Savea
Sunday 9.15am	Bob Wilson, Hanaa El-Khatib

Christmas Readers' Roster: There is a list in the servers' sacristy. Please record your name if you are available to read on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Carols in the Stadium: Our local churches and Christian schools are coming together this year to create an exciting Christmas carols event on Saturday, 20th December from 5.30pm – 9.00pm at Polytec Stadium, 14 Dane Drive, Gosford. For tickets visit carolsinthestadium.com.au or Ticketek. Adult tickets are \$10. Family tickets are \$25.

Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year of Hope: Bishop Anthony extends a very warm invitation to join him for Mass and Closing of the Jubilee Year. The Relics from our three Shrines of Hope will also journey to the Cathedral to be present for this Mass on Sunday 28th December 2025 at 9.30am. Location: Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara.

Christmas Mass Times 2025:



Friday, December 19th

2nd Rite of Reconciliation at 7.00pm

Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

5.30 pm - St John the Baptist School Oval

21a Dulkara Rd, Woy Woy

7.00 pm - Church

9.00 pm - Church

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day

7.30 am

9.15 am

5.00 pm

Advent Prayer:

Jesus, source of all hope, in moments of waiting and uncertainty, when doubts rise and hope feels distant, remind us, as You did John, that You are always at work, even when we cannot see the full path. Help us to trust in Your timing and to hold fast to hope, knowing that You guide us through unexpected ways with unwavering love. May we find peace in Your presence, courage in our waiting, and joy in the journey, so that our lives reflect Your light to others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1: Is 35:1-6, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the u of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Come O Lord, come and save us.

It is he who keeps faith forever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry. The Lord who sets prisoners free.

R. Come O Lord, come and save us.

The Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those bowed down, the Lord who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

R. Come O Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord will reign forever, Zion's God, from age to age.

R. Come O Lord, come and save us.

Reading 2: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Alleluia:

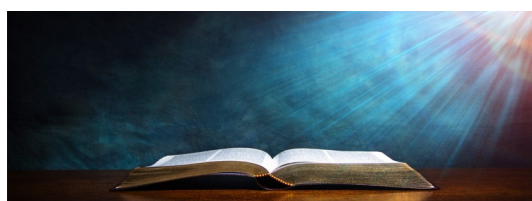
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel: : Mt 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."



Readings for the Week:

Monday, 15th Dec:

Num 24:2-7, 15-17/Ps 24:4-9/**Mt 21:23-27**

Tuesday, 16th Dec:

Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 33:2-3, 6-7, 16, 18-19, 23/**Mt 21:28-32**

Wednesday, 17th Dec:

Gen 49:2, 8-10/Ps 71:1-4, 7-8, 17/**Mt 1:1-17**

Thursday, 18th Dec:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 71:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/**Mt 1:18-24**

Friday, 19th Dec:

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25/Ps 70:3-6, 16-17/**Lk 1:5-25**

Saturday, 20th Dec:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 23:1-6/**Lk 1:26-38**

Sunday, 21st Dec:

4th Sunday of Advent - Is 7:10-14/Ps 23:1-6/Rom 1:1-7/**Mt 1:18-24**

Let us keep in our prayers:

Recently Deceased: Rolando Caman, Kenneth Poole, Daniel Rutherford, Ursule Tuyau, Janelle Whiteland

Anniversary: Ann Culmer

Sick: Vincent Aarts, Jacki Asic, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Luke Bohun, Fr Michael Brady, Matthew Cooper, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Marie Dixon, Iris Drewett, Hanaa El-Khatib, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Maureen Fotheringham, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, Bill Hunt, Thomas J, Marge Lawrence, Betty & Sean McDermott, Ronald Matthews, Theresa Mitchell, Oscar James Moretti, Maureen Mullane, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Bill & Colleen O'Farrell, Marta Panczyna, Fr Reggo, Anthony Salis, Susie Simmons, Barry Tierney, Patricia Toohey, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Nigel Watts, Josie Weate, Melissa Wong, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar

Pope Leo's December Intention:
For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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>

Name: St John the Baptist Parish Woy Woy

BSB: 062 784 **Account no:** 10000 1742

Thank you for your generous contribution.

*Thank
You*



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS



**Aged Care &
Retirement Planning
Free Initial Meeting**

1300 661 424

www.tfs.com.au

Anthony Tanti Pty Ltd trading as Tanti* Financial Services ABN 18 070 533 836 is an Authorised Representative and Credit Representative of AMP Financial Planning Pty Limited ABN 89 051 208 327 AFS Licence No.232706



Bryan J. Reid Funeral Services

B. Health Sc, J.P.

At Bryan J. Reid, we understand that saying goodbye is one of life's most difficult moments.

Our dedicated team are here to guide you through every step of the process, providing support, care, and a personalised service for your loved one.

100% Australian Owned & Family Operated

Phone 1800 032 225 (24 hours / 7 days)

Head Office 02 4341 5000

1/39 Victoria Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256

bryanreidfunerals.com.au



A wide range of products at great prices

Ettalong Beach, N.S.W.



**Advantage
Pharmacy**

We have all the best medicine.

not just notes

Would you like to play the piano?
Would you like to play the pipe organ?
Do you want to improve your skills?



Learn to play and love your music!
Recently moved from Sydney to Umina Beach
With over 20 years of teaching experience
I aim to inspire whilst teaching
good technique and improving skills.

godelieve@notjustnotes.com.au

0404 837 363



Private lessons

All ages welcome

Family discounts

Enrol now!

Gerard Nicholls

Piano & Organ Teacher



0426 845 150



Forte Piano Studio



Springfield location



Come and enjoy delicious culinary delights that will take you on a journey into the magical world of Indian Cuisine. Our chefs capture the aromatic flavours and present to you the tastiest dishes from the country with great heritage and flamboyant culture.

LUNCH TUESDAY TO SATURDAY (11.00am to 2.30pm)
DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY & SUNDAY (4.30pm to 9.30pm)
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (4.30pm TILL LATE)

34 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy-NSW 2256, Tel: 02 43398225, www.spices29.com.au

Contact the Parish
Office on
02 4341 1073
for more information
on advertising here.

Contact the Parish
Office on
02 4341 1073
for more information
on advertising here.

Contact the Parish
Office on
02 4341 1073
for more information
on advertising here.