



# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH

## St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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



25<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

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—3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of the month 10.30am  
Peninsula Village—4<sup>th</sup> 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.woywoy\(parish.org.au](http://www.woywoy(parish.org.au)

**Phone:** 02 4341 1073

**Office Hours:** 8.30am to 3.00pm M-F

#### **Email:**

woywoy(parish@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

### **First Reading: Isaiah 8:23–9:3**

First the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the end he has glorified the seaward road, the land west of the Jordan, the District of the Gentiles. Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness: for there is no gloom where but now there was distress. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

### **Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 28)**

*The Lord is my light, my light and my salvation.*

### **Second Reading: Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. **Alleluia!**

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.* From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

### **Pope Leo's January Intention:**

#### **For prayer with the Word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**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.

**Parish News:****The Feast of St Francis de Sales & Fr Timothy's birthday:**

We wish Fr Timothy a very happy Feast day and birthday on Saturday.

**Parish Office:** The Parish Office will be closed for the public holiday on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> January. Morning Mass is scheduled for 9.00am.

**Coffee Machine:** Fr Timothy would like to purchase a coffee machine for community use. Please contact Fr Timothy or the Parish Office if you would like to contribute to the cost.

**You Have a Talent to Offer:** Our Parish offers you opportunities to use your talents for the community and for God's Glory. Please contact the Parish office if you can help in any of the following ministries on weekdays or weekends; Catechists, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Senior Altar Server, Reading at Mass, Sacristan. Full training provided. Many hands make light work.

**Refresher Course:** Fr Timothy would like **all Senior Servers and Communion Ministers** to attend a brief (30 mins) refresher session this coming Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January in the Leo Mahon Room **either immediately following the 8.30am Mass or at 7.00pm in the evening.**

Please contact Anne Bailey in the Parish Office to let us know which session you will be attending or to arrange for the handout notes if you are unable to attend. Please bring your diary and current roster with you to the meeting or let Anne know of your availability from 31<sup>st</sup> January. We have finalised a roster for weekday Masses and hope to soon finalise a roster for Vigil & Sunday Masses. If you have been thinking about joining either of these ministries. Now would be a good time to come forward. We also need more ministers to take Communion to the sick and homebound.

**Clean up:** There will be a clean up of the Church store room and the Leo Mahon room on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February after Morning Mass from 10.00am. The various ministries and groups that use these rooms are asked to be in attendance. Volunteers are needed to help. Please contact the parish office on 4341 1073 if you can assist.

**Small Groups for Lent:** This year, Lent will begin with **Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February.** If you are already part of a small group in the Parish or are interested in hosting or joining a Lenten Group this year (online or in person), please contact Anne Bailey at the Parish Office with your preferred day and time and you will be put in touch with others. Once group times and days have been set, sign up sheets will available in the gathering space of the

Church. We expect a Lenten Booklet to again be made available by the Diocese of Broken Bay for groups and individuals.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** We are looking for additional members for the Parish Pastoral Council. Please see Fr Timothy or contact the Parish Office to put your name forward.

**Readers for 31<sup>st</sup> January & 1<sup>st</sup> February:**

Saturday 5.00pm	Kate Bravo, Leonie King, Jane Rutherford
Sunday 7.30am	Joel Bajo, Isaak Giunta, Phoebe Glacken
Sunday 9.15am	Jacqui Scholte, Merlin Tony, Emma Baker
Sunday 5.00pm	Armella Dogillo, Lorena Lalor, Peter Smith

**Servers for 31<sup>st</sup> January & 1<sup>st</sup> February:**

Saturday 5.00pm	Jeff Freeman
Sunday 7.30am	Peter French, Bernie French
Sunday 9.15am	Bob Wilson
Sunday 5.00pm	Laurie Jarvis

**Reflection:**

**First Reading (Isaiah 8:23–9:3)** For Isaiah, writing in a time of dark defeat and foreign oppression, it is a vision of new hope. There will be light, liberation and joy. For Matthew, this prophesy is fulfilled in Jesus as he begins his ministry, proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom in word and action. Isaiah's message of hope is one we need to hear in our troubled world today as much as people ever did.

**Second Reading (Corinthians 1:10-13, 17)** The Christian community in Corinth was blessed with many gifts, but there was rivalry and competition among the people. Paul urges them to focus on their unity in Christ instead of aligning themselves with one faction or another. Difference of opinion need not produce friction and disagreement but can instead lead to a deeper respect for one another. Our unity in the cross of Christ demands no less.

**Gospel (Matthew 4:12-23)** Matthew is always keen to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of ancient prophesies and hopes. Jesus proclaims that God's glorious kingdom is at hand, an idea that recurs in the summary of Jesus' mission at the end of the reading. The two pairs of brothers were humble fishermen, working hard. Yet they are instantly ready to heed the call, follow Christ and share his ministry. This is an important witness for all of us today who count ourselves as disciples of Christ.

**Let us keep in our prayers:**

**Recently Deceased:** Frank Schembri

**Anniversary:** Richard Alexander Culmer

**Remembrance:** Tirso, Matilde, Angelita & Renato Carpio, Charles Grima, Francis Brian Morrison, Timothy Thurlow

**Sick:** Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Luke Bohun, Paul Cavanagh, Matthew Cooper, Anabel Craddock, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Marie Dixon, Iris Drewett, Aline Fauvette, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Maureen Fotheringham, Frances Glanz, Jason Harwood, 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, Joan Parbery, Fr Reggo, Anthony Salis, Susie Simmons, Barry Tierney, Patricia Toohey, Donna Vella, Nigel Watts, Josie Weate, Melissa Wong, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



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