

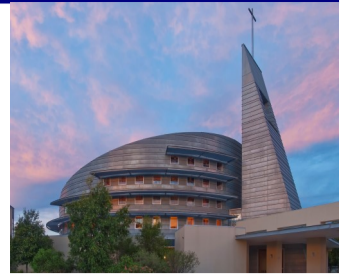


# WOY WOY PENINSULA PARISH St John the Baptist Catholic Church

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

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Under the Pastoral Care of  
The Fransalians since 2016

## Lenten Programme

**Way of the Cross & Mass:**

**First Friday (07/03)**

at 3.30pm, followed by  
Anointing Mass at 4.00pm

**Fridays:**

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**

## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Priest

Fr Timothy Raj M.S.F.S.

### Assisting Priest (resident in Wyoming)

Fr Vincent Lourduswamy M.S.F.S.

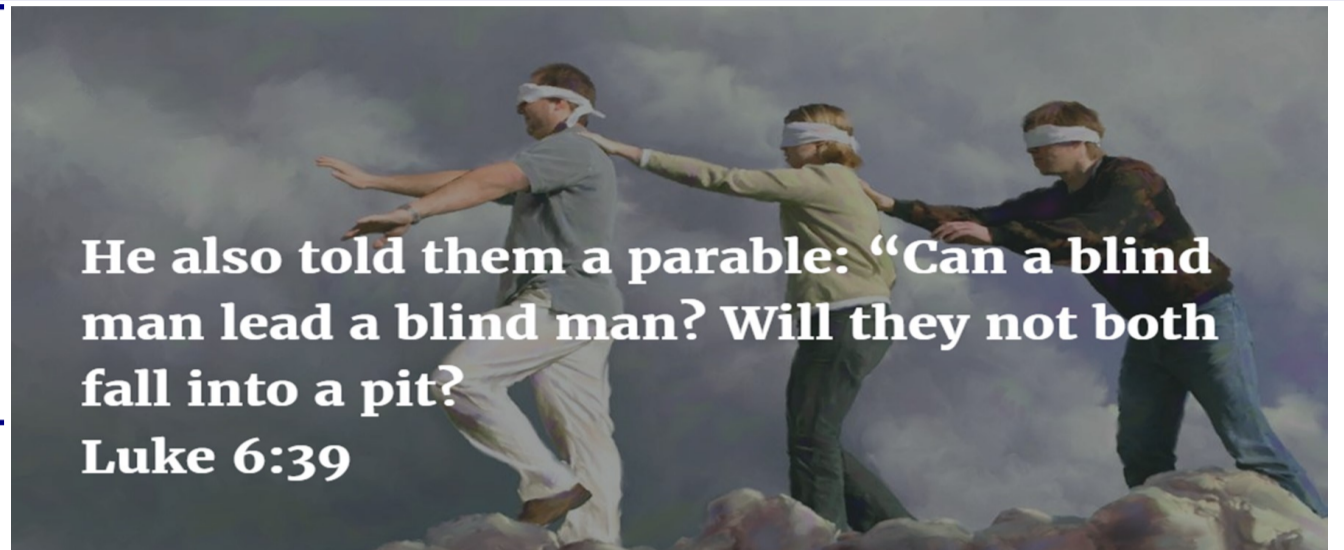
### Parish Secretary

Triona Meagher

**P: 02 4341 1073**

**Emergency contact No. 0438 631 327**

**E: woywoyparish@bbcatholic.org.au**



**He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"  
Luke 6:39**

In every human eye, there is a natural blind spot. The optic disk conveys the nerve messages from the retina to the brain to be processed and produce images, but the area of the disk itself receives no messages and so there is a gap in the image. However, the brain produces a corrected image which makes up for the blind spot and so we see no black dot in our field of vision.

The natural tendency to hide blind spots is much overused. We all see what is before us in a particular way, noting some things, and not noting others. Some will see children playing in a park as making fun, others will see them as making a nuisance. The world is not observed in a neutral way but from one's perspective. This perspective can seek to view signs of life and joy or seek evidence to judge and condemn. Jesus' metaphor of the plank in the eye reflects the latter view, a distorted vision of God's wonderful creation, that sees only the faults of others and ultimately renders such viewers bitter and resentful.

Jesus' teaching to the disciples uses several sayings which explore not only how disciples might use their eyes, but also their mouths and ears, their hands and feet, and, most importantly, their heart. Our way of seeing, speaking, hearing, and doing, all flow from the heart. A sound heart is essential for life as a disciple of Jesus. Close examination of the signs of the state of the heart is important and such signs are observed in our speech, deeds and vision.

Jesus invites us to examine ourselves. Sirach uses three images to describe how speech might be tested. The sieve allows true speech to percolate through but leaves behind rough and coarse elements. The kiln tests the potter's work, and a person's conversation reveals his or her character. The tree is known by the quality of its fruit and so a person's feelings are known by the quality of his or her words. Humans are relational beings, and speech is a key element of relationship. It is a powerful tool. To put in a good word – may change the outlook for someone in despair. To put down might provoke despair. Great care is needed in speech and should form a key part of self-examination.

Jesus reuses the metaphor of the tree and the fruit but focuses on action or production of fruit, to reflect on people's deeds. Jesus has moved from considering eyes, mouth and ears to the practical activities of hands and feet. No part of the potential disciple is exempt from attention. There is to be no blind spot. Instead, the transformation of the whole person is in view. By this transformation, the disciple sees, speaks, hears and acts in accordance with the way of blessedness that Jesus has just explicated in the beatitudes.

Perhaps the greatest danger is self-deception, thinking we are clear-sighted but in fact either blind or having a plank in our eyes obstructing our vision. Too often we seek to judge others for their minor failings while not seeing our own. Jesus invites us to honestly examine ourselves, not to condemn ourselves, but to choose the way of life and happiness for ourselves and offer it to others.

<https://glenstal.com/homily-8th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-year-c/>

**Parish News:**

**Catechist Sunday 2025:** The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is traditionally Catechist Sunday in the Diocese. This year, 2<sup>nd</sup> March is Catechist Sunday. Catechist Sunday is an annual event in the CCD Calendar and originated in 1935 when the Vatican published a document 'On the Better Care and Promotion of Catechetical Education', which acknowledged the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and asked every country to honour those catechists who serve within their Christian communities. On this day, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we acknowledge the incredible work and dedication of volunteer catechists. We thank our catechists for their hard work and dedication. We congratulate them on the good work that they are doing and we encourage them as they continue this most important work. We also take this opportunity to thank Dorothy Fulton and Susie Simmons who have recently retired from the ministry. Dorothy has retired after volunteering for forty three years and Susie has retired after volunteering for seventeen years. As they begin their well-deserved retirement, we would like them to know that their impact will continue to be felt for years to come. May God bless them with joy and peace in this next chapter.

**Ash Wednesday Masses:** On Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, there will be Mass in the Church at 7.00am, 8.30am and 7.00pm. There will also be Mass at St John the Baptist School, 21a Dulkara Road, Woy Woy at 12.00pm.

**Way of the Cross each Friday at 6.30pm followed by the Eucharist and Reflection** except on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, when Way of the Cross will be at 3.30pm followed by the Eucharist and reflection.

**Lenten Program 2025, A Promise of Hope** The Diocese has prepared a Lenten booklet which can be accessed online <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/ArticleDocuments/12855/Lent%20Book%202025.pdf.aspx>. There will be printed copies available next week.

**First Holy Communion Programme 2025—Important Dates:**

**Information Night:** Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00pm in the Walter Baker Hall, 100 Blackwall Road.

**Presentation Masses** for all First Communion candidates will be celebrated in our Church on:

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30am, 9.15am & 5.00pm

**Lesson 1:** Week of 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 2:** Week of 24<sup>th</sup> March

**Lesson 3:** Week of 31<sup>st</sup> March

**Reconciliation prior to Communion:** Fri, 4<sup>th</sup> April at 4.00pm

**Lesson 4:** Week of 7<sup>th</sup> April

**First Communion:** Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am.

**Confirmation:** Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August

**Cleaners for 7<sup>th</sup> March:** Mabel Torres, Elena Egan, Gay Tiansay, Cheryl Sillick.

**Readers for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Dawn Torrens, Leonie King, Jane Somerville

Sunday 7.30am—Dorothy Fulton, Veronica Jordan, Joel Bajo

Sunday 9.15am—Don Matheson, Michael Dixon, Emma Baker

Sunday 5.00pm—Marian Bowyer, Kris Aitken, Armella Dogillo

**Servers for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March:**

Saturday 5.00pm—Jeff Freeman, Joe Bajo

Sunday 7.30am—Peter French, Jenny Fitzgerald

Sunday 9.15am—Bernie French, Joesie Cameron, Joseph French

Sunday 5.00pm—Allan Moore

**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.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** We currently offer Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9.15am Mass most 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, excluding school holidays. This year, CLOW will be celebrated in alignment with the theme of this Jubilee Year, 'Pilgrims of Hope'. For further enquiries contact Christine French 0431 765 401 or Frances Giunta 0414 274 402.

**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. If anyone needs assistance with child restraint installation in vehicles, we have a volunteer who can help. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

**El Shaddai:** 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this Saturday from 11.00am to 4.00pm at St John the Baptist Church. Mass at 12.00pm followed by lunch and prayers.

**Scripture, Catechism & Footnotes:** For the Jubilee of Hope, there is a Jubilee indulgence available for those who study the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Starting Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am—11.00am in the Leo Mahon Room and continuing on most Fridays in 2025.

**World Day of Prayer:** World Day of Prayer for 2025 will be held on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 10.00am at the Salvation Army Hall, 9 Sydney Avenue, Umina Beach. All welcome.



**St John the Baptist primary school**  
**OPEN DAY**  
**20 & 21 March 2025**  
 Register at [www.sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjbwwdbb.catholic.edu.au)




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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## **Reading 1: Sirach 27:4-7**

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do one's faults when one speaks. As the test of what the potter moulds is in the furnace, so in tribulation is the test of the just. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks, for it is then that people are tested.

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

### **R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

### **R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of the Lord.

### **R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap and still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my Rock, there is no wrong.

### **R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## **Reading 2: 1 Cor 15:54-58**

Brothers and sisters: When this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

## **Alleluia:**

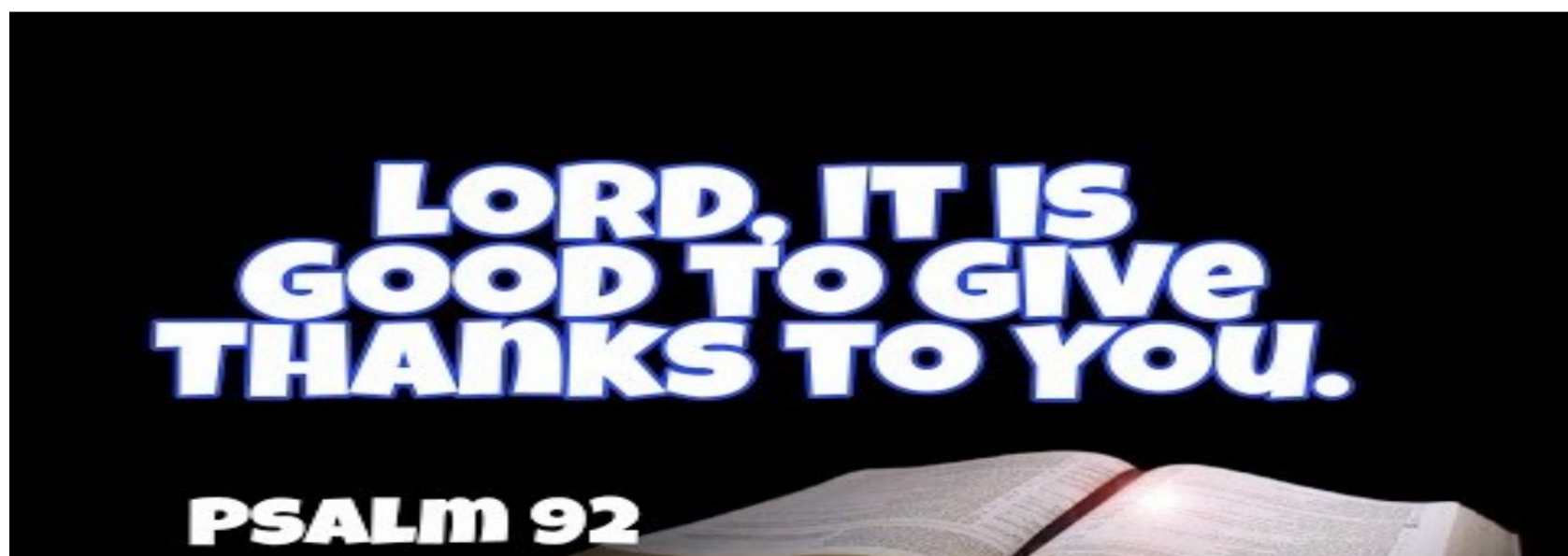
### **R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

### **R. Alleluia!**

## **Gospel: Lk 6:39-45**

Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye. "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."



## **Readings for the Week:**

### **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March:**

Sir 17:24-29/Ps 31:1-2, 5-7/Mk 10:17-27

### **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March:**

St Casimir - Sir 35:1-12/Ps 49:5-8, 14, 23/Mk 10:28-31

### **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March:**

Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:12-18/50:3-6, 12-14/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-8

### **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March:**

Deut 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25

### **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March:**

Is 58:1-9/Ps 50:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

### **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March:**

Is 58:9-14/Ps 85:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

### **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March:**

Deut 26:4-10/Ps 90:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

**Recently deceased:** John Alexander, Jose M Ambrad, Shaunagh Casey, Daniel McCormack, James Matthews, Keith Montgomery, Lee O'Brien, Philomena Pannell, Sandra Thomas, Maureen Wardrop, Carol Wimber

**Anniversary:** Celso & Cristita Bulual, Paul Hogan,

**Remembrance:** Reg & Pat Hogan, Beverley McMahon

**Sick:** John Aarts, Alan Ball, Kathleen Bezzina, Lorraine Blandford, Roberto Bocor, Rae Busby, Marie Carr, Bill de Rooy, Anne-Marie Dixon, Ken Dixon, Marie Dixon, Aline Fauvette, Dymrna 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, Ada-Primrose Murphy, Marta Panczyna, Kenneth John Reddacliff, Susie Simmons, Charlotte Stenson, Barry Tierney, Donna Vella, Minda Valoba, Josie Weate, Pauline White, Willy Woods, Jonathon Zdilar



**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March**

**For families in crisis**

**Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.**

**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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