

MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th January 2025



Church Cleaning and Temporary Weekday Mass Changes

We wish to inform all parishioners that Mary Immaculate Church will undergo a thorough cleaning in stages. The first stage will focus on cleaning the exterior of the church, and the second stage will involve hand-cleaning the interior, including the sandstone and bricks.

During the first stage, heavy machinery will be on-site, and for safety reasons, the church will be closed on weekdays. As such, **weekday Masses from Tuesday 28th to Thursday**



30th January, will only be celebrated at St. John the Baptist, Freshwater.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we carry out this important work to maintain and preserve our beautiful church. We look forward to returning to normal weekday Mass times once the cleaning is completed.

Fr. Chima.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord – 2nd February



Next weekend, as we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we will light our **Jubilee Year of Hope commemorative candle**, symbolizing the light of Christ and the hope we carry into this special year.

As part of our designation as a Shrine of Hope for Priests and Vocations, we will also incorporate into the Prayer of the Faithful a special Jubilee prayer, inspired by the life and witness of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of priests.

We invite everyone to join us in prayer and celebration as we continue to embrace this Jubilee Year of Hope, seeking God's guidance for our parish and for vocations within the Church.

Fr. Chima.

LET US PRAY FOR

26th January 2025

Recently Deceased: Colin Dennis; Shirley Leaver; Collette Anniversary: Eugenio & Lina Nero

Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage" Stephen Robertson; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty; Belinda Nicholls; Jacqui Dawson; Gerry Ring; Zacchaeus Ratnam; John Connors; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Paul Donnelly; Julie Wallis; Lyn Hillard; Ian Flynn; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O'Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Veronica Rinaldo; Chinnamma Puliparambil; Rena Curll; John Santos; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai

Dates to remember...

- SMM Church closed on the following dates 23rd, 24th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th January
- RCIA Tues 28th Jan 7pm
- PPC Meeting Thurs 30th Jan at 5:30pm
- School Staff Opening Mass Friday 31st Jan 9:15am
- Cenacle of Our Lady Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am



Sacrament of confession/reconciliation is available in Manly every Saturday from 10am to 11am and

Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm.



If you are new to the Parish or are not currently registered, we warmly welcome you ask and that you

complete a Parish Census form. This will assist us to connect with you and your family and advise you of any of our parish community activities. The census form can be found on the back wall of the Church or at the side door entrance and may be left in the collection plate emailed to the Parish Office or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm **Quiet Prayer, Adoration and** reconciliation will be available Adoration 6pm – 7pm concluding with **Benediction**

MA PASTORAL

CAN'T GET TO MASS ON SUNDAY AND WANT TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

Many of you have not been able to come back to Mass on Sunday for different reasons. If you would like one of the Priest to visit you at home, please ring the parish office on 9977 5822

Manly Freshwater Parish promotes SAFEGUARDING which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our MANLY community.



10:30am Mass.

NEW DATES FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the

This will cater for children aged 3 to 8 years old. Each week a theme that correlates to the readings and Gospel is presented to the children using ageappropriate materials. The adult catechists incorporate prayer, group discussion, song, worksheets and other activities so the children can relate the Word of God to daily life. The children leave the church after a blessing from the priest, gather in the parish meeting room, and return during the offertory.

Children's Activity pages available at the entrance of the Churches.



Children's Mass books are now available at the entrances of the Church for use during the Masses. Please return after the Mass.

Mass booklets can be purchased from the Piety Store for \$10.00



The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of January –. For the right to an education Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better

world, might always be respected.



Piety Store

Word of God "Bible Sunday" will be held on Sunday 9th February. The Piety Store at Manly and Freshwater will have a selection of bibles available to purchase.









The Living Faith booklet is now available in the Piety Store.

2025 Columban Calendars, **Divine Mercy Calendars**

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos

Australia Day Message

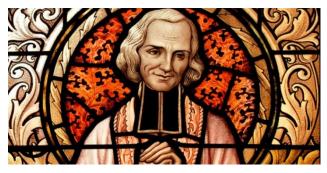
As we celebrate Australia Day, let us give thanks for the blessings of this beautiful land and the diverse communities that call it home. This is a time to reflect on our shared responsibility to care for one another and the land we live on, inspired by the Gospel's call to justice, unity, and peace.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, may we draw strength from our faith to build a future filled with compassion and generosity, following the example of Christ and the witness of saints like St. John Vianney. Let us pray for our nation, for its leaders, and for all who seek hope and healing in their lives.

May God bless Australia and our parish community with grace and peace. Happy Australia Day!

Fr Chima.

Installation of the Relic of St. John Mary Vianney – Sunday, 2nd March



We are delighted to announce that the relic of St. John Mary Vianney will be installed in our church during the 6 pm Mass on **Sunday, 2nd March**, with Bishop Anthony presiding. This is a truly wonderful occasion for our parish, and we warmly invite everyone to participate in this special celebration.

As part of the blessings of our church being a **Shrine of Hope**, we remind all parishioners that the faithful

can receive a Jubilee Indulgence when they visit the shrine. This indulgence, granted by the Holy Father, is a grace that removes the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. A plenary indulgence is a unique spiritual gift, cleansing the soul as if one had just been baptised.

To obtain the indulgence, the following conditions must be met:

- 1. Detachment from all sin (even venial sin).
- 2. Sacramental confession.
- 3. Reception of Holy Communion.
- 4. Prayer for the Pope's intentions.

Additionally, individuals or groups should devoutly visit the shrine, spend time in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, and conclude with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also encourages acts of charity and penance to obtain an indulgence, including:

- Visiting prisoners or the lonely elderly.
- Helping the sick or disabled.
- Supporting migrants, the poor, young people in difficulty, and abandoned children.
- Acts of penance, such as abstaining from social media or television for at least one day a week, fasting, or volunteering.

For more details on indulgences, see the **Decree on the Granting of Indulgence for the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025**.

We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion together and embracing the spiritual blessings it brings.

Fr. Chima.



AUSTRALIA DAY MORNING TEA

Come along this Sunday following the 10:30am Mass. ALL WELCOME

PARISH MORNING TEA

MANLY: 3rd Sunday after the 10:30am Mass hosted by the Tongan Community.

FRESHWATER: every Sunday after the 9am Mass in the parish hall.



Older Children's Baptism Program

In the coming weeks we will be holding a **'Children's Baptism'** preparation program for children from 6-12 years of age. To be eligible to join the program at least one parent needs to be a baptised Catholic. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822.



EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS

As we start a new year, we are looking to hold training for new Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. If you are interested in this very important and fulfilling ministry, please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to register.



Places of Pilgrimages Jubilee of Hope 2025

The three diocesan "Jubilee Shrines of Hope" which will form significant places of pilgrimage, worship, prayer, and hope for

God's people in Broken Bay during the Jubilee Year

- The Parish of Gosford with the Relic of Saint John Paul II will be a Shrine of Hope for our families.
- The Parish of Chatswood with the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be a Shrine of Hope for our young people.
- The **Parish of Manly Freshwater** with the **Relic of Saint John Vianney** will be a **Shrine of Hope** for our Priests and Vocations.If you are new to the Parish or are not currently registered, we warmly welcome you and ask that you complete a Parish Census form. This will assist us to connect with you and your family and advise you of any of our parish community activities. The census form can be found on the back wall of the Church or at the side door entrance and may be left in the collection plate or emailed to the Parish Office -

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

YOUTH ACTIVITY DAY

Tuesday 28th January at St John the Baptist School Hall Freshwater from 9am – 8pm for High School Students in Yr 7 – Yr 12.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Parish on Thursday 1st May.

If your child is in **Year 3** or above and is **Baptised Catholic**, he/she is eligible to enrol in the Sacramental program which begins with **Confirmation**.

Confirmation Parents Information Evenings

If your wish your child to be part of this program please attend one of the following Information Evenings:

- Manly: Tuesday 18 February at 7pm
- Freshwater: Thursday 27 February at 7pm

Information and registration forms can be found on the back wall of the Church at Manly and on the small table at Freshwater or from the Parish Office. Information packs will be sent home through the schools during the first week of Term 1. If you have any queries, please contact Michelle at

michelle.ellis@bbcatholic.org.au.

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am Parish Centre
- Christian Meditation: Tues 12:15pm Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Weds 6:00pm Manly
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm & Weds 10am Parish Centre
- Piety Store: open on weekends or call the Parish Office
- Prayer Group in Spanish 2nd & 4th Friday 6pm Parish meeting room
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Freshwater Tues Fri 8.45am in Church
- Youth Group (Yrs 7 Yr 12): 1st & 3rd Sunday 7pm – 9pm

PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Anointing Mass: Manly & Freshwater 1st Friday 9:15am
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul Conferences: Manly 1st Mon each month 5:30pm Freshwater 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm



The Craft Group meets each week on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12noon in the Parish Center. We invite you to come along for a cuppa and a chat in a friendly relaxed environment. Bring your knitting or other craft if you wish.

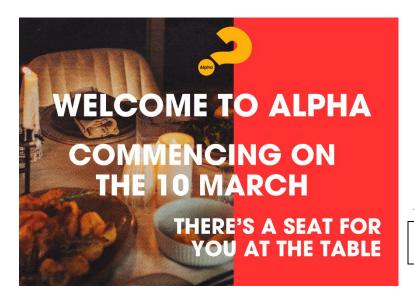


Gospels. Spend time with him. Lectio Divina groups meet in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm and Wednesday mornings at 10am. **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN**

Lectio Divina Read his story in the



MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS **Quiet Prayer & Adoration** 6pm – 7pm **Scripture Reflection &** Benediction 7pm – 7:30pm.





Thank you for your generous support. We encourage you to use the tap machines at the Church

entrances. If you prefer to use cash, there will be **ONE** collection during Mass at the offertory at Manly and **TWO** at Freshwater.

PILOT PROGRAM - The Diocese has agreed for Manly to pilot a **ONE COLLECTION** at the weekend Masses. The Diocese will continue to monitor this.

The collection is for the First and Second Plates and will be allocated as follows:

- 25% to Supporting our Priests including the sick & retired in our Diocese.
- 75% to Parish operations and maintenance of building.

SUPPORT OUR PARISH & PRIESTS FINANCIALLY by using one of the following...

- 1. Planned Giving: through a monthly direct debit or credit card. Please contact the parish office for more information 9977 5822.
- 2. Collection plates during Mass
- 3. Tap and Go machines using your credit/debit card or **EFTPOS** Terminals.
- 4. Scan to Donate using the QR code to access our BPoint Donation page.
- 5. Direct into Parish Bank Accounts • Parish Giving (2nd collection) Funds the running of the Parish Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank Account # 100002025 BSB: 062 784
 - Clergy Giving (1st collection) Supports our Priests Account: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784

HAS YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRED?

If you donate to the Parish using your credit card please let us know if you have a new card or the card has expired by contacting the Parish Office 9977 5822 or email

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

DIRECT DEBIT FROM BANK ACCOUNT

Please consider changing your giving from a credit card deduction to a direct debit from your bank account. Please contact the parish office to have this set up automatically for you.

FEBRUARY MINISTRY ROSTER IS AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH





Taking the Gospel to the World

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine – CCD

A special invitation to you...

Become a Catechist teaching special Religious Education (SRE)

What is a Catechist?

A Catechist is a person who gives her/his time voluntarily to provide religious education to children in primary and secondary state schools.

Catechists are those who are called to serve through teaching, witness, prayer, service and building community.

Do you realise you have the qualities to be a Catechist?

A Catechist needs to be a person who:

- Is loving
- Cares for others
- Is fond of children
- Lives their faith
- Has common sense
- Enjoys a laugh
- Wants to contribute
- Can give 1 hour a week of their time

A Catechist does not need to be:

- Religious experts
- Qualified teachers
- Able to drive

Why be a Catechist?

- Jesus asked that we "...spread the Good News to the whole world"
- To be a Christian, is to want to share this 'Good News' of God's love with everyone.
- St Paul tells us that "Faith without good works is dead".

- There are around 500 Catholic children in our Parish, attending State Primary Schools, many of whom through no fault of their own, would otherwise receive little, if any teaching on the 'Good News' of God's love.
- To thank God in a tangible way for all He has given to you.
- It is a great way to use your God given talents to spread His word.
- New Catechists and assistants are urgently needed now to replace retirees.

What is involved?

Lesson materials comprising of comprehensive teachers' manuals and student workbooks are provided. A set curriculum is followed.

The Diocese of Broken Bay provide to catechists and helpers training sessions and fun workshops throughout the year to equip and give Catechists ideas with teaching in the classrooms. These training sessions can be completed on line or face to face free of charge.

How do I get involved?

If you think you would like to get involved and be a part of this enjoyable and rewarding ministry or you would simply like more information, please contact...

Manly: Laurie Riley 9949 7750

Freshwater: Toni Walsh 0418 862 410



This weekend at Manly and Freshwater we will hear from some of our current Catechists who will be asking for your help important in this ministry. Parishioners from the parish visit Manly West, Manly Village and Harbord Public Schools every

week in school time. They teach the children using an approved curriculum which is authorized by Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

We are looking for more Catechists as we have vacancies for teachers in 2025.

Please speak to one of our current Catechists who will be at the back of the Church after each Mass to answer any of your questions and how you can join this wonderful

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10 (JB)

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10, 15 (JB)

R. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. R.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. R.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. R.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! R.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it was not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The word of the Lord.

cf Luke 4:18 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the down trodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au Assistant Priest: Fr Marek Woldan

marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au Assistant Priest: Fr Sam French

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Seminarian: Mr Alfred Soliman manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jenny Beninati manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Mary Immaculate Church (Parish Office) 6 Raglan St, Manly 2095 Phone: 9977 5822 After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010 Parish Office: Mon to Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

St John the Baptist Church cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096 John Zemek (Deputy Chair); Val Buono; Patricia Carroll; Robert Marshall; Peter Nacard; Ian Press

Weekend Masses:

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm Sunday 9am Weekday Masses: Manly & Freshwater Tues – Fri 9:15am

Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am – 11am; Wed 6pm – 7pm

St Mary's Primary School 7256 2135 Principal: Paul McGuire

St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699 Principal: Alicia van der Merwe

St Paul's Catholic College 7256 2112 Principal: Gabie Stojanovski

Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Sharyn Quirk