



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Epiphany of the Lord – 5th January 2025



Gospel Reflection

The story of the astrologers and the star of Bethlehem is unique to Matthew's Gospel. Note that Matthew does not call them "kings", or does he give their names or reports where they came from – in fact, Matthew never even specifies the number of magi (because three gifts are presented to the Child, it has been a tradition since the fifth century to picture "three wise men"). In stripping away the romantic layers that have been added to the story, Matthew's point can be better appreciated.

A great many First Testament ideas and images are presented in this story. The star, for example, is reminiscent of Balaam's prophecy that "a star shall advance from Jacob" (Numbers 24: 17). Many of the details in Matthew's story about the child Jesus parallel the story of the child Moses and the Exodus.

Matthew's story also provides a preview of what is to come. First, the reactions of the various parties to the birth of Jesus parallel the effects Jesus' teaching will have on those who hear it. Herod reacts with anger and hostility to the Jesus of the poor who comes to overturn the powerful and rich. The chief priests and scribes greet the news with haughty indifference toward the Jesus who comes to give new life and meaning to the rituals and laws of the scribes. But the magi – non-believers in the eyes of Israel – possess the humility and the openness of mind and heart essential to faith that leads them to seek and welcome the Jesus who will institute the Second Covenant between God and the New Israel.

Secondly, the gifts of the astrologers indicate the principal dimensions of Jesus' mission:

- Gold is a gift fitting for a king, a ruler, one with power and authority
- frankincense is a gift fitting for a priest, one who offers sacrifice (frankincense was an aromatic perfume sprinkled on the animals sacrificed in the Temple)
- myrrh is a fitting "gift" for someone who is to die (myrrh was used in ancient times for embalming the bodies of the dead before burial) *Connectionmediaworks*



The Parish Office is closed and will reopen on Monday 13th January 2025



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



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.

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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

Adoration **Quiet Prayer, Adoration and reconciliation will be available 6pm – 7pm concluding with Benediction**



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.

LET US PRAY FOR

5th January 2025

Recently Deceased: Rita Hogan

Anniversary: Tuna Suman; Gordon Montgomery

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 Cull; John Santos; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai

Dates to remember...

- **Spanish Prayer Group returns** Fri 10 Jan 6pm
- **Craft Group returns** Tues 14 Jan 10am
- **RCIA returns** Tues 21 Jan 7pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady returns January 2025**
Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am

SCHOOL OF NEW EVANGELISATION

NEW LIFE

RETREAT
FOR YOUNG ADULTS

CONTACT FR MAREK FOR DETAILS

24 - 27 January 2025
SOMERSBY RETREAT CENTRE

Those participating in Altaration course have answered the question

For me Mass is ...

an opportunity/invitation to unite myself physically as well as spiritually with Jesus. It calls me daily as a very special way to start my day. It is an amazing celebration and meaningful ritual experience.

Jen Tucker

"food for my soul"

To adore, praise, love + thank God with all my heart.

anonymous

ALTARATION
THE MYSTERY OF THE MASS REVEALED



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.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

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

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.

Support our Young Adults as they prepare for their first retreat! Join our car wash event on 12 January 2025. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to send at least 10 participants. Bring your car for a wash or simply



CHILDREN'S LITURGY
 Children's Liturgy will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10:30am Mass.

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 age-appropriate materials. The adult catechists incorporate prayer, song, group discussion, 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



We welcome all youth who are in High School (Yr 7 – Yr 12) to come along and join the Manly Freshwater Parish Youth Group which is held every **1st and 3rd Sunday** following the 6pm Mass (7pm – 9pm). Join us for free food and drinks, table tennis, basketball, party games, talks and new friends! Feel free to check out our instagram or send us an email! Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Instagram: [manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth](https://www.instagram.com/manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth)



Sacrament of confession/reconciliation is available every Saturday from 10am to 11am and Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm

The past year in the camera lens

JANUARY

This month actually escaped our lens

FEBRUARY

First school family Mass.
Kindy and years 5 & 6



One of our first Young Adults gathering this year

MARCH



We welcomed Fr Chima



Youth leaders formation




Young Adults' Ester lunch



Holy Week celebrations



Thank You



FR DAVID
FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SERVICE
"WELL DONE, YOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!"
MARCUS 13
GOD BLESS YOU



Another Young Adults gathering



Year 3 & 4 BBQ after Family Mass



Easter celebrations



APRIL



Fr Chima installation



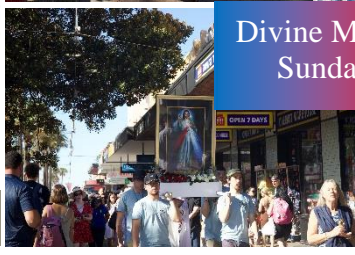
Young Adults Formation



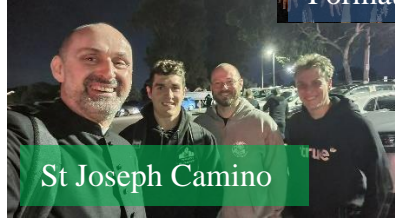
Divine Mercy Sunday



HFC Communion



Holy First Communion



St Joseph Camino



Young Adults Movie Night



MAY

Spanish Prayer Group Retreat



Diocesan Young Adult's gathering



C
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Parish Youth gathering



JUNE



Pastoral Discernment



Walk with Jesus



Craft Group Stall



St Anthony's celebration



YA formation



Pilgrims gathering



Youth adoration



JULY



Ignite launch



ALPHA retreat



Manly Men's bush walk

AUGUST



YA picnic at Manly Dam



Last Alpha



Pilgrimage to Poland



Young men at Snowy



YA Bowling competition

SEPTEMBER



Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

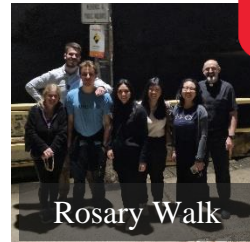


Ignite Conference

OCTOBER



Holy-wins



Rosary Walk



Altarion

NOVEMBER



Altarion



Praisedest in Chatswood



YA Matthew's talk



Ivica's birthday

DECEMBER



Parish feast day



Craft Group Stall



YA Christmas Party



Christmas Carols in a nursing home



Last YA formation



Matthew's farewell



The Epiphany of the Lord – Year C

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 (JB)

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah

you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Joseph Men's Group: 1st Thurs of the month 7pm
- St Vincent de Paul Conferences:
Manly 1st Mon each month 5:30pm
Freshwater 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm

SOUTH STEYNE
medical CENTRE

Nestled between the pines at South Steyne – our Medical Centre born from the belief of looking from a fresh perspective towards healthcare. You will find highly trained, experienced GPs and Nursing Staff, with a range of skills to provide you with quality comprehensive care.



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Fax Number: (02) 7209 2921
Website: southsteynemedical.com
Email: SSMAdmin@southsteynemedical.com


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Parish Priest: Fr Chima Ofor
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Marek Woldan
marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au

Seminarian: Matthew French

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

Parish Pastoral Council:

Michael McGrath (Chair); Ivica Covic (Deputy Chair);
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

Tuesday – Friday 9:15am

Baptisms: please contact the parish office

Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am – 11am

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

Head of College: Mark Robinson

Stella Maris College 9977 5144

Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie