

# Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – 29th December 2024



# **Gospel Reflection**

Today's Gospel was probably a later addition to Luke's Gospel, a story from the rich oral tradition of stories told about Jesus. Like many childhood stories of famous people, this one is retold because it shows signs in Jesus' boyhood of the qualities that will emerge in

his adulthood that will mark his life forever in history. Luke clearly has the events of Holy Week in mind in the details he has included in the story: the journey to Jerusalem at Passover, the encounter with the teachers at the Temple, the three days Jesus is lost.

At the age of 12, a Jewish boy becomes a "son of the Law" – he becomes personally responsible for following the Torah. The faithful Jesus reveals himself as the perfect servant of his Father from the time of his first legal pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

It was the Jewish practice for teachers to conduct classes not in a lecture format but as an open discussion in which participants were encouraged to ask questions. Portrayals of Jesus dominating the scene, overwhelming the teachers with the depth of his insights, are from what actually happened. As Luke tells the story, Jesus was listening to the teachers and eagerly searching for knowledge in his questions like a highly motivated and interested student typically much older than the 12-year-old boy from Nazareth.

Luke reports that Mary "kept all these things in memory" (Luke 2: 19) Perhaps Mary confronted for the first time the reality that, although she was indeed his mother, her son did not belong to her. *Connectionmediaworks* 



## The Parish Office is closed and will reopen on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025



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 December –. For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

# New Year Message – Jubilee Year of Hope

#### Dear Parishioners,

As we step into the New Year of 2025, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope, especially as we embrace the **Jubilee Year of Hope**. A new year offers us a fresh beginning—an opportunity to renew our faith, strengthen our bonds as a parish family, and grow together as disciples of Christ.

In his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis reminds us, "Hope is bold; it can look beyond personal convenience, the petty securities and compensations which limit our horizon, and it can open us to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile" (no. 55). As we embark on this journey through the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us open our hearts to the boldness of hope. Hope allows us to see the possibilities for growth, renewal, and transformation in ourselves, our parish, and our community.

This year, let us accompany one another with compassion and encouragement. Let us journey together — praying, serving, and deepening our relationship with Jesus. As disciples, we are not alone; we walk side by side, inspired by Christ's love and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

May this year be a time of spiritual growth, renewed faith, and joyful service. Together, may we become a parish that radiates hope to all we encounter.

# Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and hope-filled New Year!

# Fr. Chima



# 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.

# LET US PRAY FOR Recently Deceased:

29th December 2024

# Anniversary:

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; Rita Hogan; 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



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#### 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



#### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

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



The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of December –. For Pilgrims of Hope

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# 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.



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.

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

JANUARY 2025 ROSTER IS AVAILABLE AT THE **BACK OF THE CHURCHES** 



## HOW CAN THE HOLY FAMILY BE A MODEL FOR US?

Jesus, Mary and Joseph seem very different from us. Jesus is the Son of God, Mary is the Immaculate Conception, perhaps only Joseph is closer to us. And yet, when we look at their lives described in the Gospel, we will see that they had to deal with difficulties that we know from our own families. Their lives were not idyllic - they were full of anxiety, suffering and daily struggles. Pope Francis reminds us in Amoris Laetitia that every family can see itself in the Holy Family of Nazareth, with its daily hardships and sometimes even nightmares. However, it was love that made the Holy Family survive and remain holy.

The family is the place where we learn the love that God has given us. The foundation of this love is the bond between husband and wife - their mutual devotion and faithfulness. For this bond, everyone else must take a step back - parents, in-laws and even children. It is the husband who should be closest to the wife, and the wife to the husband.

Such love is not only a human effort, but above all the grace of the Holy Spirit, which is received in the sacrament of marriage. It must be nurtured daily and asked for: "So help me, Lord God Almighty." It is important to remember that on my own I cannot love as my spouse deserves - only God can teach me how to do this.

A question worth asking yourself is: How often do I pray for my spouse? Do I ask God to help me love my wife or husband as He would have me? Common prayer, and if that is not possible - prayer for each other, is the key to faithful and living love.

Prayer protects. When a husband prays for love for his wife, and a wife for love for her husband, then in a conflict situation each of them first works on themselves. Without prayer, it is easy to want to change your spouse, and when that does not work to replace them with someone else. Prayer teaches another way - to change yourself, to build a relationship based on love, which forgets about itself, in order to be there for the other person. And this is the way of the Holy Family.

# PRAYER FOR OUR FAMILIES

**O Jesus**, Word made flesh, savior of the world, your life is for us an example of total dedication to your Father and to the work he entrusted to you. Help us to live fully our religious consecration, to spend ourselves completely in your salvific mission to the people of God.

**Mary, Mother of God**, obtain for us the grace of intimate union with your divine Son and in and through him with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

St. Joseph, guardian of the Holy Family, teach us to live a life of prayer, work, and self-forgetfulness, that we may become ever more docile instruments of the will of God.

**Jesus, Mary, Joseph**, inspire us so to live our community life, that we may be a sign to others that Christ has come, that our hope is centered in him, and that we look forward to the glory of the resurrection.

**O Holy Family**, bless and protect all the families of the world; safeguard their unity, fidelity, integrity and dignity. Enable them to live according to God's law that they may fulfill their sublime vocation. May their lives be a reflection of yours and may they enjoy your presence forever in heaven. Amen.

#### Thoses participaiting in Altaration course have answer the question For me Mass is ...

...an invitation from God.

To listen to the Word of God, received the Body & Blood of Christ, to remember our Baptism, offering ourselves, mind, heart & sprit. The Eucharist celebration, offertory and scarification of God's greatest love – which is his son.

*Highest form of praise, sacrifice & love God & people offer in Communion.* 

Mass is a celebration of the mystery of our Catholic Faith.

Danielle Wong





# OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS HAVE MET AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Christmas is contagious**. It has been proven in another nursing home at our parish thanks to the group of Christmas infused volunteers who brought the joy and hope to those who need it. It was so great to see the transformation of those who were there – both residents and visitors.





We all love **Christmas presents**, so why not give one to Baby Jesus? After all, it's His birthday we're celebrating!

At our Vigil Mass in Manly, children brought flowers as gifts for Baby Jesus.







"The star of Bethlehem" Children's nativity play and Christmas gathering was the final event of the year for the Children's litrugy group.

An event which brought together all generations with the Nativity play featuring, most notably the children, youth group friends, parents and audience members all getting involved in a fun and engaging way to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour.

The lead up to the event was full of excitement. Families got involved and many parishioners helped with their musical talents, decoration skills, food, gifts, acting roles/participation and being in the audience.

After the Mass, we shared lunch together, performed the Nativity play, sang Christmas Carols with a live band and even had a surprise visit by St Nicholas. Kids, and adults participated in Christmas Trivia keen to win a prize, and as you would guess, all the questions got answered in the nick of time.

It was a great parish community event and great preparation for Christmas.

Our children's liturgy will return in February 2025, and will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month, during 10:30am Mass.

Spread the word, invite families with children to join in.

Merry Christmas to each and everyone of you from the St Mary's Children's liturgy group.



Our annual Christmas Day lunch was again a beautiful celebration. This profound act of love and service embodies the true spirit of the Christmas season, offering a meal, companionship, and dignity to those who may feel hungry or in need of companionship during a time meant for joy and community. Beyond food, it fosters a sense of belonging, reminding all who attended that they are seen, valued, and loved. So it is not just about satisfying physical hunger, but also nourishing the soul with hope, kindness, love and joy. The volunteers exemplify Christ's love through their generosity, turning compassion into action. Thank you to everyone who made the day what it was.







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: <u>manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com</u>

Instagram: manlyfreshwater\_catholicyouth



Our **Young Adults** are heading to **their first retreat**, joined by groups from Chatswood and Gosford. If you, a family member, or a friend are interested, please let Fr. Marek know.



# CHILDREN'S LITURGY Children's Liturgy will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the 10:30am Mass

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



Support our Young Adults as they prepare for their first Join retreat! 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 donate whatever you can. Every bit helps!



# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year C

#### **First Reading**

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 (JB)

A reading from the first book of Samuel

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (JB)

#### R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. R.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. R.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. R.

## Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St. John

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children: and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

#### All: Thanks be to God.

# Gospel Acclamation

cf Acts 16:14 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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

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

#### PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

<u>Parish facebook</u>: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish <u>Parish website</u>: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater



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

Weekend Masses:

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Tuesday - Friday 9:15am

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses: Manly & Freshwater

Baptisms: please contact the parish office

Reconciliation: Manly Sat 10am - 11am

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

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

St Paul's Catholic College 7256 2112 Head of College: Mark Robinson

**Stella Maris College** 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie