



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Ascension of the Lord – 12th May 2024



Gospel Reflection

Today's readings include two accounts of Jesus' return to the Father:

Reading 1 is the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's "Gospel of the Holy Spirit." Jesus' Ascension begins volume 2 of Luke's work. The words and images evoke the First

Testament accounts of the ascension of Elijah (2 Kings 2) and the forty years of the Exodus: Luke considers the time that the Risen Lord spent with his disciples a sacred time, a "desert experience" for the apostles to prepare them for their new ministry of preaching the Gospel of the resurrection. (Acts alone places the Ascension forty days after Easter; the synoptic Gospels – including, strangely, Luke's – specifically place Jesus' Ascension on the day of Easter; John writes of the "ascension" not as an event but as a new existence with the Father.)

Responding to their question about the restoration of Israel, Jesus discourages his disciples from guessing what cannot be known. Greater things await them as his "witnesses." In the missionary work before them, Christ will be with them in the presence of the Spirit to come.

Scholars call today's Gospel the "longer ending" of Mark's text. In style and substance, these six verses are very unlike Mark; the best guess is that these verses were added sometime in the first century to "complete" Mark's account to include the tradition of the Ascension of Jesus. Before returning to the Father, Jesus commissions his new church to continue Christ's presence on earth through their proclamation of the "good news."

Connectionmediaworks.com



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

Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass
[manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish/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.



Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we are reminded of the special role of mothers and all those who embody the nurturing spirit of motherhood in our lives.

This day transcends the

celebration of biological connections; it is an opportunity to honour all who have taken on the role of a mother—grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, teachers, and mentors—who nurture, teach, and guide us.

Mother's Day invites us to reflect on the selfless love and relentless service given by these wonderful souls. In many ways, they reflect the nurturing aspect of God's love for us, offering comfort, guidance, and unwavering support in our times of need. Their contributions shape our communities, strengthen our faith, and enrich our lives.

We also recognize that this day may bring mixed emotions for some. For those who have lost their mothers, those who may be estranged from their children, or those who yearn to be mothers, we extend our heartfelt thoughts and prayers. In our community, we embrace one another, acknowledging that every story is unique and every journey is important.

Let us take this day to express our gratitude, to reach out with a phone call, a message, or a prayer. Let us celebrate the gift of motherhood in all its forms, and let us do so with joy and appreciation for the love that has helped to shape our very being.

Fr Chima

We invite you to bring a flower from your garden to place at Our Lady's Shrine as a special thank you to her for being our Spiritual Mother.

Vases will be available at both Churches for you to place your flower.



LET US PRAY FOR

12th May 2024

Recently Deceased: Pamela Forster; Bill Hipkiss;

Anniversary: Jack Mealy; Doreen Mealy; John Kiely

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; Pat Smith; 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; Mary Hetenyi

Dates to remember...

- **Spanish Prayer Group** Fri 10th & 24th May at 6pm
- **Youth Group (Yrs 7 – 12)** Sun 19th May 7pm – 9pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady**
Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am

THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT THE MASS.

Why do we stand to hear the Gospel?



Every Sunday Mass, as a community, we sit and listen to the readings taken from Holy Scripture; sometimes from the Old Testament, other times from the Acts of the Apostles, other times a letter from St Paul, St John or St James. During all these readings, we remain quietly seated.

Compare that with the Gospel, however, and well, just look. The moment we hear the Gospel coming, all of us – on our feet, standing upright, candles alight, Gospel procession, crosses on heads lips and hearts, sometimes incense, and all singing the alleluias.

And yet, taking a step back, one might fairly ask: “*Why all this ceremony? Why such acclamation? Why do we stand to hear the Gospel?*”

Friends, let me first note that, ever since the Gospels were first read in Christian churches, the faithful have never listened to it in any other way than standing up. Indeed, during the Middle Ages, those leaning on staves would leave them on the ground, knights would draw their swords from their sheathes and remove their cloaks and gloves, and princes would take off their crowns to hear the Gospel proclaimed.

All these actions were special marks of respect for the sacred words recorded by Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, given that the Gospels most closely follow the life and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. As *Dei Verbum* states, “among all the Scriptures, even those of the New Testament, the Gospels have a special pre-eminence... for they are the principal witness for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word, our Saviour.”

In other words, *nothing* compares to the Gospels.

No great work of philosophy, or history, or poetry, or classic work of antiquity can ever compare to the Gospels, because these are the words of God Himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit and recorded by the sacred authors. These words have the power to draw us out of our worldly fixations, centre our attention on Jesus Christ, and configure us more closely to Him.

And so, friends, if I could make just one point, let it be this.

If it is indeed true (and it is) that the way to Heaven for each of us is by coming to know and imitate our Lord Jesus Christ... then wouldn’t we do *anything* at Mass just to hear a passage, a single phrase, even a solitary word – recorded in the Gospels? Wouldn’t we drop everything in our hands, quieten our lips, and still our bodies, just to hear the Word proclaimed? Wouldn’t we give our fullest attention to the words that have the power to bring us life forever in Heaven?

Friends, this is why we stand for the Gospel.

May God bless you.

Seminarian Matthew.



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.



YOUTH GROUP GATHERING

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)

SAVE THE DATE – 9th June 2024

The parish will be celebrating Fr Chima’s Installation as Parish Priest with Bishop Anthony Randazzo.

Date: Sunday 9th June 2024

Time: 10:30am Mass followed by lunch

Where: St Mary’s Church, Manly

RSVP: 3/6/2024 to Parish Office 9977 5822 or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for May – For The Formation Of Men And Women Religious And Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

ALPHA IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE YOU CAN ASK
QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE, FAITH AND MEANING



Alpha

THERE'S A SEAT FOR
YOU AT THE TABLE

WATCH



SCAN ME

KNOW MORE



SCAN ME

BOOK



SCAN ME

ALPHA STARTS AT 7PM ON 27 MAY 2024

Parish Meeting Room, St Mary's Manly, 6 Raglan St

Registration essential - electronic and paper options are available

JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER FOR
A PILGRIMAGE TO:



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&

MEDJUGORJE



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• CRACOW • WIELICZKA (SALT MINE) • ŁAGIEWNIKI
• WADOWICE

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FOR BOOKING SCAN
THIS QR CODE
OR VISIT OUR
PARISH OFFICE

6 RAGLAN ST,
MANLY 2095

MON-THUR 10AM TO 4PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCAN THIS QR CODE
OR USE THE LINK:

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/manly-freshwater/news-events/calendar-of-events>



SCAN ME

To express interest or ask questions you may contact: marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au

To express an interest or for more information please contact Fr Marek Woldan on
marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au.

The parish office has copies of the pilgrimage itinerary and what to expect.

Come in and pick up a copy.

Confirmation

The Parish Preparation program continues this weekend for our 97 young people who will be Confirmed by Bishop Anthony on Saturday 18th May.

Please keep the children in your prayers.

Rite of Confirmation for Adults within Mass at 9.30am Pentecost Sunday at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral

Please remember in your prayers our Adult candidates across the Diocese who will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday.



DEFIBRILLATOR DEMONSTRATIONS

Raising Awareness and Education with the 3-Simple Steps to Potentially Save a Life in case of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) outside a Hospital.

The parish are holding a refresher demonstration on how to use the defibrillators which are installed at both Churches.

It's free and everyone is welcome...

Manly: Sunday 12th May at 11:30am

Freshwater: Sunday 19th May at 10am

It is easy and very educational!!!



PASTORAL WORKS MAY APPEAL

"Your generosity with our Pastoral Works Appeal helps us go further and wider in helping our community in Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to our vision and the Mission of Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for your support." *Most Rev Anthony Randazzo*

Envelopes will be available in the pews.
Donations are 100% tax deductible.



PARISH GIVING

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.

Diocesan Mass Count during May

As you are aware the Diocesan Mass Count takes place over four weekends in May. The figures from all the parishes are sent to the Diocese so that together, we may all better serve the People of God in Broken Bay.



FUNERAL for Pamela Forster, who was a long time Freshwater parishioner will be held on Thursday 16th May at 10:30am at St John the Baptist Church.

Please keep Pamela and her family in your prayers.

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**
 - **2nd collection Parish Bank Account** Funds the running of the Parish
Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Account # 100002025 BSB: 062 784
 - **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 WEEKLY EVENTS

- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am 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: Manly & Freshwater Conferences 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm

MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT STALL UPDATE...

Last weekends Mother's Day Craft Stall was a great success, raising \$3,000 for 'Mum for Mum' – supporting the transition to parenthood. Thank you for your generous support.



PIETY STORE

Confirmation Gifts now available.

The Piety Store has been stocked with an array of Confirmation Gifts and other items. We invite you to come and browse before and after the weekend Masses.

Ignatius of Loyola – sinner – soldier – saint A thought provoking and entertaining movie on the founder of the Jesuits. From a hot-headed soldier to one of the greatest saints of the Church. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

Christopher Columbus – hero or villain Not long ago Christopher Columbus was revered as a hero. Today, he is branded an "imperialist oppressor". Fascinating insights and facts on a trail blazing and virtuous Catholic explorer. Only \$5.





St Mary's Catholic Primary School Manly



OPEN DAY

Tuesday 14 May 2024 - 9am or 4:30pm

Meet our Principal, teachers, and students.

Learn about our specialised learning programs and our faith & care led approach.

Visit our classrooms, playground, library, music room and hall.

Gain a real sense of the St Mary's Manly community.



Scan now to register

Paul McGuire, Principal
St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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srmfdbb.catholic.edu.au



Authentic, professional Catholic education, delivered with care and compassion.

St Mary's Primary School, Manly

We cordially invite you to our OPEN DAY on Tuesday 14th May at 9am and 4:30pm.

We offer an inclusive, welcoming, faith-based community, helping your child achieve their best both in the classroom and beyond. We are a small school, with 300 students, based in the heart of Manly, engaging with students and families, to live out our school motto of Listen, Love and Learn.

We are currently welcoming applications for our Kindergarten grades for 2025/2026 and would like to offer you a chance to see our school in action at our Open Day! Please register via the QR code on our flyer.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Finding Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul

The Diocese of Broken Bay is excited to invite you to an exclusive event featuring renowned speaker **Jason Evert**.

Join us on **Wednesday, 22 May 2024**, at The Light of Christ Centre, Yardley Ave; Waitara.

Festivities and food trucks will be available from 6.00 pm, with Jason's talk on "Finding Your Soulmate Without Losing Your Soul" starting at 7:00 pm.

This is a **FREE** event, but seats are limited, so **registration is essential**. Please note that no ticket means no entry. Ticketing is open exclusively to Broken Bay young adults until Tuesday, 30 April.

Don't miss out on getting your tickets, **BOOK NOW!**

To register, please visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/CRFMV>

Food, soft drinks and coffee at attendee's expense



VOCATIONS!

Is God calling you to make a difference in Vocations Ministry?

SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Father Kelvin Lovegrove Parish Priest of Holy Name Parish Wahroonga will be celebrating Mass for Serra at **Sacred Heart Church 2 Richard Porter Way Pymble on Thursday 23rd May 2024**.

The evening commences with Mass at **6.00 PM** followed by a light meal and a short meeting.

Following the meeting our guest speaker will be Tim Curran, Executive Director of CatholicCare in our Diocese who will provide us with an overview of all their activities.

Everyone is welcome. Please "come and see" and learn about all the amazing services provided by CatholicCare.

Please remember to pray every day for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians, and novices and for the perseverance of existing vocations.

For catering purposes kindly telephone Henry or Anna Leung on **0478 083 116** or email henrywk@yahoo.com.au or telephone Terry Scanlan on **0438 887 295** or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you are planning to attend.



St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Freshwater

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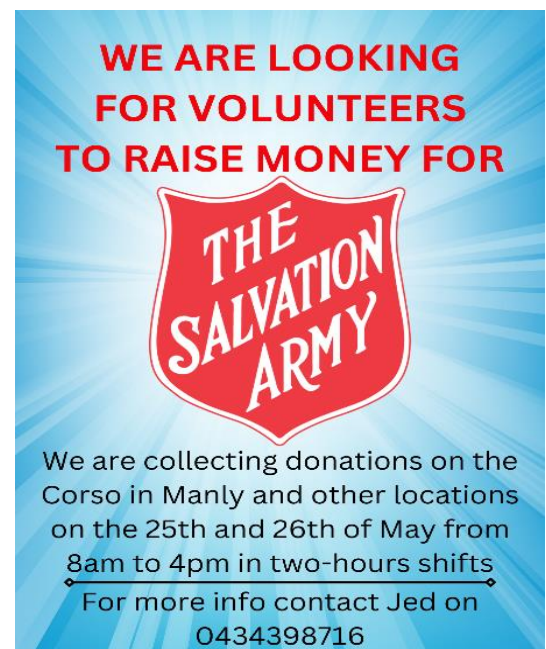
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Enrolling Now



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WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO RAISE MONEY FOR



We are collecting donations on the Corso in Manly and other locations on the 25th and 26th of May from 8am to 4pm in two-hours shifts

For more info contact Jed on **0434398716**

The Ascension of the Lord – Year B

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9 (JB)

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. R.

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. R.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. R.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19, 20 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 16:15-20 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord


All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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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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**St Mary's Primary
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K – 6**
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E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

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

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

Pastor Emeritus: Fr David Taylor

Seminarian: Matthew French

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

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

St John the Baptist Church
cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096

Presbytery: 9977 2100

After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Pastoral Council:
Michael McGrath (Chair); Ivica Covic (Deputy

Chair); John Zemek (Deputy Chair); Val Buono;
Patricia Carroll Margaret Dent; Robert Marshall;
Peter Nacard, Ian Press, Katalina Taefotu

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 9977 5111
Principal: Michael Reid

Stella Maris College 9977 5144
Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie




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