



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Baptism of the Lord – 12th January 2025



Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel is the final event of the Epiphany: Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River by John. The Christmas season "officially" (liturgically) comes to an end today at the banks of the Jordan. Jesus is no longer the child in a Bethlehem manger but the adult Redeemer making his way to Jerusalem. The good news spoken by the angels continues to unfold; the most wondrous part of the Christ story is yet to be revealed. Today, the same Spirit that "anoints" the Messiah for his mission us to be about the work of Christmas in this new year: to seek out and find the lost, to heal the hurting, to feed the hungry, to free the imprisoned, to rebuild nations, to bring peace to all peoples everywhere.

Luke presents Jesus as the last person to be baptized by John, bringing John's ministry to completion. Luke describes the scene with many images from the First Testament:

- the sky opens ("Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down" – Isaiah 63: 19)
- the Spirit "descended upon him like a dove" (many rabbis likened the wind above the waters at the dawn of Genesis to a dove hovering above its newborn; in employing this image, Luke suggests that, in this Jesus, a new Genesis is about to take place)
- the "voice from heaven" identifies and confirms Jesus as God's "beloved son." Jesus' baptism at the Jordan becomes the moment of God's "anointing" of his Messiah (the word Messiah means "anointed") for the work he is about to do.

Connectionmediaworks

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.



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



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

LET US PRAY FOR

12th January 2025

Recently Deceased: Rita Hogan

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 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
Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am



Adoration

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

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.

Your 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.

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.




NEW LIFE
RETREAT
FOR YOUNG
ADULTS
CONTACT FR MAREK FOR DETAILS
24 - 27 January 2025
SOMERSBY RETREAT CENTRE



SACRAMENT PROGRAM 2025

In our Parish, which is part of the Diocese of Broken Bay, children usually receive the Sacraments of Initiation (**Confirmation**, Reconciliation,

Communion) over a twelve month period, beginning in **Year 3** and concluding in **Year 4**.

Sacramental Dates for 2025

- **Confirmation** will be celebrated on **Thursday 1st May 2025**
- **First Holy Communion** will be celebrated on **Saturday 21st June – 11.30am at both Churches**

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

- **Manly - Tuesday 18th February at 7pm**
- **Freshwater – Thursday 27th February at 7pm**

If you have any queries please contact Michelle at michelle.ellis@bbcatholic.org.au.

SACRAMENTS IN NUMBERS LAST YEAR

The numbers clearly show that our parish is growing. Although our community farewelled 31 people, we received to our community over a hundred new members. We wish them all that they find in the Church the community they want to grow in and thrive.

Baptism

- Up to 1 year old:55
- Up to 7 years old:29
- Up to 15 years old:16
- Over 15 years old:1
- Unkown Age:4

Total:105

Confirmation

Total:97

Marriage

Both Catholic:1

Mixed Religion:.....8

Total:9

Although it's not a sacrament, this is also important figure for our parish:

Death

Total31

**JOIN OUR
NORTHERN BEACHES**

YOUNG ADULTS

COMMUNITY

Every 2nd Saturday at pub/restaurant
Every 4th Saturday at Manly Parish
message: (6 Raglan St)
Fr Marek at 0422532173
or Cam at 0432895304



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

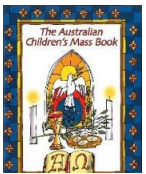
Instagram: manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth



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



Sacrament of confession/reconciliation is available every Saturday from 10am to 11am and Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm. It's not just a priest. Jesus is waiting for you.

Those participating in Altaration course have expressed what does Mass mean to them.

For me Mass is ...

... a privilege and opportunity to participate in the reenactment of the sacrifice of Christ. To consume Christ's word and his body and blood most importantly. To experience heaven coming to Earth, in the presence of God and All his Saints and All his angels! To participate as well in the same mass celebrated for nearly 2000 years all across the world!

Owen Koster

- Meeting Jesus and receiving Him in my body. Uniting with Jesus.
- Offered my thanksgiving.
- Begging Jesus for help.

Anna



CAR WASH
12 JANUARY 2025

**Fundraising
 EVENT**



Support our Young Adults as they prepare for their first retreat! **Join our car wash event on the 12th 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 after 8.30am and 10.30am Mass. Every bit helps!



The Marian Movement of Priests

"Through this Movement, I am calling all my children to consecrate themselves to my Heart, and to spread everywhere cenacles of prayer." (473 i: May 13, 1992)

Fr Andrew Grace (the Priest responsible for the MMP in Australia) will be holding a MMP Cenacle at Manly, followed by Mass and by a light supper in the parish hall.

The event will be held at Mary Immaculate Church on Friday 17 January, commencing at 5.30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Have you ever heard about Alpha?

Our parish hasted one last year. It was incredible time for many, who attended. New life ideas, good food, great stories, new friends with same faith, that was renewed.


This year we are going for it again.

Alpha's mission is to equip and serve the Church to help people discover and develop a relationship with Jesus.

This mission supports the broader vision of Alpha: the evangelisation of the nations, the revitalisation of the Church, and the transformation of society.

Over the past 8 years, we have helped 850,000 Australians explore faith through Alpha! It is our audacious dream that together we could see 2 million Australians explore faith through Alpha by 2033.


We give God all the glory and thank Him for what He's doing in Australia, and we want to thank you for your generosity as we partner together to see the evangelisation of Australia, the revitalisation of the Church, and the transformation of society.



ALPHA

COMING SOON

THERE'S A SEAT FOR YOU AT THE TABLE



MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH: A SHRINE OF HOPE FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS



As you may know, **Mary Immaculate Church, Manly**, has been designated as a **Shrine of Hope for Priests and Vocations**, with a special focus on the charism of **St. John Vianney**, the patron saint of priests. In light of this, we'll be taking time to learn

more about this remarkable saint, nurturing devotion to him, and seeking his powerful intercession.

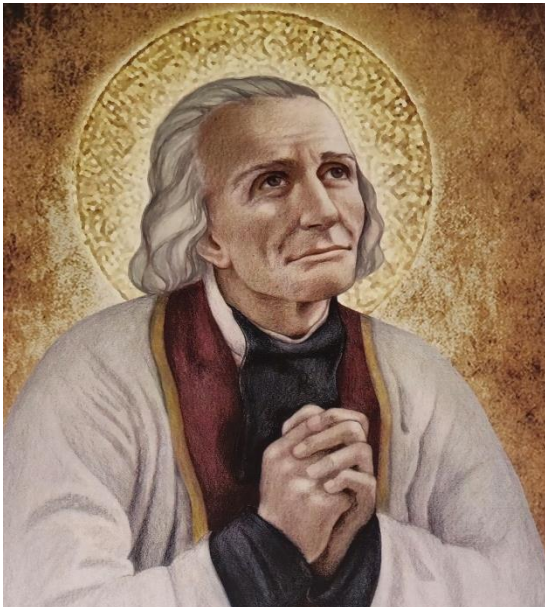
One of the blessings of our church being a Shrine of Hope is that the faithful can receive a **Jubilee Indulgence** when they visit here. This indulgence, granted by the Holy Father, can be obtained when individuals or groups **devoutly visit a jubilee site, spend time in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, and conclude with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.**

This is in line with the Decree on the Granting of Indulgence for the **Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025**, inviting everyone to experience the closeness of Mary during this sacred time.

As we await the installation of the relic of St. John Vianney, we encourage you to learn about his life, reflect on his example, and grow in devotion to this humble and faithful priest. To assist with this, our piety store will soon provide resources such as books, medals, icons, and more related to St. John Vianney.

In the coming weeks, we'll share further details about how we, as a parish, will celebrate this important period in our faith community. Let us embrace this opportunity to deepen our prayer for priests, vocations, and the Church, drawing closer to Christ through the example and intercession of St. John Vianney.

Let us journey together in faith and hope!



ST. JOHN VIANNEY

St. John Vianney, also known as the *Curé of Ars*, is one of the most beloved saints of the Catholic Church and the patron saint of parish priests. He was born on May 8, 1786, in Dardilly, near Lyon, France, to a devout Catholic farming family. From a young age, John showed a deep love for prayer and a strong desire to become a priest, despite the challenges he faced.

His road to the priesthood was far from easy. St. John Vianney struggled academically, especially with Latin, which was essential for priestly studies. Yet, his unwavering faith, humility, and perseverance eventually led to his ordination in 1815. Shortly after, he was sent to the small, remote village of Ars, France—a place where religious practice had largely been neglected in the wake of the French Revolution.

As the parish priest of Ars, St. John Vianney transformed the community through his tireless dedication to the spiritual welfare of his parishioners. Known for his powerful preaching, profound humility, and deep devotion to the Eucharist, he became a beacon of hope and renewal in the village. His greatest ministry, however, was the confessional. He spent up to 16 hours a day hearing confessions, offering forgiveness, and helping countless souls return to God.

St. John Vianney's life was marked by simplicity, self-denial, and unwavering trust in God. He frequently fasted and prayed for his parish and for the conversion of sinners. Through his example, many people were inspired to deepen their faith, and Ars became a pilgrimage site during his lifetime.

He passed away on August 4, 1859, after serving the people of Ars for over 40 years. St. John Vianney was canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1925, and in 1929, he was named the patron saint of parish priests. His life continues to inspire clergy and laypeople alike, reminding us of the power of humility, prayer, and pastoral care in bringing others closer to Christ.

Relevant resources:

Saint Pope John XXIII's encyclical, *Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia* (1959, written for the 100th anniversary of John Vianney's death).

St John Vianney: A Priest for All People by Elizabeth Marie DeDomenico, FSP

St John Mary Vianney, the Curé of Ars by Joanna Bogle

The Cure of Ars: Patron Saint of Parish Priests by Fr. Bartholomew J. O'Brien

The Cure d'Ars: St. Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney by Abbé François Trochu

The Baptism of the Lord – Year C

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30 (JB)

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch our the heavens like a tent. R.

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. R.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. R.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill. R.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. R.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a

people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Luke 3:16 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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.



Address: 15 South Steyne, Manly
Phone Number: (02) 7209 2920
Fax Number: (02) 7209 2921
Website: southsteynemedical.com
Email: SSMadmin@southsteynemedical.com


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Freshwater
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Today!**

**BE YOUR
BEST SELF**
here

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