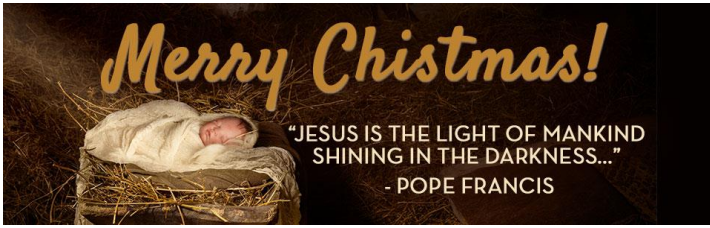




# MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

**The Nativity of the Lord – 25th December 2024**



Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

As we celebrate the joyous season of Christmas, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you, especially those visiting our parish during the holidays. Whether you are here on vacation or spending time with loved ones, we are delighted to have you join us for this beautiful celebration of Christ's birth.

This year has been a time of change for our parish, but it has also been one of growth, fruitfulness, and fulfillment. Together, as a community, we have embraced these changes with faith and generosity, always trusting in God's guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who serve so selflessly in our parish ministries, particularly during this busy Christmas season. Your commitment and kindness reflect the very heart of the Christmas message—God's love made visible in service to others. A special word of gratitude to everyone who donated so generously to our Christmas Day lunch and to the organizers who worked tirelessly to ensure it will be a wonderful experience for all.

On behalf of Fr. Marek and the entire parish team, I wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Christmas. May the light of Christ's birth fill your hearts with peace, hope, and love, and may the coming year bring continued blessings to you and those you hold dear.

**Merry Christmas!**

*Fr. Chima*



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY  
13th JANUARY 2025**

Christmas Offering



## CHRISTMAS OFFERING



envelopes are available on the pews. This is a special collection to support the sick and retired priests of our Dioceses of Broken Bay. Thank you for your generous support.



**We invite you to join us at one of our Christmas Masses**

**Mary Immaculate Church Manly  
24 December**

6pm Children's Mass

8pm Tongan Choir

10pm Parish Choir

**25 December 8.30am & 10.30am**

**St John the Baptist Freshwater**

**24 December 5pm Children's Mass**

**25 December 9am Parish Choir**

## You're invited To CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

**St Mary's Catholic Church**  
**Enter from Denison St, School Entrance**  
**11am - 1pm**

**This year we will be providing a  
Take Away Picnic Lunch and gift.**

**There will be some tables set up under  
the big tree if you wish to enjoy your  
Picnic with some other guests.**

It's been a tough year for many, so no matter what your circumstance, you are always welcome to come along!!

- ✓ COVID-19 Safe
- ✓ Free
- ✓ Special Gift Bag for all guests
- ✓ Family friendly
- ✓ Non-alcoholic
- ✓ Friendly Community

Hosted by  
Manly Freshwater Parish  
Tel: 9977 5822



## COME AND VISIT OUR NATIVITY SCENE



We invite you and your family to come forward before or after Mass to visit our Nativity scene. Please feel free to take one of the small greeting cards as a remembrance.

Below is an extract from the Angelus on the 16th December 2019 where Pope Francis spoke to the

Children present about the Astonishment of the Crib.

*“Dear children, when you recollect yourselves in prayer at home before the Crib, fixing your gaze on the Child Jesus, you will feel the astonishment . . . You will ask me, what does “astonishment” mean? It’s a stronger feeling; it’s more than a common emotion. It’s to see God: astonishment because of the great mystery of God made man; and the Holy Spirit will put the humility, tenderness and goodness of Jesus in your heart. Jesus is good; Jesus is tender; Jesus is humble. This is true Christmas! Don’t forget it. May it be so for you and your families.”*

**SUPPORT your PARISH** 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. Directly into Parish Bank Accounts**
- 6. 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
- 7. 1st collection Supports our Priests**  
Account: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral  
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank  
Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784



## Christmas Message from Fr. Marek

In an age of extraordinary human achievement, when we dream of sending people to Mars, when reaching higher, going further, and digging deeper has become our norm, we find ourselves tonight gathered around something utterly simple—a humble manger, to honor a little baby, Jesus.

It’s not a king’s palace, nor even a modest home. The first to greet this Newborn weren’t dignitaries or leaders but simple shepherds. Yet, in these unremarkable surroundings, the greatest story ever told began.

Almighty God chose this humble path to enter our world, and therein lies His profound power. Wherever we make room for Him, He transforms the ordinary into something extraordinary, often against all odds.

He did it on the battlefields of the First World War, where enemies sang carols and shared moments of peace. He did it in my own life, the first time I celebrated Christmas far from my family and homeland. And He can do it in your life too—turning small, overlooked moments into something meaningful and beautiful.

But it all begins with making room for Him. Space for Jesus in our homes, in our workplaces, and most importantly, in our hearts. That is the essence of Christmas: welcoming Him and making Him the reason for this season.

So this Christmas, let us do better than the residents of Bethlehem who turned Him away. Let us invite Him into our lives, not just as a guest, but as a true member of our families. May His presence bring you love, peace, and joy. May He transform what is difficult into good and what is good into something even better.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with His light and blessings. Merry Christmas!



Join our **car wash event on 12 January 2025** run by our Young Adults to help them attend their first retreat. We would love to register 10 of them. To make it possible we need to raise \$2000. So, bring your car and let them wash it or just donate whatever you wish.



## CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

There will be one Christmas collection at all Christmas Masses using cash or your card on the tap and go machines. Thank you for your donations.



**A BIG THANK YOU** to those who supported the Christmas Day Lunch with gifts and money donations and all the volunteers who assisted today. A special thank you to Dee Why RSL who provided the pavlovas and

One Meal for their generous donations.



24/7 Telephone Crisis Support:  
13 11 14

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.

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



# The Nativity of the Lord – Eve/Night



## **First Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 95:1-3. 11-13

**R. Today is born our Saviour,  
Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. R.
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

## **Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

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.

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

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Today a saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

# The Nativity of the Lord – Day



## **First Reading:** *Isaiah 62:11-12 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Your Saviour is born.*

This the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look, your saviour comes, the prize of his victory with him, his trophies before him'. They shall be called 'The Holy People', 'The Lord's Redeemed'. And you shall be called 'The-sought-after', 'City-not-forsaken'.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm:** *Ps 96:1, 6, 11-12 (JB)*

**R. A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.**

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice, the many coastlands be glad. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. R.

Light shines forth for the just and joy for the upright of heart. Rejoice, you just, in the Lord; give glory to his holy name. R.

## **Second Reading:** *Titus 3:4-7 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

*His own compassion saved us.*

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:** *Luke 2:14 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** *Luke 2:15-20 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.*

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**God gives us all that we have. What are some of the gifts you have received from God?**

