

Dear Fathers, Deacons and friends

The news of the tragic death of Fr Manoj Manuel continues to shock us. We are very grateful for the news that we have received through various social networks. These have assisted us to piece together the sad events that have occurred.

I am now able to share what we have learnt. As we know, Fr Manoj had travelled to Kerala for his holiday, arriving on 1 January. He had relocated from his appointment in the Cathedral Parish of Hornsby to the Parish of Wahroonga. He was on his way to Nagaland via Aizawl to meet his friends in his home Diocese of Kohima. Aizawl is the capital of the state of Mizoram in India. It is east of Kolkata and south of the state of Nagaland. Due to Covid-19 protocols, he had to go into isolation in Aizawl. Though his Covid report was negative he had a cardiac arrest and was taken to hospital and there he was declared dead.

When the Bishop of Nagaland was notified, he sent Frs. Jacob Charalel, Jaison CJ, and Philip Magh from the Diocese of Nagaland to Aizawl by road via Imphal. All formalities were completed in Aizawl, thanks to Bishop Stephen and his team. A prayer service was held at the mortuary before Fr Manoj's body was taken to the airport for translation to Kerala where he is to be buried on the wishes of his mother and relatives. Fr. Jaison accompanied the body. The body reached Kochi airport yesterday evening, 19 January. Fr Manoj's funeral service will start at 9.30 am on Thursday, 20 January, (3pm Sydney time) at his home and then in the Church and cemetery with strict compliance of Covid protocols existing in Kerala. As per the existing protocol in Kerala, only fifty people can take part in a funeral. There will be live telecast of the funeral service, the link for it will be shared should we receive it. Eight priests from the Diocese of Nagaland and few others from the north-eastern Indian dioceses will also take part in the funeral service. In the meantime, the Bishop of Kohima, Most Rev James Thoppil has requested all the Catholic schools and Colleges of the Diocese of Kohima to hold a prayer service and declare holiday on Thursday, 20 January as a mark of respect.

Bishop Anthony will celebrate a Memorial Mass for the late Fr Manoj Manuel at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara at 11am on Friday 28 January 2022. All are invited to attend, and clergy are invited to concelebrate.

Bishop Anthony would be grateful if you could publish the details of the Memorial Mass and again asks that our priests offer Holy Mass for the response of the soul of Fr Manoj, and that we all continue to remember him in our prayer.

With my own personal appreciation,

Fr David Ranson VG

Rev Dr David Ranson PP VG

INVITATIONS to All Parishioners and Friends!

1. The FUNERAL MASS in India for Fr Manoj will be live-streamed on Friday, 21 January 2022 at 3 pm AEDT. You can access the link here at:
<https://youtu.be/hORNZMf6fuQ>
(Telecast starts at 1.00 pm AEDT)

2. A MEMORIAL MASS for the late Fr Manoj Manuel will be celebrated at OLOR Cathedral on Friday, 28 January at 11.00 am. Bishop Anthony Randazzo will be the Main Celebrant and concelebrated by the priests of Broken Bay Diocese. This Mass will be livestreamed. We invite parishioners and friends to join us either at the Cathedral or on Livestreaming from our 'Hornsby Cathedral Parish' YouTube Channel. We will follow Covid-Safe practices/protocols in the Cathedral.

3. There is a NOVENA PRAYER for the repose of the soul of Fr. Manoj Manuel organized by the Hornsby Cathedral parishioners which commences tonight, 20 January at 8:00 PM (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney Time) via Zoom. Please click the link here:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79536670339...>

Meeting ID: 795 3667 0339

Passcode: Manoj

Every day, 9 occurrence(s)

Jan 20, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 21, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 22, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 23, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 24, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 25, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 26, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 27, 2022 08:00 PM

Jan 28, 2022 08:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Daily: <https://us04web.zoom.us/.../up0odO-uqTspGd1.../ics...>

We hope you can join us in one or all of these prayer gatherings.

Please pray for the eternal rest of the soul of Fr Manoj Manuel who has generously and gently served us in our parish.

Thank you and God bless.