



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends, thank you to all of you for your continual support of the parish in these difficult times, and a special thank you to those of you who have made some very generous donations. May God bless you all and keep you safe and well.

Fr David Taylor

The Gospel: Today's concluding section of the "bread of life" discourse from John's Gospel is a turning point for the disciples of Jesus. Will they join the ranks of the skeptics who have dismissed Jesus and his talk of "eating his flesh" or will they commit themselves to Jesus – and the shadows of the cross that begin to fall? We can hear the pain in Jesus' question: "Do you want to leave me, too?" Peter's simple, plaintive answer is the confession of faith voiced by disciples of every age who have come to sense the Spirit of God acting in and re-creating their lives.

connectionsmediaworks.com

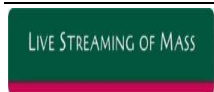



PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Donate to help families and parish communities in Broken Bay.

We are delighted to announce the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) is rebranding to Pastoral Works Broken Bay from July 2021. The purpose of the new name is to better reflect the authentic, life-giving pastoral work you are helping to support, and provide a name that uniquely connects it to our Diocese of Broken Bay.

At this time, we appreciate support that can be given, no matter how big or small. Our ministries continue to operate and provide vital services. We encourage donations at our parish website or www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Collection envelopes for Masses will be available when parishes re-open. Thank you for helping to renew and rebuild lives. Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.



On Facebook – [manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos) -Sunday 8:30am Mass

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for August: The Church Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel

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 community

LET US PRAY FOR

22nd August 2021

Recently Deceased: Myles Fahey; Eileen Hanley

Anniversary: Paul Rinaldo; Peter Dent, Kevin Wyburn

Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage"

Gavin Greenwood, Brian Gregan, Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Debbie Vernon; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burrige; Jill Carmichael; Stephen Robertson; Richard & Cynthia Connolly; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty; Sheila Lee; Chrissy Brunsdon; Belinda Nicholls; Jacqui Dawson; Marty O'Donnell; Pat Smith; Bozena (Boni) Covic; Gerry Ring; Paul Fenn

August 2021

Year B

Mon 23/8 – 21st week in Ord Time	1 Thess 1:1-5,8-10; Mt 23:13-22
Tue 24/8 – St Bartholomew	Apoc 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51
Wed 25/8 – 21st week in Ord Time	1 Thess 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
Thurs 26/8 – 21st week in Ord Time	1 Thess 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
Fri 27/8 – St Monica	1 Thess 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
Sat 28/8 – St Augustine	1 Thess 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30
Sun 29/8 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	
Deut 4:1-2,6-8; James 1:17-18,21-22,27; Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN NO GROUPS ARE MEETING ONSITE



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION?



Please scan the QR code for Credit Cards donations

or director deposit details are below

New: Scan to Donate using the QR code to access our BPoint Donation page. You will then be able to click the BPoint logo on the webpage to take you to the payment page. This secure system provided by the Commonwealth Bank Australia will give you the option of having your receipt emailed to you.



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 Parish Bank Account

Supports our Priests

Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Parish.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

-- St. Alphonsus Liguori

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

The following meetings have been schedules for week ahead:

Craft Group – Tuesday at 10am
Lectio Divinia – Tuesday at 7:30pm
Lectio Divinia – Wednesday at 10am



If you would like to join these meetings, please contact the Parish Office for the meeting id and password



ST CLARE'S PARISH PRAYER GROUP ONLINE:

St Clare is the patron saint of television. As screens are currently helping many in our community stay connected we are embracing St Clare as our patron for an online prayer group, meeting Wednesday at 7:30pm. **If you have an intention** you would like us to pray for please email faithwomen2020@gmail.com and we will include your intention in our evening of prayers. If you would like to join us in the prayer group, please email faithwomen2020@gmail.com for the ID and password. We very much look forward to seeing you (on our screens) and praying with you.



Mass For You At Home

This Sunday 22 August, Broken Bay clergy and staff again will appear on the broadcast of *Mass For You At Home* on Channel 10 at 6.00am. Fr Chima from Lower North Shore Parish will celebrate the Mass with Kelly Paget and PJ Almendras reading.

The Mass is also available on YouTube from 7.00am on Sunday https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC56U6_XgoR3bJBqClxLLp4Q



Let us remember those who cannot go on vacation. I think especially of the ill, the elderly, the incarcerated, the unemployed, refugees and all those who are alone or in difficulty. May Mary extend her maternal protection over each one of you.



Fr David will be celebrating his Birthday during the week.

We wish him a very Happy Day and ask that you remember him in your prayers.



Are you struggling to pay the bills? CatholicCare can help with Coles or Woolworths vouchers.

Times are tough. You might have lost work due to the lockdown, or you might be finding it hard to put food on the table. Please call CatholicCare on (02) 9481 2600 or email them at info@catholiccaredbb.org.au. They are here to help our parish families.

Please note this support is able to be offered due to Government funding so they will require ID and some documentation to access assistance but they can walk you through the requirements.



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

"I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table, I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: 'Pray for this problem!'"
Pope Francis



The Piety Store has a good selection of statues, books and card of St Joseph. Please call the Parish Office if you wish to purchase any goods from the Piety Store.



SCRIPTURE CLASSES FROM HOME
With our schools closed, we would like to reach out to the Children who would normally attend our Scripture classes each week. We are now able to offer Learning from Home SRE Lessons - please go use the following link
<https://www.cress.org.au/>



National Day of Prayer in this Time of Pandemic
This Sunday 22 August

An ecumenical National Day of Prayer has been organised for Sunday 22 August, calling Australia to come together in prayer in light of the current COVID-19 crisis. The theme is 'Lord have mercy', as we make this verse from Ps. 123 our own: ***Our eyes look to the Lord our God till He shows us His mercy***" (Ps. 123:2).

A Prayer Call on Zoom, from 9am to 9pm on Sunday 22 August, will feature Church leaders and Indigenous Christian Leaders. Participants can join for as long as they wish. In addition, daily prayers will be offered in the week prior, from 16 August.

For more information & to register, please visit:
<http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org.au/LordHaveMercy/>

St Mary's School News...

This week our students have been engaging with National Science Week activities and even took home a special science gift- a rubber band car for Kindy- Year 3 students and a Foldscope for our Year 4-6 students (we are the only school in the country to have these!) We have been busy making gingerbread cookies and dancing along to DJ KitKat. We celebrated the Feast of the Assumption last Sunday with a beautiful prayer shared by one of our Year 6 Mission Leaders.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page to stay up to date with all the wonderful events happening remotely at St Mary's.

Kind regards Alexis Conn (REC)



FRIDAY 27TH AUGUST 6PM
JOIN our Vinnies Community Sleepout or donate to help us rebuild lives for people experiencing homelessness.



A virtual event - we will be in our own homes but together online and in one spirit.

By choosing to sleep out at home in your car, backyard or on your couch, you can continue to help raise crucial funds for Vinnies and connect online with some of the realities faced by those experiencing homelessness and disadvantage. To join or make a donation go to <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-central-coast-region-2021/>



SEBASTIAN ON HIGH...

I wondered freely as a cloud that floats on high, accompanied by my Cockatoo friends flying over the huge lavish St. Mary's fig tree.

Looking down seeing my ol pal busily raking the berries, delicious green branches covered in leaves that we delight spraying on him as he tries in vain to clean up the mess we leave.

After all, it is our berry feeding season and just because we cause some droppings there is no need to disturb our cropping.

Actually, we get a great kick when we see that big git sweeping away, filling those green bins cause he'll need to come back quick as we drop more and more sticks.



You see, we love messing that car park beneath and miss all those parishioners who think they're so neat as the Delta Virus has got them housebound and we can't bomb their cars as they are not around.

It is sad to see the Church empty on Sunday's as we like to fly in and put on a display chewing the berries and leaves on that humongous great tree and leave some left overs on the cars below.

Never mind, as I am sure you'll all be back and when that day comes us Cockatoos will crack into action bombard you from on high from the branches of the great tree, in the sky.

Hope to see you all soon.
Sebastian (Captain Cockatoo)

Our Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person, and by our dedication to sustained education, practice and conversation about moral, legal and spiritual obligation to safeguard all those within our community.

Oceania Pastoral Ministry Webinar: Being Alive in the Spirit 24 August, 10:00am – 11:30am

This webinar will explore and share practical ways of listening and acting in the Spirit, and how to live as missionary disciples. It will also discuss how the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults supports whole-of-parish renewal and evangelisation.

Hosted by the Pastoral Mission Network; Mission Planners Network of Oceania; and the Christian Initiation Australia Network; it will feature guest speaker Leisa Anslinger, Director Centre for Pastoral Vitality at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

[Register here](#) or cut and paste the following address into your

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461212693>
-
CtqT8oE9aNYXxryNSzqnDwUCUXRRbP?fbclid=IwAR35zroKLnV0p0KgSsIOrQKQihZ5UY1FDEKCC5S1vKs12awDL49XzBgK8Co

Divine Renovation Australasia Webinar: Jesus Christ & Missionary Discipleship:

25 August, 6:30pm

Go ... and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). This was the Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples, and it is the same mission He entrusts to each of us. Yet, what does it really mean to be a disciple of Christ? Join us for this online event as Dr. Christine Wood and Kevin Bailey take us through what it means to be a missionary disciple and how we can carry out the mission of Christ in our world today.

Dr. Christine Wood is the Director of the Office of Evangelisation and Catechesis in the Archdiocese of Hobart and teaches Biblical and Systematic Theology at Catholic Distance University in the USA.

Register
at: <https://www.divinerenovation.org/events>

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICISM IN AUSTRALIA FORUM 2: Outcomes and Actions for the Plenary Council

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform invites Australian Catholics to the second in a series of convocations via Zoom - 3-10 October 2021

Free Registration - <http://www.acccr.com.au>



WHAT IS SYCAMORE

<https://www.sycamore.fm/videos/>

Sycamore is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to explore your beliefs and think about questions that really matter.

What is prayer?

A traditional definition of prayer goes like this: Prayer is “raising up the mind and the heart to God”. We need to stretch out to God, to look up and to look beyond. This is part of prayer. But you could also say that prayer is “opening the mind and the heart to God”, because he is not just “up there”, he is present with us here, whether we are praying or not.

There are so many different ways of praying. Prayer can be informal and spontaneous: I often pray on the bus or walking to the shops. Prayer can be formal and solemn: if you go, for example, to a beautiful Choral Evensong in an Anglican Cathedral.

Prayer can be something very private, very personal. It’s a relationship, a conversation. Many people pray in the quiet of their bedroom when they get up in the morning or just before they go to sleep.

And prayer can be a powerful experience of the church and of community.

I guess the default prayer for most of us is to ask for things. We want God’s help, and we are very good at telling him exactly what we need. But there is much more. It’s also important to worship him, to praise him, to thank him, to say sorry to him. And it’s equally important, sometimes, to say nothing: just to sit in the stillness of prayer; listening, thinking, wondering.

If you listen carefully you’ll hear that nearly every Christian prayer finishes with the words “in the name of Jesus” or “through Christ our Lord” or something similar. We never pray alone. Through our faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. He unites us with Jesus, the Saviour, who brings our prayer to God the Father.

That’s the secret and the power of Christian prayer. It’s the friendship we have with Jesus Christ. If we open our hearts to God in prayer, we discover a peace that can never be found elsewhere.

It doesn’t mean that prayer is always easy. Sometimes I have to force myself to say my prayers: I’m so tired or distracted or spiritually dry. I love the saying of the French writer Georges Bernanos: “The desire for prayer is itself a prayer”.

Does prayer make a difference?

So here is a question: Does prayer make a difference? And here is my answer: “Sometimes, but not always...”

Sometimes, when we pray, we feel very close to God. There is an experience of peace and joy and consolation. Sometimes, when we pray, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a very concrete way. And sometimes, when we pray for something, it actually happens, in quite a remarkable way. It feels like a small miracle. Jesus wants us to ask for things. He told us that God is a loving Father who longs to give us what we need.

So sometimes, prayer definitely makes a difference. But not always. At other times, when we pray, we can feel very empty and alone. We can be full of doubts or distractions or disappointment or anger. Or we’re just tired.

Sometimes we need to learn that God is beyond us. We can’t put him in a box. There is darkness and mystery and silence. God says in the bible: My ways are not your ways; my thoughts are not your thoughts. His plans are bigger than we can understand.

The difficulties help us to go deeper, to be faithful. They teach us to be patient and humble. We can ask the Holy Spirit to pray within us, because his prayer is more powerful than our own.



How to pray

So if you want to pray, what do you actually do? Well, there are a thousand options, and that's part of the adventure of prayer. You can talk to God as a friend. You can read the bible. You can pray the formal prayers of the Christian tradition. You can sit in silence. You can weep. You can sing. You can pray alone or with friends or at your local church.

All that matters at the beginning is that you begin. And in fact one of my favourite sayings about prayer is this: the secret of prayer is to pray. You just have to start; to take a first step.

And another saying I often share with people is this: pray as you can, not as you can't. In other words, find a way of praying that is helpful for you, that works. There is no pressure. Prayer is not a competition.

But if you don't know where to start, let me give you two suggestions. First, find a quiet space, maybe in your room at the beginning or end of the day, and simply talk to God in your own words. You can speak to him as you would to a close friend or a loving parent. You can talk about whatever is on your heart. You don't need to be afraid. And then if you have time, you can read a passage of the bible, or sit in silence, or use one of the prayers of the Christian tradition.

My second suggestion, after personal prayer, is for you to go to your local church and join in their Sunday worship. It will help you to have a much bigger experience of prayer: of the Christian community coming together in praise and worship and song.

I really encourage you to take a step in prayer. It's not just for saints or for special people. It's for ordinary people. And it could make such a difference to your life. When you pray, it's like opening a door. You give God permission to come into your life, and he can reveal himself to you more and more. He loves you, and he longs to lead you closer to him and to give you his peace

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Have you ever prayed or gone to a religious service? What was it like?**
- If you pray: Why do you pray? What's your usual way of praying?
- If you don't pray: What holds you back?
- **Do you think that prayer can make a difference to people's lives?**
- Do you know other people who pray? Do you know why or how they pray?
- If God is all powerful, why do you think he sometimes seems to ignore our prayers?
- **Why do you think many people find it hard to pray?**
- What do you think about the idea that God is listening to us and wants to answer our prayers?
- do you think about the idea of praying with other people?

WISDOM FROM THE BIBLE

Psalms 141:1-2 "I call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call to you. Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice."

Psalms 18:6 "In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears."

Matthew 6:6 Jesus says: "But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus says: "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

Matthew 18:19-20 Jesus says: "Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading *Joshua 24:1-2,15-18 (JB)*

A reading from the book of Joshua

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 33:2-3, 16-23 (JB)*

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. R.

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. R.

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. R.

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

Second Reading *Ephesians 5:21-32 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives submit to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as

Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body - and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

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

Gospel Acclamation *cf John 6:63, 68 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Gospel *John 6:60-69 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

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Assistant Priest: Fr John Puliparambil
john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au

Seminarian: Martino Hoang

Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati & Paula Martin

Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Mary Immaculate Church

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater NSW 2096

Administration Office: 9977 5822 (Parish Office)

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Presbytery: 9977 2100

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair),
Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary),
Ivica Covic; Joanne Druery; Robert Marshall;
Michael McGrath

Weekend Masses:

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm & Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses:

Manly: Tuesday - Friday 9:15am

Freshwater: Tuesday - Friday 9:15am

Baptisms: please contact the parish office
Manly 4th Sunday of the month
Freshwater 2nd Sunday of month

Reconciliation: *Manly* Sat 10am - 11am

St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225

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