

MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Second Sunday of Easter – 27th April 2025



Office of the Bishop Broken Bay Vox Episcopi – 23 April 2025

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with great sadness we mourn the passing of Pope Francis. The Holy Father passed away at Casa Santa Marta at 7:35am local Rome time on Easter Monday.

A prophetic leader, Pope Francis served as the Bishop of Rome and shepherd of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics since 2013 following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1997 before Pope John Paul II made him cardinal in 2001.

During his years in Argentina, and later in Rome, his lifestyle was simple and humble, living in a small apartment, using public transport and working with the homeless and poor.

Even when elected Pope on 13 March 2013, he chose not to live in the official papal residence in the Apostolic Palace but instead in the Vatican guest house.

Pope Francis was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas and the first from the Southern Hemisphere. His parents and grandparents were from northern Italy.

He convoked synods on the family (2014) and youth (2018), however the Synod on Synodality in 2023/2024 is seen by many as the culmination of his papacy, and one of the most important events in the Church since the Second Vatican Council.

As we grieve the passing of Pope Francis, let us remember in our prayers his commitment and unwavering dedication to justice, peace, and hope.

A courageous leader, his papacy will be remembered for its call to reform, to embrace mercy, and to build bridges of understanding.

May we find strength in his papal teaching as we continue the journey of faith in this Holy Year that Pope Francis dedicated to hope, asking us all to be Pilgrims of Hope.

As I head to Rome for the funeral of Pope Francis as your Bishop and President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, please keep me in your prayers as I will you in mine.

And let us all pray for our dear Holy Father who has fallen asleep in the Lord. Pray that Jesus, the Good

Shepherd may receive him into the green pastures in Paradise.

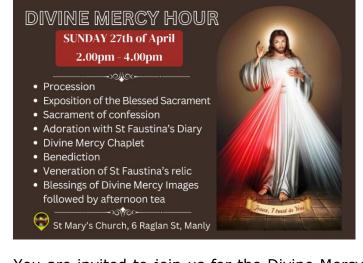
Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Requiescat in pace.

Sincerely yours in Christ, + Anthony Randazzo

SOLEMN MASS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF POPE FRANCIS at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral 23 Yardley Ave, Waitara on Monday 28th April '25 at 7pm.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



You are invited to join us for the Divine Mercy Sunday Procession and Devotion this Sunday at 2pm at Mary Immaculate Church, Manly.

"Mercy, Memory, and Mission"

Dear Parish Family,

As we gather on this Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, we are reminded of God's boundless love and compassion. In the midst of our Easter joy, we also mourn the passing of Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday at the age of 88. His papacy was marked by humility, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to the marginalized. His teachings on mercy and justice have left an indelible mark on the Church and the world.

In honour of Pope Francis, we will gather for a special Eucharistic celebration on **Wednesday**, **30**th **April**, **at 6pm**. This Mass will be an opportunity for our community to come together in prayer and gratitude for his life and service.

Looking ahead, we rejoice with 87 of our young parishioners who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday, May 1st**. We are grateful to Bishop David Walker for joining us in this significant moment, as these children affirm their faith and commitment to the Church.

As we navigate this time of sorrow and joy, let us hold fast to the message of Divine Mercy. May we, inspired by Pope Francis' legacy, continue to be instruments of God's mercy in our world.

Fr Chima

LET US PRAY FOR

27th April 2025

Recently Deceased: Pope Francis; Paul Vercoe; Margery Bennett

Anniversary: Maria Vasile; Terry Morgan; Rory Lynsky; John Bennett

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; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O'Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Veronica Rinaldo; Rena Curll; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai; John Santos; Garry Kirkman

Dates to remember...

- Divine Mercy Sunday 27 April 2pm 4pm
- ALPHA continues Monday 28 April 7pm
- Memorial Mass for Pope Francis Wed 30 April 6pm
- Cenacle of Our Lady
 Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am



Sacrament of confession/reconciliation is available in Manly every

Saturday from 10am to 11am and Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY

ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

Adoration

Ation Quiet Prayer, Adoration and reconciliation will be available 6pm – 7pm concluding with Benediction

"Hours of Mercy" every First Wednesday from 6:00 pm to midnight, we will hold a special time of grace and prayer. The evening will begin with Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration. This extended time of prayer allows us to deepen our relationship with God and receive the gift of Plenary Indulgences.

Welcome to Our Parish!

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



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

MAY ROSTER will be available at the back of the church.

PART 1 - Is There Any Evidence of the Resurrection of Jesus?

The **doctrine of the resurrection** of Jesus Christ is **central to our Christian faith**. It underpins all of the writings of the New



Testament (NT) and serves as the *"golden thread"* that connects all Christian doctrines. So much so that St. Paul said to the Corinthians, "If there is no resurrection from the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:13–15).

However, does belief in the resurrection require us to suspend reason and rely on faith alone, or is there some kind of **evidence** that can substantiate this claim? We will explore this question over the coming weeks. This week, we will focus on the **historicity of the New Testament writings** and on the existence of **Jesus as an actual historical figure.** In the following weeks, we will examine the resurrection narratives more closely and explain why they are considered reliable sources of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.

Is the Bible Reliable, and Did Jesus Really Exist?

New Testament scholar Bart Ehrman notes that *virtually all biblical scholars* and classical historians *agree that Jesus was a real person* and that any claims to the contrary have been effectively refuted. Alister McGrath, professor of science and religion at Oxford University, explains that scholars reached this conclusion through the *science of textual criticism*—a method used to examine the chronological distance between the events being described and our first manuscripts. Essentially, the more manuscripts we have and the earlier they are, the less doubt there is about their *authenticity*.

If we look at the books of the New Testament, they were written between A.D. 40–100, and the *earliest manuscripts date back to around A.D. 130*, with complete manuscripts by A.D. 350. Furthermore, we have approximately 5,300 Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin translations, and 9,300 in other ancient languages (Syriac, Coptic, etc.).

In comparison, when we examine other ancient historical works—such as Caesar's Gallic War, or the writings of Tacitus or Livy—we find that the time gap between the original documents and the earliest surviving manuscripts is roughly 1,000 years or more. Additionally, far fewer manuscripts exist today (a dozen or so) compared with the thousands available for the New Testament. For these reasons, McGrath notes, scholars are quite confident in the *accuracy, authenticity, and integrity of the New Testament scriptures* that have been passed down to us.

There are also other strong pieces of historical evidence outside the Bible for the existence of Jesus. For example, the Jewish-Roman historian **Josephus** acknowledges that Jesus was crucified by Pontius Pilate and that many people became his disciples. There is also **Tacitus**, a Roman historian with an anti-Christian bias, who affirms several details about Jesus, including his death under Pilate and the persecution of his followers. Another ancient source is **Pliny the Younger**, a Roman governor of Bithynia, who wrote to Emperor Trajan concerning the prosecution of Christians for their belief in the divinity of Christ. These are just a few examples of the sources available to historians and scholars that point to the **credibility of the historical evidence for Jesus**.

---- To be Continued -----



CRAFT STALL

Sunday 4 May 8am – 12pm

This year there will be a lot of novelty items along with the usual craft items, suitable for MOTHER'S DAY as well as WINTER WARMER'S and BABY GOODS.

Proceeds will go to "Wheelchairs for Kids's" – a voluntary group started by Senior Australian of the Year (a Christian Brother). They are the only place in the world making adjustable wheelcharis suitable for children 6 – 16 years old.

Please come along for a browse and chat.



Morning Prayer

During this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, we are all invited to a deeper spiritual renewal, embracing prayer as a way to grow in faith and trust in God's providence and love. As part of this

journey, Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) will be prayed at 8:45am, Tuesday to Friday, before Mass, at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, at Mary Immaculate Church, Manly. This ancient prayer of the Church unites us in praise and reflection through Scripture and psalms, drawing us into the rhythm of daily prayer with the universal Church. Prayer books will be provided, and all are welcome to join.

Manly Freshwater Parish –QR Code

CHECK OUT Fr Sam's new 90 second Jubilee YouTube video by scanning the QR Code. Other parish information can also be







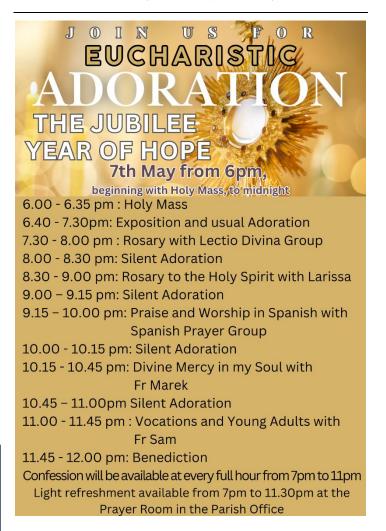
BROKEN BAY NEWS

March issue is now available to collect from the entrances to the church. The Installation of the St John Vianney relic in Mary Immaculate Church is featured in this edition.



During the week **Fr Chima** celebrated his birthday. As a parish community we wish to show him our appreciation for his ministry, and we pray that the Lord may

bless him abundantly on this special day.





Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Hope

Inspired by the Life and Witness of St. John Vianney

Heavenly Father, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we thank You for the gift of our parish, Manly Freshwater, chosen as a shrine of hope for priests and vocations. Through the intercession of St. John Vianney, the faithful shepherd of souls, renew in us a deep love for the priesthood and a commitment to fostering holy vocations in our community.

Lord, may this parish be a beacon of hope, where priests find strength and renewal, where Your faithful discover peace and encouragement, and where hearts are inspired to answer Your call with courage and joy.

Teach us, through the example of St. John Vianney, to love prayer deeply, to serve with humility, and to bring Your mercy and hope to those who seek You.

We entrust Manly Freshwater Parish and this Jubilee Year of Hope to Your loving care, confident that You will guide us to renewal and bless us with abundant vocations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS-Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil



Good Friday – Stations of the Cross











Easter celebration with residences of Manly Hillside Care Community



The Young Adults came together to share an Easter meal with those who may not have a chance to celebrate this day with family.

CONFIRMATION

Next Thursday Bishop David Walker will be Confirming 87 young people from our parish. Please remember them in your prayers.

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Preparation program commences next weekend. Please remember the children in your prayers.



YOUTH GROUP

1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month following the 6pm Mass (7pm – 9pm).

We welcome all youth who are in High School (Yr 7 – Yr 12) to come along and join the Manly Freshwater Parish Youth Group. 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



Pope's Intentions for April: For the use of the new technologies Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the

crises of our times.



PIETY STORE

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA SPECIAL OFFER to help us prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday

We have a limited number of Rosaries from the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in Poland. These Rosaries contain the 3rd class relic of

St Faustina. Available this week with a copy of the Novena and votive candle.

Novena commences Good Friday



There are St John Vianney candles, prayer books and holy water bottles available in the Piety Store along with books on St Joseph for the month of March, a variety of crosses, rosary beads, CD's, DVD's and much more.

Movie of the month: The Doctors of the Church – St Ambrose of Milan. Destined to reach the highest political office, he instead fully embraced life's mission to serve God and became one of the greatest bishops of the Church. Leaving behind a legacy of hymns, influential writings and the title, Doctor of the Church. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

CD of the month: Beyond Belief – Following Christ today – Fr Michael Schmitz. Fr Mike challenges us to not settle for mediocrity and to allow Christ to change our lives. Once we are changed by the love of Jesus, then together we can change the world. Only \$5 @ the piety store.

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 Vincent de Paul Conferences: Manly 1st Mon each month 5:30pm Freshwater 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm

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.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

<u>Parish facebook</u>: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish <u>Parish website</u>: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos

Your Parish

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 <u>manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au</u>

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.



Children's Liturgy is held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10:30am Mass.

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



Second Sunday of Easter – Year C

First Reading

Acts 5:12-16

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily.

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleepingmats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4, 22-27

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' R.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. R.

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord, grant success. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord; the Lord God is our light. R.

Second Reading Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever.

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Sam French sam.french@bbcatholic.org.au

Seminarian: Mr Alfred Soliman manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

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 Thur 8:30am - 4:30pm manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096

Michael McGrath (Chair); Ivica Covic (Deputy Chair); John Zemek (Deputy Chair); Val Buono; Patricia Carroll; Rob Irving; Robert Marshall; Ian Press

Weekend Masses:

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm and Sunday 9am Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Freshwater Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 9:15am Manly Tues and Fri 7am & 9:15am Wed and Thur 9:15am

Reconciliation: Manly Wed 6pm - 7pm; 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 Principal: Gabie Stojanovski

Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Sharyn Quirk