



MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH

Mary Immaculate, Manly and
St John the Baptist, Freshwater

Diocese of Broken Bay

MEET THE *Bishop*



**Saturday 23rd
November**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET
BISHOP ANTHONY RANDAZZO**

who will be celebrating the 6pm Vigil
Mass at Mary Immaculate Church
Manly on Saturday 23rd November.
Supper will follow afterwards.

RSVP for supper by Wed 20/11/19 to the Parish Office 9977 5822 or
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th November 2019



As we come towards the end of the Church's year, the readings encourage us to look at our world with open eyes, without pretence; to be filled with hope because God is faithful, working always for good. Even if we suffer, God is with us.

In the Jewish world of Jesus' time one of the ways of speaking about God's action in the world was known as apocalyptic. This type of language is found in the gospels when the evangelists are speaking about the end of time. The imagery is not to be taken literally but is symbolic of the hard times that people may endure before the final victory of good over evil. This reading from Luke looks towards the second coming of Christ and Jesus counsels his followers not to be distracted but to persevere in their faith in God.

The prophet Malachi, in the **First Reading**, promises that arrogant evil-doers will not always prosper. The day of the Lord is coming when evil will be punished but those who

know the Lord will experience healing, like the warming rays of the sun.

The **Psalm** is a joyful invitation for all creation to praise the Lord, who is coming to rule with fairness and justice.

St Paul reminds us we should work quietly and humbly at our daily tasks while waiting for Christ's return. Without anxiety, we are to contribute to our families and community (**Second Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, Jesus warns of the future destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. His disciples will face persecution and hostility, illness and famine, but these catastrophes do not mean the end of the world. God will care for them and give them the words to speak to those who persecute them. By enduring, they will give witness to their faith and receive all that he has promised.

The Biblical view of the future is one steeped in the hope brought by the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over sin and death. This week, we are called to trust and persevere in following Jesus, as we live in hope according to his values. *Pathways to God/Sean Goan 2019*

Parish Priest: Fr David Taylor

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Kim

Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati
Paula Martin

Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Administration Office:

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Fri: 9am – 4pm

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

Tel: 9977 5822 / 8379 1720

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls:

0499 910 010

Presbytery: 9977 2100

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

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

**Liturgy of the Word and
Holy Communion**

Manly: Monday 9:15am

Freshwater: Monday 9:15am

Mary Immaculate Church

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St,
Freshwater NSW 2096

Baptisms: by appointment only

Manly 4th Sunday of the month

Freshwater 2nd Sunday of month

Reconciliation:

Manly Sat 10am – 11am

Freshwater Sat 4:30pm

WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS

Thank You for your financial support of our Priests and Parish Community.

The 1st Collection is for the financial support of our priests.

The 2nd Collection is for the maintenance & running costs of our Parish Community.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November: Communication and Reconciliation

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter and reconciliation emerges in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council: Vuna Tuifua (Chair); Laurie de Ambrosio; Joanne Druery; Richard Heasman; Michael Larkin; Robert Marshall; Ian Press; Freya Zemek
St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225
Principal: Paul McGuire
St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699
Principal: Judy Slattery
St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111
Principal: Chris Browne
Stella Maris College 9977 5144
Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie

November

Yr C 2019

Mon 18/11 – 33rd week in Ordinary Time
 1 Macc 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-64; Lk 18:35-43
 Tue 19/11 – 33rd week in Ordinary Time 2 Macc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10
 Wed 20/11 – 33rd week in Ordinary Time 2 Macc 7:1,20-31; Lk 19:11-28
 Thurs 21/11 – The Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary
 1 Macc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44
 Fri 22/11 – St Cecilia 1 Macc 4:36-37,52-59; Lk 19:45-48
 Sat 23/11 – 33rd week in Ordinary Time 1 Macc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40
 Sun 24/11 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
 2 Sam 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

LET US PRAY FOR

17th November 2019

Recently Deceased: John Duffy

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Wayne Smedley; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Betty Borg; Ann Irvin; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Majella McLoughlin; Debbie Vernon; Desmond Connors; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Joan Herringe; Vanessa Squirrel; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Fiona Sweeting; Louise Allara


During November, only the names of recently deceased will be published in the bulletin.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is held at Manly Church on Wednesdays from 2pm with Divine Mercy Hour held from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. To assist us on Wednesdays and present before the Blessed Sacrament, a Guard of Honour Roster has been placed on the notice board. We invite you to place your name in a time slot which suits you.

Visiting sick at home - If you, or if you know of anyone who is unable to attend Mass because they are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing

Please TURN OFF your mobile phones during all Church services; that includes sending/receiving text messages

 St Mary's Church at Manly is fitted with an audio loop for hearing impaired.

The St Vincent de Paul Clothing bags available for you in the Piety Store and you can return your clean clothing donations either to the Piety Store or the Church Foyer. There will also be SVDP Clothing Appeals from time to time.

DATES TO REMEMBER...

- **RCIA** Tues 19th Nov @ 7pm
- **SJB Yr 2 Class Mass** Tues 19th Nov @ 9:15am
- **SMM Yr 2 Class Mass** Thurs 21st Nov @ 9:15am
- **Stella Maris College Yr 10 at Mass** Wed 20th Nov @ 9:15am
- **SJB Liturgy of the Word with Communion** Friday 22nd Nov @ 9:15am
- **Bishop Anthony Randazzo Celebrating Mass followed by Supper at St Mary's Church Manly** Saturday 23rd Nov @ 6pm

SUNDAY MORNING TEAS

FRESHWATER: following the Sunday 9am Mass.



MANLY: following the Sunday 8:30am Mass each weekend, with the Filipino Family Group hosting a morning tea on the 2nd Sunday following the 10:30am Mass and the Tongan Community hosting a morning tea on the 3rd Sunday following the 10:30am Mass.



If you are a new parishioner to Manly Freshwater Parish, we invite you to complete a Parish census form. This will assist us in updating our records to include you and your family in 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.



Visitors to the area are more than welcome.

Craft Group meets each week on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12noon in the Parish Center. We invite you to come along for a cuppa and a chat in a friendly relaxed environment. Bring along your knitting or other craft if you wish.



AND Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Parish End Room.

Lectio Divina Read his story in the Gospels. Spend time with him. Listen to what he says. Lectio Divina group meets in the Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings at 10am

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Anyone interested in this form of silent prayer is most welcome to attend. Enq: Hazel Cottee 0402 052 088 *"Be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46: vs 10)



Children's Liturgy is held each weekend at Manly during the 8.30am Mass and at Freshwater during the 9am Mass



Pope Francis @ Pontifex

My thoughts go out to beloved Burkina Faso, where an attack has killed many people. I entrust to the Lord the victims and all those who suffer as a result of such tragedies. I appeal to the Authorities to promote inter-religious dialogue and harmony.



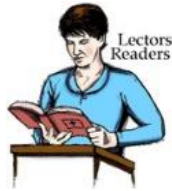
FR PAUL'S YOUTUBE

Please take a minute to watch Fr Paul Kim's presentation on today's Gospel reading. **You can view it through YouTube – search frpaulkim (one word with no space).**

PLEASE REPORT ANY HOAX EMAILS YOU MIGHT RECEIVE CLAIMING TO BE FROM FR DAVID TAYLOR TO THE PARISH OFFICE. WE WILL REPORT THEM TO THE DIOCESE. Thank you.

Readers Commissioning

and presentation of the Break Open the Word Books. If you are interested in becoming a Reader please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822



Charitable Works Fund

This year 2019/2020 the quota for our parish is \$48,387 with the CWF Appeal in August collecting \$10,432. The Nov '19 & May '20 Appeals need to make up the shortfall of \$37,955. Donations to the CWF are Tax-Deductible.



We remember our loved ones who have died in our **Book of Remembrance** which will be on display in the Churches during November. We invite you to take a moment to add the names of your loved ones to our Parish Book of Remembrance by either leaving the names on the weekend collection plate or by email to manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au or calling into the Parish Office. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**



An invitation to discover more about our Catholic faith.

The Rite of **Christian Initiation for Adults** (RCIA)

Tues 19th Nov at 7pm Parish Centre Manly



We are currently seeking more Catechists & Helpers for our CCD Classes in 2020.

If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact Laurie: 9949 7750 (Manly) or Toni: 9905 2894 (Freshwater)



Holy Communion to the Sick at Freshwater

Dear friends at St John the Baptist, as we get older or develop poor health, we are not able to get to Mass on Sundays. It is very important to include these parishioners in our Sunday Mass. We do this by taking Holy Communion to them in their homes at an agreeable time and day.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Sandra Francisco, who has been doing this ministry. She is not able to do so at the present due to some health issues. **WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY**

We would like to get as many volunteers as possible. You will be fully trained and introduced to the people you visit. For more information please contact Fr David at the Parish Office 9977 5822.

Christmas, December & January rosters Servers, snr & jnr, Readers, Eucharist Ministers

If you are available to assist over the Christmas/December/January period, please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822. If you are away and are normally on the monthly roster please also advise the office.

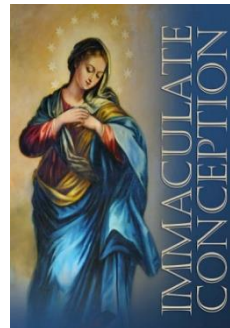
Prayer of Blessing for Readers

Everlasting God,

When your Son Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth, He proclaimed the good news of salvation to which he would give up his life.

Bless these readers, as they proclaim your words of life, strengthen their faith that they may read with conviction and boldness and put into practice what they read.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



8 DECEMBER

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

Parish Feast Day Celebration

10.30am Mass at Manly followed by Lunch under the Big Tree in the School yard.

RSVP by 4 December to 9977 5822
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH 6 weeks till Christmas

Each year the Parish hosts a Luncheon on Christmas Day for those in our community who will be spending Christmas alone.

This year again we are asking for your assistance. If you are able to assist with any of the following please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

- Easy carve Ham
- Plum Puddings and Christmas cakes
- Fresh Fruit
- Chocolates and sweets
- Gifts



We are seeking some helpers to act as an assistance co-ordinator for the setup, the early morning and clean up. If you would like to know what's involved please call the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

Thank you for supporting this year's Catholic Mission Parish Appeal. I would be grateful if you could please pass on my sincere thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the appeal, it was a wonderful response. Roza Vukovich, our CM speaker really enjoyed sharing the story of St Stan at the 2 churches over the weekend. Total amount raised from Manly Freshwater Parish: \$8084.50

Christmas Blessing Letterbox Drop



This Christmas we are calling for volunteers to deliver a Christmas Blessing Card to every home in the parish, wishing all a Joyful Christmas and letting them know about our Christmas services.

By reaching out to our community in this way, we hope to welcome and invite others to join us at our Christmas Celebrations.

We are also seeking a volunteer co-ordinator to help with organizing the distribution of the Cards. If you can assist, please contact the Parish office on 9977 5822 for further information.

MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR TO JUNE 2019

First of all - thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.

Our main source of income is your generosity through the weekly collections.

The weekly collections are allocated as follows:

- 1st collection – support of the Priests of the Diocese, our Bishop and retired and sick priests
- 2nd collection – running costs of the Parish including staff wages, regular maintenance, utilities, insurance and Pastoral Programs
- Income is mostly from the second collection and some generous donations. It has decreased 7% in financial year 2019.
- Operational expenses have been carefully managed with only 1% increase over prior year
- Capital expenditure in FY2019 relates to Manly church stonework and refurbishment and compliance works at the Manly presbytery.
- While replacing a couple of broken tiles late in 2018 on the Manly Church roof, it was discovered that there is damage to the metal roofing system beneath the tiles.

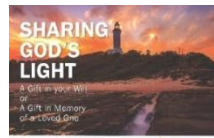
This damage was caused by storms. An expert review assessed that salt water running beneath the tiles during the storms has caused corrosion to the metal roofing system. Fortunately, there has been no leakage so far, however the roofing system is extensively damaged and needs to be repaired. We are working with the original supplier, metallurgists, architects, insurance agents and legal experts to find the most cost-effective solution to resolve this issue. We have a sound legal case which is being presented to the supplier as this roofing product was guaranteed to last 50 years. Discussions have started and continue, but outlays have been close to \$100k and may run closer to \$120k before being finalised.

- Capital expenditure in the current financial year is expected to total \$154,000. This includes the above mentioned church roof matter, completion of Manly presbytery repairs and refurbishment, the new screen projectors at Freshwater Church, and badly needed painting at Freshwater church.

Once again we thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of Manly Freshwater Parish.

With kindest regards

Fr David Taylor PP and the Parish Finance Committee



Leaving a Legacy

Are you wondering how you can make a lasting gift to Manly Freshwater Parish? Once you have provided for your loved ones in your Will, you may like to consider leaving a meaningful and profound gift to our Parish. There are many ways to leave a legacy to the Church and your Parish community by including a specific gift or a percentage of your estate in your Will.

To learn more please contact Fr David in the Parish office on 9977 5822 for information on bequests and legacy giving. Thank you for your consideration.



150th Anniversary 8th December 1869

On 8th December 2019 our parish begins the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the first weatherboard Church in what was then Manly Beach Parish, dedicated to Mary Immaculate. We will continue our Anniversary celebrations throughout 2020. We welcome your celebration suggestions and your participation.

Kindest regards Fr David Taylor PP

FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

	2017/2018	2018/2019
INCOME	\$	\$
Second Collection		
Envelopes (Planned Giving Program)	209,745	182,573
Loose money and POS deposits	76,791	88,471
Total Second Collection	286,536	271,043
Donations received	41,379	21,710
Interest	8,132	6,025
Rent	51,737	67,578
Other (mainly advert and photocopier refund)	26,044	16,902
TOTAL PARISH INCOME	413,828	383,258
 EXPENSES		
Administration	9,746	7,558
Altar & Church Requisites	29,948	25,411
Donations / Caring Service Soup Kitchen	4,015	2,043
Employment Expenses	129,855	132,308
Insurance	35,494	38,319
Office Expenses (incl IT & Telecom)	17,004	23,308
Pastoral Programs	18,725	21,774
Repairs & Maintenance	17,248	18,005
Parish Cleaning	16,577	16,684
Travelling & MV Allowance	21,904	20,113
Utilities	10,049	7,618
Other Expenses	5,842	6,396
TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES	316,407	319,537
 OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	 97,421	 63,722
 Other Income		
Special Donation - Building & Site Maintenance		25,855
 Additional Capital Expenditure Items		
Fixtures&Fittings; IT/AV equip	-	
Manly Church	47,409	229,078
Freshwater		4,127
Presbytery	50,273	124,905
Grounds improvements/maintenance	21,206	7,727
Parish Office / Centre Aircon	15,800	3,000
Manly Church Roof		56,930
Total	134,688	425,767
 OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	 (37,267)	 (336,190)

PIETY STORE – MANLY

Movie of the month – God Willing This critically acclaimed Italian comedy is both hilarious and decent. The story of an almighty battle of wills that pits a man with a God complex against the hip local priest. An esteemed cardiac surgeon and unabashed atheist ‘Tommaso’ is devastated when his only son declares his desire to become a priest!... Much to the horror of his family expecting an announcement about his sexuality. This film weaves good humour and spiritual depth in a remarkable way. Only \$15 @ the piety store.

CD of the month – What every couple should know about marriage and prayer – Venerable Fulton Sheen. In the 1950s USA, Fulton Sheen had over 30 million viewers tuning into his TV show “life is worth living”. This CD provides profound wisdom on the reality of love, marriage and prayer. To keep the freshness of love, sacrifices have to be sprinkled in marriage. The cross is not a road block on the way to happiness, it is the ladder one climbs up to the love of heaven itself. When we pray as a family we receive blessings we would not normally receive without prayer. Timeless and essential wisdom only \$5 @ the piety store.

DONATE TO HELP WITH REPAIRS OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH If you would like to make a donation to assist with our ongoing **Church Repairs**, you can do so by a direct deposit into the Parish Account using the following

Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Account# 13958001 **BSB #** 062 784
 (Please include the following reference – BM/your surname) If. **We thank you for your generosity & commitment to our parish**

No Cash!

Tap and Go Units for your convenience near the doors.
 Units set at \$10 and \$20
 Thank you for your generous support



Our meeting on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 will be a **LADIES NIGHT** and is open for all to attend.

We will hear from Jane Jeffes who will speak about **The War on Slavery**. She was Executive Producer ABC Religion & Ethics between 2013 and 2017. In 2018, in the newly created role of Communications and Impact Director for the G20 Interfaith Forum, she created a G20 Anti-Slavery Taskforce. Despite being illegal everywhere, more than 40 million people around the world are trapped in modern slavery, forced labour and human trafficking. Two thirds are in our region. It promises to be a very interesting evening. Please let Laurie know by Mon 18 November on 0418276186.

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Christian Meditation: Mon 6pm – 6:45pm in the Parish Centre
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am in the Parish Centre
- Divine Will Prayer Group: Mon 11:00am in the Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Manly Wed 2pm with Divine Mercy Hour from 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Holy Hour: Freshwater Tues after morning Mass
- Lectio Divina: Wed 10am in the Parish Centre
- Parish Playgroup: Manly on Mon 9am – 10:30am
- Piety Store: Open 15mins before & after Mass
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am
Freshwater: Sat 4:30pm
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Manly: Mon – Fri at 9.45am
Freshwater: Tues – Fri before 9.15am Mass

PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Anointing Mass at Manly and Freshwater
1st Friday of each month at 9:15am Mass
- Baptisms: By appointment enquires to Parish Office
- Crazy Whist Morning: last Tues of each month at 10:00am
- Eco-operate: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul: Manly & Freshwater Conferences 2nd Mon each month at 5:30pm

Manly and Freshwater Roster 23rd – 24th November 2019

Ministry	Manly 6pm Vigil	Manly 8.30am	Manly 10.30am	Manly 6pm	Freshwater 5pm Vigil	Freshwater 9am
Acolytes	Freya Zemek	Louise Wareham	Ron Gravolin	Ivica Covic	Ian Press	Amorina Wright
Servers			Bernie Lawler	Ivana Covic Evan & Byron Cahill		
Readers	Rita Bruzzese John Stapleton	Jan Van Den Broek	Carmel Lawler Rita Bruzzese	Family Mass	Amanda Whitfield	Jasmin Wright Josh Wright
Ministers of Communion	John & Merle Zemek John Bigeni	Madeleine Le Surf Tiere Morgan	Assistance Required	Liana Hearn Pam Rawson	Angela Vumbaca	Toni Walsh Pam Brown
Music	Simon Hyland	Parish Choir	Kath Papallo Gina Marshall	Simon Hyland	CD's	Pat Brown
AV Screens	Assistance Req	Parish Choir	Robert Marshall	Family Mass	Bill Kelly	Margie Gruca
Warden	John Zemek	Dom Ferragina	Peter Bartolotta	Family Mass		
Piety Shop	Louise Wareham	Jan Dorsen	Anne Gaughan	Lynette & Eliza Duffy		
Flowers/Altar Society	Liz de Ambrosis				Mary Ann Marles	
Morning Tea		Lynn Parkes				Brigid, Lynn & Wright family
Children's Lit		Fiona C				Assistance Req

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – YEAR C

First Reading

Malachi 3:19-20 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 97:5-9 (JB)

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder; the world, and all its peoples. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord. R.

For the Lord comes, he comes to rule the earth. He will rule the world with justice and the people with fairness. R.

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you; not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 21:38 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see; your redemption is near at hand.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:5-19 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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