



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Third Sunday of Advent – 11th December 2022



*Third Sunday
of Advent*

Priest: Today we reach the halfway stage of our Advent season and give thanks for John the Baptist, who bore witness to Jesus, the light of the world.

As we light the third candle

on the Advent wreath let us pray that we too will spread the light of Christ in the darkness of our world so that all may know Jesus

as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The third candle on the wreath is lit

Priest: You came as our redeemer.

Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy

Priest: You are the light of the world.

Christ have mercy.

ALL: Christ have mercy.

Priest: You are the way that leads us to the Father.

Lord have mercy.

ALL: Lord have mercy.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen

Priest: Let us pray. O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen



There are currently no collections during Mass. If you would like to make a donation, we encourage you to use the Tap and Go Machines at the entrances of the Churches.

Thank you for your support.

Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass
[manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish/videos)

**PARISH OFFICE will be closed on
Friday 9th & 16th December**

CHRISTMAS ROSTER

If you are available to assist at Christmas, please advise the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or email manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

MASSES NEXT WEEK – due to Fr David being unwell and Fr Eliseus away for 2 days there will not be any 9:15am Mass on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th at Freshwater Church.

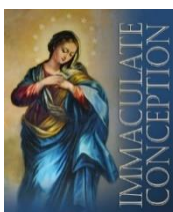
*Congratulations
ON YOUR
ANNIVERSARY
OF PRIESTHOOD*



During the week it was Fr David's 31st Anniversary of his Ordination.

Please keep Fr David in your prayers.

You're invited To



Join us at our Parish
Feast Day and
Thank You Mass to
our Community
this Sunday 11th

December at the 10.30am Mass

followed by Lunch under the Big Tree.



THIS SUNDAY

**Youth Group Christmas
Party** All youth (Yr 7-12)

are invited to the **youth group Christmas party** this Sunday **December 11 7-8.30pm** in the school hall! Come for **free pizza, basketball, table tennis** and some formation on **Advent!**

Contact Youth Ministry for more details.

Facebook: Manly Freshwater Catholic Youth

Instagram: [manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth](https://www.instagram.com/manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth)

Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com



**Craft Group Christmas
Market Sunday 11 Dec
8:30am – 12noon**

There will be beautiful items just right for gifts, including knitted and crocheted toys, baby clothes, blankets, coat hangers, doggy fashion, aprons and much more. All items are handmade by the parish

Craft group and proceeds from this market will be donated to the Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us for morning tea on Tues 10am in the Parish Centre.



2nd Rite Reconciliation

will be held on Thursday 15 December in Manly at 7pm. A special opportunity to prepare for Christmas is the Communal Right of Reconciliation. We welcome together as a Faith Community to reflect on our shared weakness and sinfulness and to seek forgiveness.

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Rody Sia; Norma Chua; Sam Sia

Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage" Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burrige; 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; Pat Smith; John Connors; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Sheila Lee; Donnacha Donnelly; Paul Donnelly; Julie & Rodney Wallis

Dates to remember...

- **2nd Rite Reconciliation** Thurs 15 Dec at 7pm in Manly
- **Bible Study** (zoom) Tues 13th Dec at 7pm
- **Rosary** (zoom) Thurs 15 Dec at 7pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady** Manly Tues 9:45am
- **RCIA** Tuesday 7pm Parish Centre
- **Lectio Divina** Tues 7:30pm and Wed 10am
- **Eucharistic Adoration in Manly**
Wednesday 6pm – 7:30pm



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.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS

Quiet Prayer & Adoration 6pm – 7pm
Scripture Reflection & Benediction 7pm – 7:30pm.

Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said starting at 6pm



Our Christian Meditation Group has

recommended and will meet each Tuesday at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre. The group will follow the tradition of John Main. All are welcome to the join the group.



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



CHRISTMAS VISITS

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. We look forward to seeing you and wish you a Joy filled Christmas.

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. If you can assist, please contact the Parish office on 9977 5822 for further information.



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH FOR THOSE SPENDING CHRISTMAS ALONE

This year we will be serving a takeaway picnic lunch and will be preparing 150 Packs.

If you would like to volunteer to help out on the day please call the Parish office on 9977 5822

If you would like to donate goods for the Picnic Packs we will be including some of the following:

- Cans of soft drink – coke, lemonade, fanta
- Box of chocolates
- Fresh Fruit- dropped off just before Christmas.
- Cash donations will be used to purchase the Hams, Turkey, Salads, Bread Rolls, Desserts and anything we are short of.
- Toiletries

Please drop the donations into the Parish Office.



VINNIES CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who kindly took a family's details from our Christmas giving tree to make up a hamper for a needy family. Envelopes will be on the pews this week if you would like to make a financial contribution to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal. With your help we will be able to carry on helping those in need. God bless you all. Bruce - Manly and Mick - Freshwater



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

St Mary's 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 and 7pm

25 December 9am Parish Choir

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Manly 15th December at 7pm

FACE MASKS – please bring a face mask with you if you wish to wear it in the Church

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

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Tel: 9977 5822



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your
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**SUPPORT OUR
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by using one of the
following...**

1. Planned Giving: many
parishioners support the
parish through a monthly direct debit or
credit card. Please contact the parish
office for more information 9977 5822.

2. Directly into Parish Bank Accounts

- **Church Account** Funds the running costs of
our Parish

Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Account # 100002025 BSB: 062 784

- **Pastoral Account** Supports our Priests

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

3. Tap and Go machines using your credit/debit card or. **EFTPOS Terminals.**



**PARISH PIETY
SHOP** has a
new selection of
**Christmas and
Advent items**
on display. We

have also received a **new range of Rosary
Beads** (\$10 each). Come along and have a
browse.



Movie of the month "The man who invented
Christmas" (2018). A rather ill-chosen title, but
an incredible and imaginative true story on
Charles Dicken's creation of the book "A
Christmas Carol". A film which inspires the
Christmas spirit. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

CD of the month "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Luis
Soto. Following the miracle of Our Lady of
Guadalupe in 1531, the biggest rush to
Christianity ever occurred. Priests struggled with
around 9 million Aztec people baptised in 10
years. Only \$5 @ the piety store.

**2023 Divine Mercy and Columban Art
Calendars** now available in the Piety Store
Manly \$8

EVENTS IN THE PARISH

Fr Paul Kim's Mass and Lunch...

It was great to see our friend Fr Paul Kim last week looking as young as ever. He was so happy to see so many Parishioners and the year 6 children from St Mary's at the Mass. Fr Paul said he felt like he was coming back home.



Carols at Freshwater Beach last Sunday...

Thank you to Francis Raymond and all his Merry Helpers for cooking and serving the sausages at the Freshwater Community Carols last Sunday.

The Carols were a great success and very well attended.

St Mary's School Kindy 2023 and Buddy Mass



Parish Advent Retreat

Thank you to Fr John in leading our Advent Retreat last Saturday.



Baptisms in the parish - please keep the Baptism families in your prayers.

St John the Baptist – November 2022



St Mary's – November 2022



Colin Fisher's Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday with Archbishop Anthony Fisher along with Bishops, Priests and representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Colin and his late wife Gloria had a long involvement in the life of the parish activities especially with St Vincent de Paul and the Piety Store. Please keep them and their family in your prayers.



Last Tuesday, St Mary's school families came together to kick off the Christmas Season with a Carols night. There was even a visit from Santa and Rudolph...any guesses who they were?





Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession... an extract from

SYCAMORE

To watch the full episode go to

<https://www.sycamore.fm/start/session-guides/session-16-forgiveness-healing-and-mission/>

Jesus said to his Apostles, 'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven...' (John 20:23). Catholics believe that this ministry of forgiveness continues today in the sacrament of penance (often known as "confession"), when the priest acts in the name of Jesus and of the whole Church.

The first and most fundamental sacrament of forgiveness is actually baptism. Then the Eucharist brings us God's forgiveness for our minor faults. But the sacrament of confession renews the grace of baptism in a powerful way. And if we have committed any serious sins, then we need to go to confession in order to be reconciled with God and the Church.

Confession is not a barrier that comes between us and God: it's actually a gateway that allows us to meet Jesus, heart to heart, face to face, through the ministry of the priest. We are touched by God's mercy in a very personal and direct way.

We are forgiven and set free. We are reconciled with God and with his Church. We can make a new start. And we know that the priest will never, ever betray our sins to anyone, for any reason. This is called the "seal of confession".

Confession also brings healing for all the damaging effects of sin. God can begin to put things right and mend what was broken. Things you never thought could be fixed. And confession can bring peace, consolation, joy and spiritual strength as we go out to live our Christian faith.

Coming to confession is not complicated. You can pray for God's help. Spend a few minutes thinking about your life and examining your conscience. Find out when confession is taking place at your local Catholic church. And go.

Don't be anxious: the priest will help you if you get stuck. Tell him when you last went to confession. Then tell him your sins. And at the end, tell him when you have finished.

The priest will give you a penance to fulfil, later on. This is often a simple prayer, as a sign of putting things right and wanting to make a new start. He will ask you to say a prayer of sorrow, called "an act of contrition". If you don't know one he will help you. Then he will give you God's forgiveness by saying the words of absolution and making the sign of the cross.

That's it. Just make sure that you are being honest with God and with the priest, and don't hide any serious sins. God will do the rest.

An examination of life in preparation for Reconciliation

Love the Lord your God with all your heart

- Do I show reverence and respect for God and the divine name?
- Do I spend adequate time in prayer?
- Do I keep Sunday holy by actively participating in Mass?
- How well do I pray at Mass?
- Do I listen attentively to the readings of the Word of God, respond to them, and take them to heart in a personal way?
- Do I receive Holy Communion reverently, with preparation and thanksgiving?
- Am I sufficiently prepared to take some responsibility in my parish community, whether in the liturgy or in other practical works?
- Do I make a reasonable contribution to my parish each week?

Love one another as I have loved you

- How well do I show my love for the members of my family as parent, spouse, son / daughter, brother / sister?
- Should I do more on my part to listen, to communicate, and to be more open to forgive?
- Do I harbour hurts longer than I should, or use silence and resentment to get my way?
- Am I guilty of anger or violence towards others, whether physically, verbally or in any other way?
- Have I hurt others by lying or criticising, by harshly judging or by holding grudges?
- Do I harbour feelings of racism or other forms of discrimination, and have I ever encouraged others to think, talk or act the same?

Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect

- Am I honest and truthful in my relations with others?
- Have there been times when I have shown arrogance and pride, or used my talents to be hurtful or make others uncomfortable?
- Do I respect my body as the temple of the Holy Spirit, have I respected the gift of sex, or have I given way to my vices and passions?
- Am I careful to discipline my mind in what I see and read, and what I watch on TV or other media?
- Have I been faithful to God's will for me regarding the commitment of marriage and faithful relationship of love? Have there been instances of unfaithfulness?
- How well have I dealt with the sorrows, losses, disappointments and difficulties of my life?



2nd Rite Reconciliation

will be held on Thursday 15 December at
St Mary's Church Manly at 7pm.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10 (JB)

R. Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. R.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as

not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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6 Raglan St, Manly 2095
St John the Baptist Church
cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096
Parish Office: 9977 5822
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au
www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater
Presbytery: 9977 2100
After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010
Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair),
Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent
(Secretary), Joanne Druery; Val Buono;
Ivica Covic; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath;
Peter Nacard

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 p

St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699

Principal: Alicia van der Merwe

St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111

Principal: Michael Reid

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