



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Third Sunday of Lent – 7th March 2021

Gospel Reading: The temple is the focus of today's Gospel. Whereas the Synoptic Gospels place Jesus' cleansing of the temple immediately after his Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem, John places the event early in his Gospel, following Jesus' first sign at Cana. While the Synoptics recount only one climactic journey to Jerusalem, the Jesus of John's Gospel makes several trips to the holy city.



Pilgrims to the temple were expected to make a donation for the maintenance of the edifice. Because Roman currency was considered "unclean," Jewish visitors had to change their money into Jewish currency before making their temple gift. Moneychangers, whose tables lined the outer courts of the temple, charged exorbitant fees for their service.

Visiting worshipers who wished to have a sacrifice offered on the temple altar would sometimes have to pay 15 to 20 times the market rate for animals purchased inside the temple. Vendors could count on the cooperation of the official temple "inspectors" who, as a matter of course, would reject animals brought in from outside the temple as "unclean" or "imperfect."

Jesus' angry toppling of the vendors' booths and tables is a condemnation of the injustice and exploitation of the faithful in the name of God. So empty and meaningless has their worship become that God will establish a new "temple" in the resurrected body of the Christ.

Of course, the leaders and people do not appreciate the deeper meaning of Jesus' words, nor did the people who witnessed his miracles understand the true nature of his Messianic mission. John's closing observations in this reading point to the fact that the full meaning of many of Jesus' words and acts were understood only later, in the light of his resurrection. **continued page 5**

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Mary Immaculate Church, Manly

- 1st April Mass of the Last Supper at 7pm
- 2nd April Good Friday
 - Stations of the Cross at 10am
 - The Lord's Passion at 3pm
- 3rd April Easter Vigil at 7pm
- 4th April Easter Sunday at 8:30am, 10:30am & 6pm

St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater

- 1st April Mass of the Last Supper at 6pm
- 2nd April Good Friday
 - Stations of the Cross at 10am
 - The Lord's Passion at 3pm
- 3rd April Easter Vigil at 6pm
- 4th April Easter Sunday at 9am



We're COVID SAFE

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March: Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS

Facebook – manlyfreshwaterparish

Sunday 8:30am Mass

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

7th March 2021

Recently Deceased: Reuben Mavromatis; Guiseppe Bovino; James Ellis; Br Frank Cruize; Tony Mason; Judy Bloore

Anniversary: Maria Rosa Calvi

Prayers for the sick in our parish: Gavin Greenwood, Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Debbie Vernon; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Les Reilly; Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burrige; Jill Carmichael; Stephen Robertson; Richard & Cynthia Connolly; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Jacqui Dawson; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty; Sheila Lee; Chrissy Brunson; Belinda Nicholls

March 2021

Mon 8/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Tue 9/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Wed 10/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Thurs 11/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Fri 12/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Sat 13/3 – 3rd week of Lent
Sun 14/3 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year B

2 Kg 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30
Dan 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Deut 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Hosea 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Hosea 5:15-6:6; Lk 18:9-14

2 Ch 36:14-16,19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

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



If you are feeling unwell please do not come into the Church.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED



More Welcomers needed for Weekend Masses – if you are able to assist please contact the Parish Office.



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 & DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR Manly each Wednesday at 6pm with Divine Mercy Hour from 7pm to 8pm



The 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.



Lectio Divina Read his story in the Gospels. Spend time with him. Lectio Divina groups meets Tuesday 7.30pm in the Parish Room and Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Parish Centre.

PIETY STORE MANLY IS OPEN AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES

LIVING FAITH BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE PIETY STORE April, May & June

'Movies of the month...

- "The Staircase" – a true story on St Joseph and a miraculous staircase in Santa Fe, New Mexico \$10
- "Love & Mercy: Faustina" – the incredible true story of St Faustina & the message of Divine Mercy \$20

CDs of the month...

- "Meditations on the Stations on the Cross" with excerpts from the Holy Shroud of Turin \$5
- "The true meaning of Easter" (Fulton Sheen) without the resurrection there would be no Christianity \$5

2021 Columban & Divine Mercy Calendars reduced to \$5



We are looking for volunteers for all Masses to assist in the Piety Store for 10 minutes before and after each weekend Mass. Please contact the parish office 9977 5822 if you are interested or want more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are looking for volunteers for all Masses to assist in the Piety Store for 10 minutes before and after each weekend Mass. Please contact the parish office 9977 5822 if you are interested or want more information.

Covid-19 Updated Requirements



We strongly recommend masks continue to be worn in the Church at all times, please remember to bring your mask with you.



To assist us with maintaining our attendance registers you now have the option of scanning the QR code with your Phone to register your details to enter the Church. **YOU DO NOT need to register** to attend Mass each week. **The limit is 380 people attending Mass at Manly and 150 people attending Mass at Freshwater.**

Parish 2nd Rite of Reconciliation



St Mary's Church, Manly on Thursday 25th March at 7pm.



ROSTER FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Rosters need to be prepared over the coming weeks for the Holy Week Easter ceremonies, we would be very grateful if Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Greeters & Projectionists could advise the Parish Office – 9977 5822, of their availability for these services



Broken Bay News – March 2021 is now available at the Church entrances.



Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent.

STATIONS of the CROSS

Freshwater: 9:45am after Mass

Manly: 7pm

Reconciliation will be held on Friday evenings from 7pm to 8pm at Manly



ADORATION AT FRESHWATER

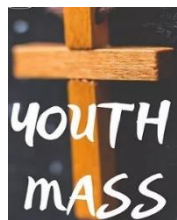
During the 40 days of Lent Fr John will hold 15 min Adoration at St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater. This will be every Tuesday and Thursday at 9am followed by the 9:15am Mass.

LENTEN PROGRAMS HELD IN OUR PARISH

Youth & Young Adults Lenten Group Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre using Bishop Barron's inspired Lenten Program.

Lectio Groups will be using the Lenten Program Comfort from the Wollongong Dioceses commencing Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room and Wednesday 10am in the Parish Centre. This will follow the Sunday readings during Lent.

Diocesan Lenten Program will explore Bishop Anthony's six priorities for our Diocese, and will feature reflections by Fr David Ranson, Tomasz Juszcak, Kelly Paget, Deacon Samuel French, Sr Josefa Mabini and Pina Bernard. It also features personal testimonies from local parishioners. Booklets are available at the Church entrances.



YOUTH MASS AND SOCIAL GATHERING

On Sunday 21st March at the 6pm Mass we will be holding our first Youth Mass for 2021. Following the Mass there will be a youth gathering in the Parish Centre.



RCIA THE SCRUTINIES

What are the Scrutinies?

These are a series of prayers that are prayed over the Elect on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sunday of Lent. The scrutinies are mainly for the 'Elect' those preparing for Baptism at Easter. The parish is also encouraged to join in these prayers to also benefit from them. We are all in need of conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the 'Elect' in scrutinizing or reviewing our lives and pray for God's love and grace to overcome the power of sin in our lives.

PROJECT COMPASSION 2021



"BE MORE"

Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money.

Then she attended Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



CONFIRMATION PARENT'S MEETING THIS WEEK

Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation and is received by children about 8 years old (normally school year 3). We will be holding **Registration and Parent's workshop evenings this week**. If you wish your child to be part of the program you must attend one of the following compulsory workshops:

- **Thursday 11th or Tuesday 16th March 7pm** at St Mary's Church, Manly
- **Wednesday 10th March at 7pm** at St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater For more information, please contact the Parish office on 9977 5822

MORNING TEAS will commence at Freshwater this Sunday 7th March following the 9am Mass.



We are looking for helpers to assist in starting up Manly's morning teas on Sundays following the morning Masses. Please contact the parish office 9977 5822 if you can assist.



We will be holding a **Baptism program** for older children aged 7 to 10 in March. If you wish your child to be a part of this program, please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment to see Fr David



To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

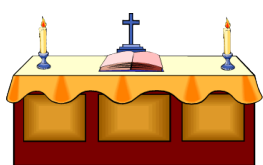
O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

The above prayer official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph—To you, O blessed Joseph (*Ad te, beate Ioseph*)—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam Pluries*. The Holy Father asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary especially during October, the month of the Holy Rosary. This prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Source: USCCB).



Manly Piety Store has a good selection of books and statues of St Joseph.



St John's Freshwater Altar Society are invited to come together on Wednesday 17th March at 10am at La Piazzetta Café Freshwater Village. It will be an opportunity to meet each other over a coffee. The Altar Society is an important ministry and their work is very much appreciated.

LECTIO DIVINA – A CLOSER LOOK AT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

During lent we will be preparing a Lectio Divina handout and we encourage you to take one home. Below are some steps that may help you to reflect on the Sunday Gospel.

HOW DO YOU PRAY THE
LECTIO DIVINA?

Lectio Divina is a practice of **scriptural reading**. It involves meditating on a passage of the Bible, preferably the **Gospel of the day**.

Steps to pray:

- 1. INVOKE**
Invite the Holy Spirit to guide the reading of the Scripture.
- 2. READ**
Ask yourself: What is this passage saying? If you can, use a Bible commentary.

- 3. MEDITATE**
In a moment of silence, try to listen to the voice of God.
- 4. PRAY**
Begin to dialogue with the Lord and open yourself to his will.
- 5. CONTEMPLATE**
Listen closely with your heart and put into practice what he has told you.

How to pray? 10 ways of praying



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who have continued to support the Parish financially.

To help you to make your offering you can use one of the following options:

1. Use the **tap and go machines** at the Church entrance **Now at Freshwater and Manly**
2. Place envelopes and cash in the **collection plates** (1st collection and 2nd collection) at the Church entrances.
3. Continue to use direct debit with your **credit cards**
4. **Parish Bank Account – 2nd collection** funds the running of the Parish

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



Please include name or envelope number as reference

Parish Bank Account – 1st collection Supports our Priests

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

Emergency Contact Numbers in the Bible

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS



When in sorrow.....call John 14
When you have sinned.....call Psalm 51
When you worry.....call Matthew 6:24-34
When you are in danger.....call Psalm 91
When your faith needs stirring.....call Hebrews 11
When you feel down.....call Romans 8:31
When you want peace.....call Matthew 11:28-30
When the world seems bigger.....call Psalm 90
When you feel lonely.....call Psalm 23
When you grow bitter.....call 1 Corinthians 13
When people seem unkind.....call John 15:12-27

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK
NO WI-FI NECESSARY NO SIGNAL REQUIRED 


Continued from page 1...

Reflection: In the temple precincts of our lives are “money changers” and connivers – fear, ambition, addictions, selfishness, prejudice – that distort the meaning of our lives and debase our relationships with God and with one another.

Lent is a time to invite the “angry” Jesus of today’s Gospel into our lives to drive out those things that make our lives less than what God created them to be. To raise one’s voice against injustice, to stand up before the powerful on behalf of the weak, to demand accountability of those who exploit and abuse others for their own gain is to imitate the “holy” anger of Christ.


Our late winter yearning for the newness, freshness, warmth and light of spring mirrors Jesus’ angry expulsion of the merchants from the temple. Christ comes to bring newness to humankind, to bring a springtime of hope to a people who have lived too long in a winter of alienation and despair.

Connectionmediaworks




3 PILLARS OF LENT

FASTING




GIVE UP SOMETHING TO BE
CLOSER TO GOD

PRAYER



NURTURE YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

ALMSGIVING



SHARE WITH
THOSE IN NEED

Outside the Parish

International Women’s Day Monday 8 March 2021



International Women’s Day is a worldwide celebration of the economic, social, cultural and political achievements of women. First celebrated over 100 years ago, the theme for 2021 is “Choose to Challenge”.

A challenged world is an alert world and choosing to challenge gender inequality and celebrate the achievement of women is something men and women as individuals can do which collectively contributes to an inclusive world.

More information on [International Women’s Day 2021](https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About) can be found here:

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/About>
We pray for all women throughout the world, that their dignity may be affirmed through the celebration of their unique economic, social, cultural and political achievements and through the overturning of unjust attitudes, structures and behaviours that contribute to gender inequality. We pray to the Lord.

Laudato Si Conference

Catholic Religious Australia are holding a *Laudato Si* conference via zoom with distinguished guests Professor Celia Deane-Drummond, Rev Dr Peter Loy Chong and Professor Brian Swimme as keynote speakers.

This is a wonderful opportunity for those working in the field of social justice and ecology as well as those who may have an interest in learning more.

Details: Monday 15 March 2021 at 9:00 AM to Wednesday 17 March 2021 4:00 PM

Location: On-line event – link to be provided by the event organizer **Registration fee:** \$165 (+GST)\

[Click here for more information or to book](https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/events/2021/3/15/2021-laudato-si-conference)
<https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/events/2021/3/15/2021-laudato-si-conference>

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am in the Parish Centre
- Divine Will Prayer Group: Mon 11:00am in the Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Manly Adoration on Wed 6pm with Divine Mercy Hour from 7pm – 8pm
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm in the Parish Room and Weds 10am in the Parish Centre
- Piety Store: call Parish Office
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822

PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Baptisms: By appointment enquires to Parish Office
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul: Manly Thurs 4th Mar at 4:30pm & Freshwater 2nd Mon each month at 5:30pm

MANLY

6pm Vigil Mass	4th Sunday of Lent	13 – 14 March
	Server	Louise Wareham
	Readers	Jean Halcrow
	Music	Josh Willard
	Welcomers	John & Merle Zemek Lynne Parks
8:30am Mass	Flowers	Hazel Cottee Carole O'Donnell
	Server	Martino Hoang
	Readers	Rita Bruzzese
	Music	Robert & Gina Marshall Organist
10:30am Mass	Welcomers	Veronica Renaud Claire Carmody Laurie & Liz de Ambrosis
	Servers	Ron Gravalin Iona & Teresa Hearn
	Readers	Janie Fonua
	Music	Gina Marshall Bianca Zatz
6pm Mass	Welcomers	Paul & Nicola Pervan Anne Gaughan
	Server	Kieran & Michael Wan
	Readers	Dean Gale Sandie Cornish
	Music	Josh Willard
	Welcomers	Marianna Gale Assistance Required

FRESHWATER

5pm Vigil	4th Sunday of Lent	13 – 14 March
	Server	Ian Press
	Readers	Assistance Required
	Welcomers	Assistance Required
9am Mass	Server	Joanne Druery
	Readers	Toni Walsh Patricia Brown
	Music	Pat Brown
	Altar Society	Maria Harkness
	Welcomers	Assistance Required

St John's School News... This week many of our students represented SJB at the 2021 Northern Beaches Swimming Carnival at Warringah Aquatic Centre. Congratulations to all our swimmers who displayed outstanding school spirit. We are proud to announce that St John the Baptist was the winning school overall! Best wishes to those students who will be progressing the next stage at the Broken Bay Swimming Carnival at Mingara!



As part of their Religious Education Units, our students from Years 4-6 have been participating in Virtual Immersion Q & A sessions with the Caritas International Program Staff. This week the sessions focused on [Margaret's Story \(Solomon Islands\)](#). The children were joined (via video link) by other schools throughout Australia where they had the opportunity to engage in stimulating discussion with the Caritas Staff about the important work of Caritas both within Australia and internationally. I invite you to follow the link to view Margret's and other stories. *Kind regards Sharna Taranto (REC)*

St Mary's School News... This week we were visited by the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles where they spoke to the children about Resilience, Gratitude, Honesty and the importance of supporting each other. Their presentation



resonated with our school's Core Values and the importance of Well Being. We were inspired to show these values in our everyday lives.

Next week will we recognise National day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and Harmony Week (Everyone Belongs) which is celebrated from 15 - 22 March. The colour for Harmony Week is orange, you may like to wear a touch of orange to brighten up your day during that week! *Kind regards Alexis Conn (REC)*



We are currently seeking more Catechists and Helpers for our CCD Classes in 2021

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



The Parish Playgroup will commence on Monday 8th March in the Parish Hall at Manly from 9am to 10am.

LECITO DIVINA

A CLOSER LOOK AT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Third Sunday of Lent The purification of the temple Jesus, the new temple John 2: 13-25

Opening Prayer Spirit of truth, sent by Jesus to guide us to the whole truth, enlighten our minds so that we may understand the Scriptures. You who overshadowed Mary and made her fruitful ground where the Word of God could germinate, purify our hearts from all obstacles to the Word. Help us to learn like her to listen with good and pure hearts to the Word that God speaks to us in life and in Scripture, so that we may observe the Word and produce good fruit through our perseverance.



Reading • Context and structure: Our passage follows immediately on the first sign that Jesus gave in Cana of Galilee (2: 1-12). Some expressions and phrases are repeated in both scenes and lead us to think that the author wanted to contrast the two scenes.

In Cana, a village in Galilee, during a wedding feast, a Jewish woman, the mother of Jesus, expresses her unconditional faith in Jesus and invites others to accept his word (2: 3-5). On the other hand, "the Jews," during the Paschal celebration in Jerusalem, refuse to believe in Jesus and do not accept his word. In Cana, Jesus worked his first sign (2: 11) and here the Jews ask for a sign (v. 18) but then do not accept the sign Jesus gives them (2: 20).

The development of our little story is quite simple. Verse 13 places in a framework a context of space and time that is very precise and significant: Jesus goes to Jerusalem for the Paschal feast. Verse 14 introduces the scene that provokes a strong reaction on the part of Jesus. Jesus' action is described in verse 15 and is caused by Jesus himself in verse 16. Jesus' action and words in turn provoke two reactions.

First, that of the disciples, one of admiration (v. 17); secondly, that of the "Jews", one of dissent and indignation (v. 18). They want an explanation from Jesus (v. 19) but they are not open to receive this (v. 20). At this point the narrator intervenes to interpret Jesus' words authentically (v. 21). "The Jews" cannot understand the real meaning of Jesus' word.

However, also the disciples, who admire him as a prophet full of zeal for God, cannot grasp the meaning now. It is only after the fulfilment that they will believe in Jesus' word (v. 22). Finally, the narrator offers us a brief

account of Jesus' reception by the crowds in Jerusalem (vv. 23-25). Yet, this faith, founded only on his signs, does not enthuse Jesus.

The text: The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the moneychangers at their business. 15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for thy house will consume me."

18 The Jews then said to him, "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" 19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21 But he spoke of the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken. 23

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; 24 but Jesus did not trust himself to them, 25 because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man.

A Moment of Prayerful Silence so that the Word of God may penetrate and enlighten our life.

Some Questions

- Am I able to trust myself completely in God's hands in an act of faith or do I ask for signs?
- God gives me many signs of his presence in my life. Am I capable of seeing and accepting them?
- Am I satisfied with exterior worship or do I try to offer God the worship of my obedience in my daily life?
- Who is Jesus for me? Am I aware that only in him and through him is it possible to meet God?

A Key to the Reading for those who wish to go deeper into the theme.

- **"The Jews"** John's Gospel is characterized by a long argument concerning the identity of Jesus. In this Christological argument, on the one

hand we have Jesus and on the other "the Jews". But this argument, rather than reflecting the historical situation at the time of Jesus, reflects the situation which developed towards the 80s of the first century between the followers of Jesus and the Jews who had not accepted him as the Son of God and Messiah. It is certain that the conflict had already begun at the time of Jesus, but the gap between the two groups, both of whom were Jews, became set when those who did not accept Jesus as Son of God and Messiah and held him to be a blasphemer, expelled the disciples of Jesus from the synagogue, that is, from the community of Jewish believers (see Jn 9: 22; 12: 42; 16: 2).

Hence, "the Jews" that we often come across in the fourth Gospel, do not represent the Jewish people. They are literary characters in the Christological argument that evolves in this Gospel. They do not represent a race, but those who have taken the clear position of an absolute rejection of Jesus. In any reading of the Gospel, "the Jews" are all those who refuse Jesus, no matter what the race or time to which they belong.

- **The Signs** The healings and other thaumaturgical acts of Jesus that the synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) call miracles or prodigies, John calls signs. As signs, they point to something that goes beyond the visible action. They reveal the mystery of Jesus. Thus, for instance, the healing of the man born blind reveals Jesus as light of the world (Jn 8: 12; 9: 1-41), the raising of Lazarus from the dead reveals Jesus as the resurrection and the life (see Jn 11: 1-45). In our passage, "the Jews" ask for a sign in the sense of a proof that will authenticate the words and actions of Jesus. But in the fourth Gospel, Jesus does not work signs as proof guaranteeing faith. A faith founded on signs is not sufficient. It is only an initial faith that may lead to true faith (see Jn 20: 30-31), but may also not do so (see Jn 6: 26). John's Gospel asks us to go beyond signs, not to dwell on the spectacular, but to see the deepest meaning in the revelation that the signs point to.

- **Jesus, New Temple** The temple in Jerusalem was the place of the presence of God in the midst of the people. Yet the prophets constantly insisted that it was not sufficient to go to the temple and offer sacrifices there in order to be accepted by God (see Is 1: 10-17; Jer 7: 1-28; Am 4: 4-5; 5: 21-27). God wants obedience and a life morally straight and just. If the exterior cult does not express such a vital attitude, then it is empty (see 1 Sam 15: 22). Jesus inserts himself in that prophetic tradition of the purification of the cult (see ocarm.org 21 Za 14: 23 and Mi 3: 1 for the action of the coming "Messiah" in this context). The disciples admire him for this and immediately think that for this attitude he will have to pay personally like Jeremiah (see Jer 26: 1-15) and other prophets. But in John's Gospel, Jesus' action is more than just a prophetic gesture of zeal for God. It is a sign that prefigures and proclaims the great sign of the death

and resurrection of Jesus. More than just a purification, that which Jesus does is to abolish the temple and the cult there celebrated, because from now on the place of the presence of God is the glorified body of Jesus (see Jn 1: 51; 4: 23).

Psalm 50 The cult according to God's will

The cult according to God's will The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Our God comes, he does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, round about him a mighty tempest. He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!" The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge! "Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. I do not reprove you for your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are continually before me. I will accept no bull from your house, nor he-goat from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine.

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world and all that is in it is mine. Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High; and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to recite my statutes, or take my covenant on your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. If you see a thief, you are a friend of his; and you keep company with adulterers. "You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit.

You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you. "Mark this, then, you who forget God, lest I rend, and there be none to deliver! He who brings thanksgiving as his sacrifice honors me; to him who orders his way aright I will show the salvation of God!"

Closing Prayer Father, you have constituted your Son, Jesus, new temple of the new and eternal alliance, built not by the hands of human beings but by the Holy Spirit. Grant that, as we welcome in faith his Word, we may dwell in him and thus adore you in spirit and in truth. Open our eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are the members of the body of Christ, so that in serving them we may offer you the cult that you desire from us. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Carmelites Australia*

Third Sunday of Lent – Year B

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Law was given through Moses.

The Lord spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. R.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. R.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. R.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. R.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

Gospel Acclamation

cf John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 2:13-25 (Year B) (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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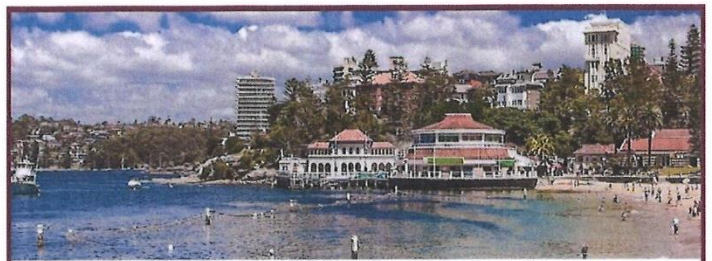
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Presbytery: 9977 2100

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

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