

# MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

# Fourth Sunday of Lent – 19th March 2023



# **Gospel Reflection**

In his accounts of Jesus' "signs," the writer of the Fourth Gospel displays great skills as a dramatist. His story of the healing of the man born blind is really a play with six scenes: the blind beggar's healing with the mud Jesus mixes on the Sabbath; the townsfolk's reaction to his cure; the beggar's testimony before the Pharisees; the testimony of the blind man's parents; the beggar's second appearance before the Pharisees (resulting in his expulsion); the beggar's return to Jesus.

While his synoptic counterparts recount Jesus' miracles as manifestations of his great love and compassion, John "stages" Jesus' miracle to reveal the deeper meanings of Jesus' mission of redemption as the Messiah. The healing of the blind beggar heightens the tension between Jesus and the Pharisees. The teaching of this itinerant Rabbi threatens the structured and exalted life of the scribes and Pharisees. They seek to discredit Jesus - and this miracle gives them the opportunity. In using spittle, kneading clay and rubbing it on the man's eves, Jesus breaks the strict rules prohibiting any kind of manual labor on the Sabbath. The miracle itself becomes secondary; the issue becomes Jesus' breaking of the Sabbath. Jesus' teachings and healings so threaten the comfortably ordered lives of the Jewish leaders that they seek some way to discredit what he has done, so they condemn Jesus' mixing of the mud as a clear violation of the Jewish prohibition of any kind of work on the Sabbath.

The inquisition of the blind man and his parents and his expulsion from the temple are important parts of Jesus' story for the evangelist and his readers. John and his community of Jewish-Christians are experiencing the same rejection: many of them have been expelled from their synagogues and the temple for their belief in Jesus as the Messiah. *connectionsmediaworks.com* 

**Livestreaming on Facebook** Sunday 8:30am Mass manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos



# ST JOSEPH FEAST DAY MASS Monday 20th March at 9:15am in Manly.

We celebrate St Joseph's Feast Day, the husband of Mary. Just as Mary is our spiritual mother, Joseph is our spiritual father,

providing for the needs of the family of God, the Holy Catholic Church. **All are welcome!!** 



# Parish 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

St Mary's Church, Manly on Thursday 23rd March at 7pm.



Adoration Saturday 25th March commencing with the 6pm Vigil Mass at Manly.

# The Feast of the Annunciation

Manly Freshwater Parish Young Adults group have organized Midnight Adoration. Any questions please contact

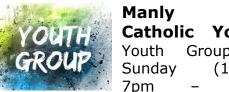
manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

**All are invited to come along.** The program is as follows:

- 6:00 pm Vigil Mass
- 7:00 pm 11:45pm: Silent Adoration,

Confession and Music

• 11:45 Benediction



ManlyFreshwaterCatholicYouthhost aYouthGroupevery3rdSunday(19thMarch)7pm-8.30pmin

St Mary's Church Hall after the 6pm Youth Mass.

Come for free pizza, table tennis, basketball, netball, party games and meet new friends. Email:

manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Facebook: Manly Freshwater Catholic Youth Instagram: manlyfreshwater\_catholicyouth



FRESH PALMS OR OLIVE BRANCHES NEEDED for Palm Sunday. Please bring your Palms to the parish centre on Friday 31st March

between 9am -2pm. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822.



# **HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES**

### St Mary's Manly & St John's Freshwater

- 6th April Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm at Manly only
- 7th April Good Friday

Stations of the Cross at 10am

The Lord's Passion at 3pm

- 8th April Easter Vigil at 6pm (both churches)
- 9th April Easter Sunday Manly 8:30am, 10:30am & 6pm

Easter Sunday Freshwater at 9am

### **PROJECT COMPASSION 2023**



Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.

# Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face

their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes or envelopes available in the church, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-</u> <u>compassion</u>, or by calling 1800 024 413.



**Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March – For victims of abuse.** We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find

within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**PARISH GIVING** – thank you for your generous support. At Manly 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.



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.



The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm on Tuesday,

**4th April** at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Waitara. The priests of our Diocese gather for this celebration with Most Rev Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitment. During Mass, the oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and then taken back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year.

LET US PRAY FOR 19th March 2023 Recently Deceased: Pamela Bernauer; Barry Crotty Anniversary: Irene Silos; Nora Te; Ellen Lawler; Pam McCooe

*Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage"* Margaret Burridge; 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; Lyn Hillard; Ian Flynn; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Shirley Ford; Apolinar Anasarias

### Dates to remember...

- St Joseph Feast Day Mass Mon 20 March 7pm
- Confirmation Parent Meetings Freshwater: Tues 21 Mar 7pm
- PPC Meeting Wed 22 March at 5:30pm
- Parish Reconciliation Thurs 23 Mar 7pm Manly
- Lenten Program Thurs 23 Mar 7:30pm Parish Centre
- Stations of the Cross on Friday during Lent SJB 9:45am & SMM 7pm
- Cenacle of Our Lady Manly Tues 9:45am
- Lectio Divina Tues 7:30pm and Wed 10am
- Eucharistic Adoration in Manly Wed 6pm – 7:30pm

### **PIETY STORE**

**Movie of the month** – Edith Stein – the 7<sup>th</sup> chamber. A moving, artistic portrayal of the life of Jewish philosopher, Catholic convert and martyr in Auschwitz. The film shows the great conflicts with her decision and how it was based on her search for truth. Only \$10 @ the Piety store.

**CD of the month** – The life of Padre Pio –

Matthew Arnold. Fascinating details on Padre Pio's stigmata, ability to read souls and the multitude of miracles attributed to his intercession. Pray, hope and don't worry. Only \$5 @ the piety store.

### LIVING FAITH BOOKS – April/May/June now available in the Piety Store

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. HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM - The children and their families are attending weekly preparation Masses where the priest can explain the parts of the Mass to the children. Please remember them in your prayers.



The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in the Parish on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May for children who are in Year 3 and above. Our Parent Information and Registration Evenings will be held on

### Freshwater – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7pm

Information and Registration packs can be collected for the back of the Churches or from the Parish Office.



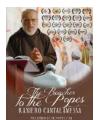
# **Easter Ministry Roster**

If you are a reader or a senior server and are able to assist with our Easter Services please advise the Parish Office.



# **LENT 2023**

**Stations of the Cross** each Friday during Lent Freshwater: 9:45am Manly: 7:00pm



### LENTEN GROUP **Thursday 16th March** 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to "The the Papal Household", has delivered a yearly homily in St Peter's Basilica during the Good Friday liturgy. He has

provided various meditations in the presence of the last three popes: Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

This Lenten group will reflect on a series of Cardinal Cantalamessa's meditations to allow us to reflect upon the hour of the death of Christ, His exaltation and victory over sin and the Paschal Mystery. His sermons illuminate the mystery of the Lord's Passion and allow us to gaze upon the cross of Christ in the light of our modern world, and the modern world in the light of Christ's cross.

All are invited - and especially our youth and young adults.



# SAVE THE DATE

Fr John will be celebrating his Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 16th April at the 10.30am Mass followed by refreshments.

All Welcome



### St Joseph Feast Day

Guardian Hail, of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen. - from Pope Francis' apostolic letter



# **SUPPORT OUR PARISH & PRIESTS** FINANCIALLY 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. Collection plates during Mass
- 3. Tap and Go machines using your credit/debit card or. EFTPOS Terminals.
- Scan to Donate using the QR code to access our BPoint Donation page. This secure system provided by the Commonwealth Bank will give you the option of having your receipt emailed to you.



- 5. Directly into Parish Bank Accounts
  - Church Account Funds Parish running costs 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



# St John's School News...



# St Mary's School News...

**VACATION CARE APRIL 2023** – St Mary's School. We are very pleased to announce the launch of the **SMM Vacation Care Program** which will start these Easter school holidays. Congratulations to Trish (SMM OOSH Coordinator) who will run the program and has designed the activities. Vacation Care will be held at SMM Parish Hall, the program is open to all primary aged children from the local area. **Dates: Tue 11 April – Mon 24 April 7:30am – 6pm** 

Bookings: oshc.manly@catholiccaredbb.org.au



# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The children from the parish will be making their First Holy Communion on Saturday 25th March 11:30am at Manly and Freshwater.

The Piety Store at Manly has a new selection of First Holy Communion Gifts including Crystals, Candles, Bracelets, Rosary Beads, Pens, Holy Water Bottles, Angel Figurines and more!!!

The Piety Store will be open after weekend Masses and on First Communion Day.











# 2nd Rite Reconciliation

Thursday 23rd March at 7pm in Manly

# 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 harbor 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?

# Wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too

- Have I stolen the property of others, or misused or damaged what does not belong to me?
- Have I been fair and just in my work, either as an employee or as an employer?
- Am I ready to share my possessions, and to give money or assistance to needy people or causes, or do I choose instead to close my heart or find excuses?
- Am I responsible in my use of food and drink, or have I over-indulged because of greed or other reasons?
- Have I taken reasonable care of my own body, looked after myself properly, and tried to maintain a healthy environment?
- Does my use of medications, drugs, cigarettes or alcohol mean possible harm to myself or potentially adverse effects on the lives of those around me?

"How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy," Pope Francis - 8 December 2015



**Reconciliation** (also known as **Confession** or **Penance**) is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ in his love and mercy to offer sinners forgiveness for offenses committed against God. In Reconciliation, we acknowledge our sins before God and his Church. We express our sorrow in a meaningful way, receive the forgiveness of Christ and his Church, make reparation for what we have done, and resolve to do better in the future.

*Every time we go to confession, God embraces us. - Pope Francis* 

### PARISH MAINTENANCE UPDATE...

If you care to take a look around the Parish grounds, you may have noticed the following in the past few months.....

- New carparking lines in Raglan Street entry carpark.
- New plants and mulch in Garden beds and being cared for by parishioners.
- Church doors sanded and painted, how refreshing they look thanks Peter Nacard.
- Perimeter Metal fencing sitting on top of brick wall all nicely painted and looking like new, thanks Ivica Covic and our Youth for their assistance in getting this tricky job done.
- The loose tiles now properly reset and missing tiles replaced to make our main church entry safer with improved appearance. Once we obtain а temporary overhead covering (Cabana) we look to having can morning teas in that area away from the carpark where many cars are moving in and out.



As we take pride in our Parish surrounds, things are happening around the Church and grounds.

If you can offer assistance and help out from time to time, please let us know as you would be most welcome.

Peter Nacard and Paul Pervan Parish Maintenance Committee

# **BELONGING...**

Margaret and Bruce Whittet attend the 10:30am Mass at Manly. They have been married for 54 years and have four children and four grandchildren and have been members of the Parish for 43 years. Bruce was a member of the St. Mary's choir for 36 years until he retired a



couple of years ago. As President of our local St Vincent de Paul Conference you will have seen Bruce at the Winter and Christmas Annual Appeals speaking to us as the Society needed and still needs your support. The Parish is particularly generous for which the Society is very grateful. The Society is also grateful for the Christmas Hampers to give to those in need. Margaret and Bruce are both Scripture Teachers at Manly West Public School. Margaret has been doing it for 30 years and Bruce 15 years. Margaret was involved in counting the collections and preparing them for banking for 25 years and working in the Soup Kitchen for 10 years and has been working at the St Vincent de Paul Shop in Brookvale for the past 20 years.

We love being part of Manly Freshwater Parish and the wider community. Don't be shy and come and have a chat sometime and we can share stories.

### PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Bible Study via Zoom: 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7pm
- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Christian Meditation Group: Tues 12:30pm Parish Centre
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Weds 6:00pm 7:30pm Manly
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm & Weds 10am Parish Centre
- Piety Store: open on weekends or call the Parish Office
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary via Zoom: 1st Thurs 6pm, every other Thurs 7pm
- Rosary: Freshwater Tues Fri 8.45am in Church.

### PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Anointing Mass: Manly & Freshwater 1st Friday 9:15am
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Joseph Men's Group: 1st Thurs of the month 7pm
- St Vincent de Paul: Manly & Freshwater Conferences
- 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm

# Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year A

### First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

# *In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 22

### *R.* The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.  $\mathbf{R}$ .

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.  $\mathbf{R}$ .

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.  $\mathbf{R}$ .

### Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

### Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

### All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

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

### Gospel

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord. *All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.* 



Assistant Priest: Fr John Puliparambil john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au Parish Secretary: Jenny Beninati

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au Mary Immaculate Church (Parish Office)

6 Raglan St, Manly 2095 Parish Office: Mon to Thurs 8:30am - 4:30pm Phone: 9977 5822 manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

St John the Baptist Church cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096 Presbytery: 9977 2100

After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair); Michael McGrath (Deputy Chair); Margaret Dent Principal: Michael Reid (Secretary); Patricia Carroll; Joanne Druery; Val Buono; Ivica Covic; Robert Marshall; Peter Nacard, Ian Press, Katalina Taefotu

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

Stella Maris College 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



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