



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist

Fifith Sunday of Easter – 18th May 2025



9 May 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord!

With great joy and deep gratitude to God, I share with you the wonderful news of the election of **Pope Leo XIV** as the **267th Successor of Saint Peter, Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, and Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church**. In this moment of profound significance for the Church, we rejoice in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and give thanks for the gift of our new Holy Father.

In the words of our Lord to Simon Peter, *"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18), the Petrine Ministry stands as a divine mandate for unity, faith, and service in the Church. As Successor of Saint Peter, our Holy Father carries the responsibility of shepherding the People of God, sustaining the unity of the Church, and bearing witness to the Gospel in every corner of the world.

As Bishop of Rome, Leo XIV stands as the first among equals in the College of Bishops, a sign and servant of communion among all the bishops and the faithful entrusted to their care. We look to him with love and loyalty as he assumes this sacred ministry.

I invite all the clergy and people of the Diocese of Broken Bay to give thanks to God for the election of our new Pope. May this be a moment for us all to recommit ourselves to Christ, to unity in His Body the Church, and to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel with renewed faith and courage.

I encourage our priests to offer **Mass in thanksgiving** for the election of the Pope, and I ask all the faithful to join in prayer for Pope Leo XIV that the Lord may bless him abundantly with wisdom, strength, and grace as he begins his Petrine Ministry.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for Pope Leo XIV and for the whole Church, that we may walk together in faith, hope, and charity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Anthony Randazzo

Most Reverend Anthony Randazzo

Bishop of Broken Bay



Recently Deceased: Joseph Lussick

Anniversary:

Prayers for the sick in our parish: “*Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage*” Stephen Robertson; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty; Belinda Nicholls; Jacqui Dawson; Gerry Ring; Zacchaeus Ratnam; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Paul Donnelly; Julie Wallis; Lyn Hillard; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O’Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Veronica Rinaldo; Rena Curll; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai; John Santos; Garry Kirkman

Dates to remember...

- **Reconciliation Classes continue** 17 & 18 May
- **ALPHA continues** Monday 19 May 7pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady**
Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am



Sacrament of confession/reconciliation

is available in Manly every
Saturday from 10am to 11am and
Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY

ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

Adoration

**Quiet Prayer, Adoration and
reconciliation will be available**

6pm – 7pm concluding with **Benediction**

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

Welcome to
Our Parish!

If you are new to the Parish or are not currently registered, we warmly welcome you and ask that

you complete a Parish Census form. This will assist us to connect with you and your family and advise you of any of our parish community activities. The census form can be found on the back wall of the Church or at the side door entrance and may be left in the collection plate or emailed to the Parish Office - manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



CAN'T GET TO MASS ON SUNDAY AND WANT TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

Many of you have not been able to come back to Mass on Sunday for different reasons. If you would like one of the Priest to visit you at home, please ring the parish office on 9977 5822

Part 4 - Final Reflections on the Resurrection

Over the past few weeks, we have examined the evidence for Jesus' Resurrection. We began by exploring the historicity of the Scriptures, explained the uniquely Christian concept of Jesus' bodily resurrection as a spiritual body, and considered the remarkable growth of Christianity through the witness of the disciples—even in the face of severe persecution. This week, we turn to the Gospel accounts of the disciples' encounters with the risen Christ and consider how these narratives offer compelling evidence for the Resurrection.



The New Testament records that Jesus appeared on about twelve occasions over a period of forty days after His Resurrection. On one of those occasions, He was seen by more than 500 people at once. These accounts provide substantial reason to believe that Jesus did indeed appear to His followers after the discovery of the empty tomb.

In his comprehensive survey of scholarly research on the subject, Gary R. Habermas (2006) notes that there is a strong consensus among researchers that Jesus' followers genuinely believed they had encountered appearances of the risen Christ. It was this conviction, he argues, that propelled the early proclamation of the Gospel. Furthermore, a majority of biblical scholars maintain that the Resurrection is best explained as a supernatural event, rather than as a natural phenomenon such as hallucination or delusion (Spitzer, 2013).

All four Gospels describe Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances in similar ways. Though the details vary slightly, they all present a consistent picture of Jesus' transformed, glorified body. Pope Benedict XVI notes how the disciples struggled to describe this paradox: Jesus possessed a real body, capable of eating, drinking, and being touched—yet He was no longer bound by physical laws. He could appear and disappear at will and pass through locked doors. His body, though physical, had been transformed—clothed in divine glory. Matthew also mentions how His presence evoked worship, an honour that is reserved to God alone (cf. Mt 28:9-10).

Pope Benedict further emphasises that the Resurrection was an **“overwhelming reality”** for the disciples—so powerful and undeniable that it dispelled every doubt and filled them with a new, fearless determination to bear witness. He also describes the Resurrection as opening a new possibility for human existence: an **“evolutionary leap”** that joins human mortality with the infinite life of God. In this way, Jesus' Resurrection quite literally opens the gates of heaven for humanity.

Another compelling piece of evidence, according to Pope Benedict, is the shift of the **Sabbath observance** by Jesus' disciples from **Saturday to Sunday**—the first day of the week. For first-century Jews to alter such a deeply sacred and Divinely instituted tradition, something extraordinary must have occurred. Pope Benedict argues that only their witness of the Resurrection can adequately account for such a radical and enduring change.

In conclusion, for those to whom this evidence is presented and yet still do not believe, the issue may not be a lack of proof, but rather a need for deeper faith. As Pope Benedict reminds us, God's revelation is gentle. He does not impose belief nor overwhelm us with His power. Instead, He extends an invitation—offering love and seeking it in return.

May our faith in the power of Jesus' Resurrection fill us with the hope and joy of knowing we are destined for eternal life. Amen. .

Alfred Soliman – Seminarian

PASTORAL WORKS MAY APPEAL



"Your generosity with our Pastoral Works appeal helps us go further and wide in helping our community of Broken Bay, and more deeply connect us to our vision and the Mission of

Jesus Christ. I am deeply grateful for your support."
Most Rev Anthony Randazzo – Bishop of Broken Bay

The Parish Quota for 2024/2025 is \$51,095.00.

Your 100% tax-deductible gift supports vital pastoral ministries in our local community. Envelopes will be available in the pews. **Please give generously to our MAY 2025 Appeal**

FAMILIES OF MANLY FRESHWATER



- Tell us about your family!
- When did your family come to Manly-Freshwater parish?

Pick up a family information sheet at the entrance of the Church and once completed with a family photo please return it to the parish office. This information will be included in the parish's history and published next year.

PIETY STORE

Mother's Day Special available this weekend in the Piety Store at Manly – Rosary leaflet, votive candle and rosary beads

There is a large selection of Divine Mercy books and rosary beads available.



Movie of the month – *History of Walsingham – England's Marian shrine*. Five hundred years ago, Walsingham England was one of the four great shrines of Christendom. Following the protestant revolution, hundreds of churches and monasteries were destroyed, including the shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham. In recent years, something interesting is beginning to happen in Walsingham again. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

Winning the culture war – *Dr Peter Kreeft* The culture of western society is clearly in a moral crisis. The only weapon strong enough to defeat the demons of this age is saints. Only \$5 @ the piety store.

Manly Freshwater Parish promotes SAFEGUARDING which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our MANLY community.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: bbccatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

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

Birthday celebrations for Fr Chima and Alfred at St John's Freshwater morning tea.

Alfred will celebrate his birthday next Tuesday – please keep him in your prayers.



Morning Prayer



During this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, we are all invited to a deeper spiritual renewal, embracing prayer as a way to grow in faith and trust in God's providence and love. As part of this journey, Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) will be prayed at 8:45am, Tuesday to Friday, before Mass, at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, at Mary Immaculate Church, Manly. This ancient prayer of the Church unites us in praise and reflection through Scripture and psalms, drawing us into the rhythm of daily prayer with the universal Church. Prayer books will be provided, and all are welcome to join.

Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home

Pope Francis said in his important encyclical on the environment, **Laudato Si, Care for Our Common Home**, "*We are called to be responsible stewards of creation.*" Come and share ideas on HOW and WHY.

Venue: St Joseph's Parish Hall, Narrabeen

Time: 3.50 – 5.00 pm

Date: Saturday 24 May 2025

The program will include a talk by Fr Chima Ofor, Parish Priest of Manly Parish, on Catholic Social teaching on the environment, an overview of environmental issues, and Phil Jones, Convenor of Social Justice Around the Bay, will share recent international and local developments. The session will conclude with a discussion on next steps for parishes, followed by afternoon tea and informal conversation. *Please join us!*



Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Hope

Inspired by the Life and Witness of St. John Vianney

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

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

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

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

**JOIN OUR
NORTHERN BEACHES**

YOUNG ADULTS

COMMUNITY

Every 2nd Saturday at pub/restaurant
Every 4th Saturday at Manly Parish
message: (6 Raglan St)
Fr Marek at 0422532173
or Cam at 0432895304

YOUTH GROUP



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

We welcome all youth who are in High School (Yr 7 – Yr 12) to come along and join the Manly Freshwater Parish Youth Group. Join us for free food and drinks, table tennis, basketball, party games, talks and new friends! Feel free to check out our instagram or send us an email!

Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

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

FEAST OF ST ANTHONY OF PADUA Sunday 15th June 2025

At St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater.
Program as follows...

- 1:00pm Confessions
- 1:30pm Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Anthony Fregolent with blessing of the bread and children during the Mass.
- 3:30pm Holy Procession accompanied by the Italian Brass Band of Giuseppe Verdi and escorted by the Italian Carabinieri in their colourful uniforms.



SABADO 14 DE JUNIO

DESDE LAS 09:30 AM
HASTA LA
MISA DE LAS 6 PM

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE
SECOND RETREAT IN SPANISH

PENTECOST

6 Raglan St, Manly, Parish Centre
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THE HOLY SPIRIT

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San Rafael Arcangel

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP PENTECOST RETREAT – Saturday 14 June 2025 8:30am – 6pm Parish Meeting Room



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

Children's Activity pages available at the entrance of the

Churches.

Children's Mass books are now available at the entrances of the Church for use during the Masses. Please return after the Mass.

Mass booklets can be purchased from the Piety Store for \$10.00



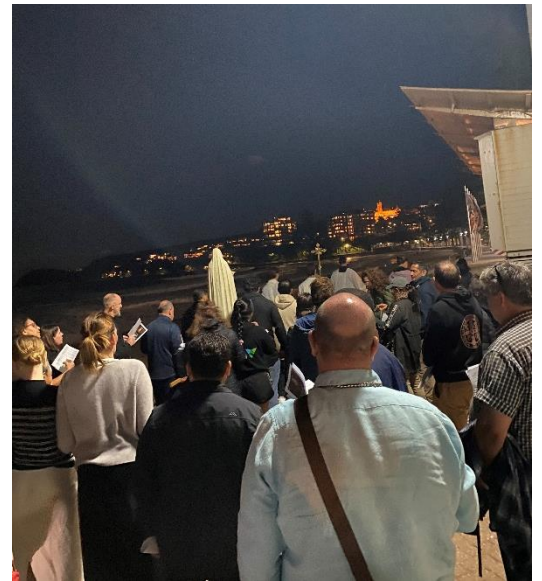
Reconciliation and First Holy Communion program continues this weekend.

Please remember the children in your prayers.

The Alpha Retreat On Saturday 10 May, our Alpha participants gathered in Chatswood for a Spirit-filled Alpha Retreat that proved to be a truly uplifting experience for all who attended. Most of our group were able to join, and it was a joyful and enriching time of fellowship, reflection, and prayer. The retreat focused mainly on the Holy Spirit, with talks and discussions that opened hearts to a deeper relationship with God. Many participants shared that they felt the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout the day, making it a memorable and transformative step on their faith journey.



Our Lady of Fatima On Tuesday evening 13 May 2025, a beautiful and prayerful procession was held in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, drawing around 70 faithfuls from our parish and neighboring communities. It was a peaceful and grace-filled moment that united hearts in devotion and reflection. We were deeply honored to host a very special statue of Our Lady — one of the few in the world crafted under the direction and supervision of St. Lucia herself, one of the visionaries of Fatima. The presence of this statue made the occasion even more meaningful, reminding us of the heavenly message of prayer, penance, and peace entrusted to the children of Fatima.



St Paul's Yr 12 Students attended Mass last Friday morning with their mums for Mother's Day.





Thank you for your generous support. We encourage you to use the tap machines at the Church entrances. If

you prefer to use cash, there will be **ONE** collection during Mass at the offertory at Manly and **TWO** at Freshwater.

PILOT PROGRAM –The Diocese has agreed for Manly to pilot a **ONE COLLECTION** at the weekend Masses. The Diocese will continue to monitor this.

The collection is for the First and Second Plates and will be allocated as follows:

- 25% to Supporting our Priests including the sick & retired in our Diocese.
- 75% to Parish operations and maintenance of building.

SUPPORT OUR PARISH & PRIESTS FINANCIALLY by using one of the following...

1. **Planned Giving:** through a monthly **direct debit** or **credit card**. Please contact the parish office for more information 9977 5822.
2. **Collection plates during Mass**
3. **Tap and Go machines** using your credit/debit card or **EFTPOS Terminals**.

4. **Scan to Donate** using the QR code to access our BPoint Donation page.

5. **Direct into Parish Bank Accounts**

- **Parish Giving (2nd collection)** Funds the running of the Parish

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

- **Clergy Giving (1st collection)** Supports our Priests

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



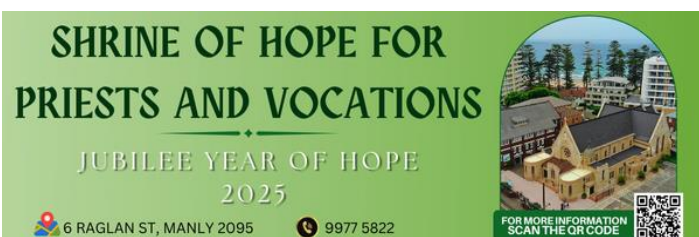
HAS YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRED?

If you donate to the Parish using your credit card please let us know if you have a new card or the card has expired by contacting the Parish Office 9977 5822 or email

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

DIRECT DEBIT FROM BANK ACCOUNT

Please consider changing your giving from a credit card deduction to a direct debit from your bank account. Please contact the parish office to have this set up automatically for you.

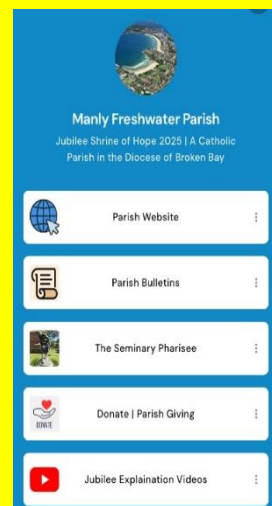


Manly Freshwater Parish

QR Code

You can view Fr Sam's 90 second Jubilee YouTube video by scanning the QR Code.

Other parish information can also be found.



PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am Parish Centre
- Christian Meditation: Tues 12:15pm Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Weds 6:00pm Manly
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm & Weds 10am Parish Centre
- Piety Store: open on weekends or call the Parish Office
- Prayer Group in Spanish – 2nd & 4th Friday 6pm Parish meeting room
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Freshwater Tues – Fri 8.45am in Church
- Youth Group (Yrs 7 – Yr 12): 1st & 3rd Sunday 7pm – 9pm

PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Anointing Mass: Manly & Freshwater 1st Friday 9:15am
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul Conferences:
Manly 1st Mon each month 5:30pm
Freshwater 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm



**Paris to Rome
Jubilee Year Pilgrimage**
accompanied by Fr Robert Borg
from The Lakes Parish

Departs 12 October 2025 for
13 days/10 nights

Paris (2 nights); Chartres; Nevers (1 night); Paray le Monial; Ars; Lyon (1 night); Turin (2 nights); Rome (4 nights).

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year C

First Reading

Acts 14:21-27 (JB)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13 (JB)

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. R.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. R.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. R.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5 (JB)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new'.

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

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 13:31-35 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Gospel Reflection


To those who profess to follow him – from the apostles to us to the very last generation who will inhabit this planet – Jesus gives a “new” commandment, a new standard for all human relationships: as I have loved you, so must your love be for one another. It is that concept of unconditional, sacrificial love that distinguishes us as men and women of faith, as true disciples of the Risen One.

As a Church, we come together at the “command” of Christ to accompany one another through our lives’ journeys to the reign of God, to support one another in life’s joys and sorrows, to “be Christ” to one another in love and compassion.

Jesus leaves his Church a “new” standard of love, a standard that transcends legalisms and measurements, a standard that renews and re-creates all human relationships, a standard that transforms the most Godless and secular world view into the compassion and justice of God. It is a love that grows stronger the more it is tested, a love that endures and remains steadfast the more it is pulled, a love that continues to heal and forgive the more it is engaged.

Our very identity as disciples of Christ is centered in such persistent and constant love; our faithfulness in imitating the compassion and forgiveness of the Risen One is lived in our openness of heart and spirit to love selflessly, completely and unconditionally, as God has loved us in his Christ.

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St Mary's Primary Catholic School K - 6
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Parish Priest: Fr Chima Ofor
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

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

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

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

Parish Secretary: Jenny Beninati
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Mary Immaculate Church (Parish Office)

6 Raglan St, Manly 2095

Phone: 9977 5822

After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Office: Mon to Thur 8:30am - 4:30pm

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096

Parish Pastoral Council:

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

Weekend Masses:

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm and Sunday 9am

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: *Freshwater* Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 9:15am

Manly Tues and Fri 7am & 9:15am

Wed and Thur 9:15am

Reconciliation: *Manly* Wed 6pm - 7pm; Sat 10am - 11am

St Mary's Primary School 7256 2135

Principal: Paul McGuire

St John the Baptist Primary School 9939 6699

Principal: Alicia van der Merwe

St Paul's Catholic College 7256 2112

Principal: Gabie Stojanovski

Stella Maris College 9977 5144

Principal: Sharyn Quirk