



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Fifth Sunday of Lent – 17th March 2024



Dear Beloved Parishioners of Manly-Freshwater,

As I begin my journey with you as your new Parish Priest, I am filled with gratitude and joy for the warm welcome I have received. The

kindness and open hearts of each one of you have truly made my transition into this community a blessed experience. I am excited and deeply committed to joining you in our shared mission of growing disciples and spreading the Gospel message within our vibrant community of Manly-Freshwater and beyond.

Our faith journey is one of continual growth, learning, and loving service to others. I look forward to the many ways we will worship, serve, and grow together, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Together, we will build on the strong foundation of faith and community that has been so lovingly nurtured here.

I also wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Fr David Taylor, who has offered wonderful leadership and ministry over the last 15 years. His dedication and service have left an indelible mark on our Parish, fostering a community rich in faith and love. We are all beneficiaries of his hard work and spiritual guidance, and I hope to continue in his footsteps, honouring his legacy while also bringing forth new ideas and enthusiasm to our parish life.

Let us move forward in unity and faith, guided by the love of Christ, as we embark on this journey together. I am eager to learn more about each of you and to share in the life of our Parish. May our efforts be blessed with joy, growth, and a deepening of our faith as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord.

With heartfelt thanks and anticipation for the journey ahead,

Fr Chima



Parish 2nd Rite of Reconciliation and Adoration will be held this Wednesday 20th March at 6pm at St Mary's Church, Manly



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.



FRESH PALMS OR OLIVE BRANCHES NEEDED for Palm Sunday.

Please bring your Palms to the parish centre on Friday 22nd March between 9am -2pm. If you can assist, please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822

LENT 2024

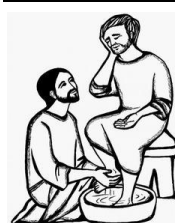


Stations of the Cross

each Friday during Lent
Freshwater at 9:45am and Manly at 7pm



For Christians, Lent is an important time of reflecting on the suffering and death of Jesus so as to enter into the joy of his Resurrection. **Thursdays 7pm in the Parish Centre until 21 March 2024**, we will be having a Lenten prayer and reflection group.



Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday 7pm at Manly only

We would like to invite 12 parishioners to participate in the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

PROJECT COMPASSION



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion.



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 and envelopes which are available in the Church or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

LET US PRAY FOR 17th March 2024

Recently Deceased: Brian Gallagher;
Nicodemo Femia

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; Pat Smith; John Connors; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Sheila Lee; Paul Donnelly; Julie Wallis; Lyn Hillard; Ian Flynn; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Shirley Ford; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O'Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Bill Hipkiss; Veronica Rinaldo; Chinnamma Puliparambil; Rena Curll; Maria Vasile; John Santos; Shirley Ford

Dates to remember...

- **Social Committee Meeting** Mon 18th Mar 10am
- **Parish Reconciliation @ Manly**
Wednesday 20th March 6pm
- **SMM Class Mass** Thurs 21st March 9:15am
- **Parish Lenten Program** Thurs 21st March 7pm
- **Stations of the Cross during Lent on Fridays**
Freshwater: 9:45am; Manly: 7pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady**
Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am



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.

TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE REQUIRED



An elderly parishioner living in Bonner Ave, Manly is asking for assistance to get to the 8:30am Sunday Mass at Manly.

If you are able to assist please contact the parish office 9977 5822

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 your knitting or other craft if you wish.



Lectio Divina Read his story in the Gospels. Spend time with him. Lectio Divina groups meet in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm and Wednesday mornings at 10am.

PARISH GIVING – 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.

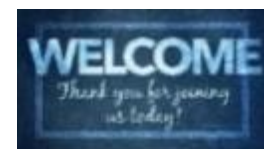
The collection is for the First and Second Plates and will be allocated as follows:

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

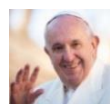
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS – 6pm – 7.30pm



Quiet Prayer, Adoration and reconciliation will be available 6pm – 7pm concluding with **Benediction**



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.



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for March – For new martyrs

Pope Francis urges the faithful to pray during March for "those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world."

Lenten Reflection by Fr Chima Ofor ...



"Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you; all things are passing; God is unchanging. With patience, all is possible; nothing is lacking for those who have God. God alone is sufficient."

This prayer, attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, etched in the depths of my soul during my seminary years in Banyo. I knew the prayer off by heart. I could articulate its theological meaning. However, what the prayer is asking of me unfolded only with time and ministerial experience.

Embarking on my ordained path, transitioning from parish to parish, ministry to ministry, this prayer transformed from mere words to a guiding beacon, illuminating my vocational journey. I recall, as a newly ordained deacon, visiting a parish where the stark contrast of searing summers and piercing winters mirrored my apprehension about serving in that region. Ironically, it was there, in the very place I wished to avoid, that my first priestly assignment began. There, in the heart of what I once resisted, I encountered a wellspring of nurturing and life-affirming experiences. These encounters were not merely episodes of joy and growth but crucibles forging my readiness for further pastoral endeavours. I am fully convinced that God always equips us in ways that enable us to do life with God.

In embracing each new chapter of my vocation, I found myself living the essence of St. Teresa's prayer, a testament to the vast canvas of Divine Providence. On this canvas, the ministry I embraced not only revealed the boundless possibilities of God's work but also became a conduit of life-giving grace, often transcending my own imaginings.

This journey finds an echo in this weekend's Gospel of John (12:24), where Jesus states, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." In these words, we are invited to a sacred surrender, a contemplative embrace of our vulnerabilities, laying down our personal motives, fears, and desires at the altar of God's transforming power. This surrender is not a mere act of letting go, but a courageous step into the abundance of Divine life.

As we meditate on these words, let us ponder how our individual journeys, intertwined with divine mystery, call us to embrace the unpredictable with faith and courage. May Christ's promise, interwoven with the serene trust of St. Teresa's prayer, be a constant companion in your journey, nurturing your spirit and bearing fruit that sustains, enriches, and blesses all whom you encounter in the sacred walk of life. *(Published in the Diocese of Broken Bay 2024 Lenten Program)*

ST FAUSTINA – PROPHET OF DIVINE MERCY



Saint Maria Faustina

This weekend for 10 mins before and after each Mass we will be showing a short video on the life of St Faustina and Divine Mercy Message.

*As part of our Lenten Journey this year we invite to come to know more about the **Message of Divine Mercy.***

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

We will be celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy at Manly on Sunday 6th April 2pm – 4pm. All welcome
More details to follow next week.



New Parish Social Committee

Following the success of the parish gathering on 10th March it has been suggested that more help in the planning and organising of future events would be helpful.

A meeting on Monday 18th March at 10:00am will take place at the Parish Centre to discuss the parish events calendar. Anybody who feels they could lend their support to this committee would be most welcome to join. If you wish to help but can't make the meeting on Monday, let the parish office know and Kim McGrath or Jen Tucker will contact you.

Big thank you to all those people who made Fr David's farewell so memorable.

THURSDAY

28
MAR

MANLY

9.15AM MORNING PRAYER
7.00PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
TILL MIDNIGHT ADORATION WITH EVENING PRAYER

FRIDAY

29
MAR

MANLY

10.00AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3.00PM THE LORD'S PASSION
FOLLOWED BY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

FRESHWATER

10.00AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3.00PM THE LORD'S PASSION
FOLLOWED BY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

SATURDAY

30
MAR

MANLY

10.00AM CONFESSION
SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
7.00PM EASTER VIGIL

FRESHWATER

5.30PM DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
6.00PM EASTER VIGIL

31
MAR

SUNDAY

MANLY

8.30AM EASTER MASS
FOLLOWED BY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
10.30AM EASTER MASS
6.00PM EASTER MASS

FRESHWATER

9.00AM EASTER MASS
FOLLOWED BY DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

FR DAVID'S THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Last Sunday was a beautiful Farewell and Thanksgiving celebration for Fr David. It was wonderful to see the Parish Community come together to show their appreciation for his many years of service to the parish.

Fr David will be with us until the end of March and then he will be on Long Service Leave for 3 – 4 months. Please keep him in our prayers.





CONFIRMATION 2024

**Parents Meeting this
Wednesday 3rd April
7pm at Freshwater.**

**Celebration of the Sacrament of
Confirmation will be held on Saturday
18th May 2024 at 10am & 12am.**

**All sessions will be held at
St Mary's Church, Manly.**

The Catholic Community of Manly Freshwater invites you to enrol your child in this year's Confirmation program. In the Diocese of Broken Bay, children who have been baptised and are in Year 3 or above, are eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We will be holding our 2nd Parish Information Workshop Evening on **Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm** at St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater. Information and Registration forms can be found at the rear of the Church and also at the Parish Office.



**The Chrism Mass will be
celebrated at 7.30pm on
Tuesday 26 March at Our
Lady of the Rosary**

Cathedral, Waitara. Priests of the Diocese of Broken Bay gather for this celebration with Bishop Anthony Randazzo to renew their priestly commitments. During Mass, the Oils of Catechumens and the Sick are blessed, and the Chrism is consecrated and brought back to each parish for use in various Sacramental liturgies throughout the year. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend this sacred occasion in the life of our Diocese.

LOST KEYS AT FRESHWATER CHURCH

MG keys and garage opener went missing last Sunday at Freshwater, between church car park, the church and the hall. They were in a royal blue drawstring pouch.

If found please contact Kieran on 0419973037

PIETY STORE

Movie of the month - Ordet (Danish - 1955). Recognised as one of the best Christian movies of all time. The viewer is rewarded for persevering as the ending is one of the most extraordinary in all cinema. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

CD of the month - Purgatory from the otherside

Centuries of mystical revelations from credible witnesses. Divine insights on what awaits us all. \$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.

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**

- **2nd collection Parish Bank Account** Funds the running of the Parish

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

- **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

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.

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am 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.

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year B

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4, 12-15

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. R.

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 12:26

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

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

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

Gospel

John 12:20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.




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E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Chima Ofor
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

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

Pastor Emeritus: Fr David Taylor

Seminarian: Matthew French

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:
Michael McGrath (Chair); Ivica Covic (Deputy

Chair); John Zemek (Deputy Chair); Val Buono;
Patricia Carroll Margaret Dent; Robert Marshall;
Peter Nacard, Ian Press, Katalina Taefotu

Weekend Masses:
Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm
Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm & Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses: *Manly & Freshwater*
Tuesday – Friday 9:15am

Baptisms: please contact the parish office

Reconciliation: *Manly* 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 9977 5111
Principal: Michael Reid

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