



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th February 2023



Gospel Reflection

The first reading began with the command to Moses that God's people be holy as God is holy. Today's gospel concludes with Jesus' demand that his disciples "be perfect just as your heavenly

Father is perfect". This brings to a close the series of six antitheses in which Jesus contrasts the traditional teaching of the Law and the Prophets with what he now teaches on his own authority.

The final two concern revenge and love of enemies. The Old Testament maxim "eye for eye and tooth for tooth" had the positive purpose of limiting retaliation to the measure of the original offence. Jesus now calls for a response of generosity to those who make unjust demands. Such unexpected behaviour would have the potential to disconcert and disarm one's opponents.

Jesus' concluding decree is that we should love our enemies. It's to be noted that nowhere in the Old Testament is there a directive to hate one's enemies, though it was understood that Israel would hate those who hate God (Psalm 138/139:21). Here Jesus speaks of loving and praying for those who are actively hostile, just as God displays indiscriminating benevolence for all. As the New Testament as a whole and Paul in particular makes clear, to be perfect like God is not a human achievement but God's work in us. *Break Open The Word 2023*



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for February –

For parishes We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



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.

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

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



The Sacrament of Confirmation

will be celebrated in the Parish on Saturday 20th May for children who are in year 3 and above.

Our Parent Information and Registration Evenings will be held on

Manly - Tuesday 14th March @ 7pm

Freshwater – Tuesday 21st March 7pm

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

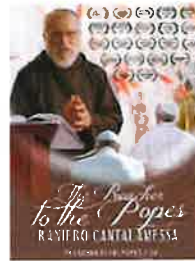
LENT 2023

**Ash Wednesday Masses
22nd February**

Manly: 9:15am, 12noon & 7pm
Freshwater: 9:15am



Stations of the Cross
each Friday during Lent at 7pm,
St Mary's Church Manly



LENTEN GROUP
commencing next Thurs
15th Feb to 30th March at
7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, "The Preacher to 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.

JESUS Our Light and Our Life
Becoming One in Christ

Diocese of Broken Bay
Lenten Program 2023



The Diocesan Lenten Program Book is available in the Church for you to take and do the program at home.

Project Compassion Sunday 18/19 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the Church or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or calling 1800 024 413.



LET US PRAY FOR
Recently Deceased:

19th February 2023

Anniversary: Laurence McEvoy, Eunice McEvoy
Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage" Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burrige; Stephen Robertson; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty; Belinda Nicholls; Jacqui Dawson; Gerry Ring; Zacchaeus Ratnam; Pat Smith; John Connors; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Sheila Lee; Donnacha Donnelly; Paul Donnelly; Julie & Rodney Wallis; Lyn Hillard

Dates to remember...

- **Sacramental Program continues this weekend**
- **ASH WEDNESDAY** 22nd February
- **SMM Yr 1 & 2 Class Mass** Thurs 23rd Feb 9:15am
- **SMM Family Mass** Sun 26th Feb 6pm
- **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

GOD'S WORD 2023 Daily Reflections- limited copies in the Piety Store \$15 ea.

Orders for 2024 need to be placed with the parish office by end of June 2023.

Movie of the month – Pius XII – Under the roman sky (starring James Cromwell) A powerful movie on the great and hidden struggle of the incorrectly labelled "Nazi Pope". The State of Israel testify papal relief programs saved up to 860 000 jews during World War 2. Only \$10 @ the Piety store.

CD of the month – Cabeza De Vaca – epic journey of Catholic explorer

An astonishing true story of shipwrecks, slavery, deprivation, battles, hardship, apparitions, miracles and resurrections. When faced with annihilation, it was only the "faithful" that survived. Only \$5 @ 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.

COLLEGE OPEN DAYS

ST PAUL'S COLLEGE Thurs 2nd March 4pm – 7pm
Co-educational opportunities coming 2025



Come and visit our College. A safe and supportive community, focused on the learning needs of every student.



SCAN NOW TO REGISTER

MERCY COLLEGE – Sun 5th March 10am – 1pm
College website <http://www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au/>

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE Wed 15 March 4pm – 7pm
College website <https://stellamaris.nsw.edu.au/>

SUPPORT your PARISH

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.**
4. **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



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Last weekend 105 Children were presented to the Parish as part of their Preparation Program for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers





LENTEN PENANCE

The Season of Lent is a most important time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is an annual pilgrimage of grace whereby we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught that the Lenten liturgy has a twofold means of preparation. By remembering their own Baptism and undertaking penance, the liturgy assists in the renewal and ongoing formation of the *faithful* (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 109). The formation of *catechumens* via the various stages of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults is equally an important part of Lent (cf. GIRM 27).

For both the local community of the faithful and the elect, Lent is a time of grace and mercy whereby the Holy Spirit greets and renews those who seek to live as disciples of the Lord Jesus, who is our light and our salvation (cf. Psalm 27).

The Season of Lent commences on **Ash Wednesday**. Given the continued challenges of the past few years, Lent 2023 will once again be a particularly useful time to reconnect with our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ; to reflect upon our spiritual pilgrimage both as individuals and as one community of disciples.

In our Catholic tradition, Lent is commemorated as a time for conversion, repentance, and renewal. Marking our foreheads with ashes in the sign of the cross on Ash Wednesday is an outward sign of internal conversion. It is also an invitation to “*Turn away from sin and believe the good news*”. In this annual invitation, we acknowledge our human vulnerability, and we pray to be strengthened by God’s grace, mercy, and love.

In imitation of Jesus our teacher and master, we also fast (cf. Matthew 4:1-11). Like Our Lord, we will journey into the desert places of our life. Where the Lord has gone, we hope to follow, and so we must expect some challenges and temptations because the Gospel reminds us that this too was the plight of Jesus. Christians are people of hope, so during these moments of vulnerability, let us take shelter in God’s mercy and compassion.

DAYS OF PENANCE

On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, abstinence from meat is to be observed by those who have completed their fourteenth year of age. Those who are aged between 18 and 60 are to fast on these days. Priests should encourage those under their pastoral care to embrace the spirit of abstinence and fasting. This Lenten practice is not to be a burden upon those who have health issues or special needs. Clergy as pastors of souls, are asked to be particularly vigilant in encouraging the faithful to undertake the disciplines of Lent with moderation and care.

On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

1. *Prayer* – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways;
2. *Self-denial* – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or deserts; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor in one’s own country and elsewhere; limiting screen time on social media; or in other ways;
3. *Helping others* – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened or feeling isolated from our Church community; or in other ways.



Lent is from **Ash Wednesday** (22 February 2023) until the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (6 April 2023) inclusive. Fasting is also observed on **Good Friday** and if possible, on **Holy Saturday** until the Easter Vigil.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is done between **Ash Wednesday** and **Trinity Sunday** (4 June 2023), unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year.

All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion (seven years old) are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year. Priests in the Diocese of Broken Bay are encouraged to make available to the faithful not only the first form of the Rite of Penance, but also the second form.

I encourage you to read the Scriptures in your homes, individually and as a family. Likewise, you may take the opportunity to be part of a Lenten prayer or discussion group, face to face or online. For this purpose, I offer to you the 2023 Diocesan Lenten resource; **Jesus, Our Light and Our Life. Becoming One in Christ**, as prepared by Evangelisation Broken Bay.

The Paschal mystery is the heart of the Eucharist. Personal private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a wonderful way to probe the mystery of faith. Our churches are regularly open outside of Mass times to assist the faithful in making a visit for prayer, contemplation, and adoration. Stations of the Cross are also a splendid spiritual devotion in our tradition, providing us with the occasion to walk the way to Calvary with Christ. While individuals can follow the *Via Crucis* on any day of Lent, the Stations are particularly meaningful on the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross resources developed by Evangelisation Broken Bay in 2022, are a wonderful way of engaging with this meaningful prayer tradition.

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, I pray in these weeks ahead that our community of the Church of Broken Bay will be open to encounter new life in Christ. This Lent, may we humbly confess our sins, prayerfully perform our penance, and joyfully proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through words and deeds of charity, mercy, and compassion.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay

15 February 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

First Reading *Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 (JB)*

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (JB)*

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. R.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. R.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 3:16-23 (JB)*

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

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

Gospel Acclamation *1 John 2:5 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-48 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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.

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

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Parish Priest: Fr David Taylor
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

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), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Joanne Druery; Val Buono; Ivica Covic; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath; Peter Nacard

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

Weekday Masses:
Manly: Tuesday - Friday 9:15am
Freshwater: Tuesday - Friday 9:15am

Baptisms: please contact the parish office
Manly: 4th Sunday of the month
Freshwater: 2nd Sunday of month

Reconciliation: *Manly* Sat 10am - 11am

St Mary's Primary School 9977 2225
Principal: Paul McGuire

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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