



# MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH

Mary Immaculate, Manly and  
St John the Baptist, Freshwater

Diocese of Broken Bay



## CHRISTMAS 25th December 2019

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Taylor

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Paul Kim

**Parish Secretaries:** Jenny Beninati

Paula Martin

**Pastoral Coordinator:** Michelle Ellis

**Administration Office:**

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Fri: 9am – 4pm

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

Tel: 9977 5822 / 8379 1720

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls:

0499 910 010

Presbytery: 9977 2100

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

**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

**Liturgy of the Word and  
Holy Communion**

**Manly:** Monday 9:15am

**Freshwater:** Monday 9:15am

**Mary Immaculate Church**

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

**St John the Baptist Church**

cnr Johnson & Oliver St,  
Freshwater NSW 2096

**Baptisms:** *by appointment only*

**Manly** 4th Sunday of the month

**Freshwater** 2nd Sunday of month

**Reconciliation:**

**Manly** Sat 10am – 11am

**Freshwater** Sat 4:30pm

### WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS

**Thank You** for your financial support of our Priests and Parish Community.

**The 1st Collection** is for the financial support of our priests.

**The 2nd Collection** is for the maintenance & running costs of our Parish Community.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.



### Christmas Collections

There will only be one collection at the Christmas Masses. This is a special collection for the retired priests of our Diocese.

**No Cash!** Tap and Go units for your convenience near the doors.

Units set at \$10 and \$20

*Thank you for your generous support*



### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

*May all the Blessings and Joy of Christmas come down upon you and be with you and your family this Christmas Season, and may the Lord grant you a peaceful and safe 2020.*

*With gratitude and affection*

*Fr David Taylor and Fr Paul Kim*



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.



**New Year's Eve Mass** at 6pm at Manly followed by **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** until 8pm.

**New Year's Day Masses** will be held at 9.15am at St Mary's Manly and St John the Baptist, Freshwater.



We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to our Christmas Day Lunch sponsors - Dee Why RSL & Manly Warringah Leagues Club. A BIG thank you to those who supported

the Christmas Day Lunch with gifts, money and food donations and all the volunteers who assisted on the day.

A special thank you to our primary schools Mission Groups at St Mary's & St John the Baptist for their thoughtful and creative decorations and care packs.



### COME AND VISIT OUR NATIVITY SCENE

We invite you and your family to come forward before or after Mass to visit our Nativity scene. Please feel free to take one of the small greeting cards as a remembrance.

Below is an extract from the Angelus on the 16<sup>th</sup> December where Pope Frances spoke to the Children present about the Astonishment of the Crib.

*"Dear children, when you recollect yourselves in prayer at home before the Crib, fixing your gaze on the Child Jesus, you will feel the astonishment . . . You will ask me, what does "astonishment" mean? It's a stronger feeling; it's more than a common emotion. It's to see God: astonishment because of the great mystery of God made man; and the Holy Spirit will put the humility, tenderness and goodness of Jesus in your heart. Jesus is good; Jesus is tender; Jesus is humble. This is true Christmas! Don't forget it. May it be so for you and your families."*

### PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Christian Meditation: Mon 6pm – 6:45pm in the Parish Centre
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am in the Parish Centre
- Divine Will Prayer Group: Mon 11:00am in the Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Manly Wed 2pm with Divine Mercy Hour from 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Holy Hour: Freshwater Tues after morning Mass
- Lectio Divina: Wed 10am in the Parish Centre
- Parish Playgroup: Manly on Mon 9am – 10:30am
- Piety Store: Open 15mins before & after Mass
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am  
Freshwater: Sat 4:30pm
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Manly: Mon – Fri at 9.45am  
Freshwater: Tues – Fri before 9.15am Mass

### PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS

- Anointing Mass at Manly and Freshwater 1st Friday of each month at 9:15am Mass
- Baptisms: By appointment enquires to Parish Office
- Crazy Whist Morning: last Tues of each month at 10:00am
- Eco-operate: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul: Manly & Freshwater Conferences 2nd Mon each month at 5:30pm

### Prayer in time of Bush Fire and Drought

Hear our prayers, O God, for the effort to quench the fires that rage in our land; and, sustaining our spirits, keep us graciously from all harm and give success to the work of our hands. Look upon our parched land and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks may by your goodness thrive once more. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
CHRISTMAS DAY  
LUNCH  
25 DECEMBER**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, 50 WHISTLER ST, MANLY  
11.30am to 2pm**

**It's free and non alcoholic  
So if you are spending Christmas alone please  
come along**

**Hosted by Manly Freshwater Parish  
9977 5822**



## **Bishop Anthony's Christmas Message...**

In a long lyric poem that describes the coming and birth of Christ into our world, the 16th century Carmelite mystic, Saint John of the Cross writes (with God the Father speaking to the Son):

'My Son, I wish to give you a bride who will love you. Because of you she will deserve to share our company, and eat bread at our table the same bread I eat.'

There is no distance between God and God's creation in this vision of things. The Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus reminds us that we are not alone or separated from God, but rather we share in the communion of God's love made visible in the birth of our Saviour.

In the child Jesus, the humility and vulnerability of God is visible. It almost seems like a contradiction that the almighty is vulnerable. However, we must resist the temptation to equate vulnerability with weakness. This image is the origin of Saint Paul's declaration to the church at Corinth: "when I am weak, then I am strong". (2Cor 12:10)

God comes without force or fear, because he does not wish to compel us into friendship by imposing upon us. Rather, in the person of Jesus, God takes on our human flesh so as to transform and enlighten us from within.

If anything can conquer the darkness and doubt of human frailty, it is the vulnerability of the child. God assumed this vulnerability in order to heal us from human sin and division and to lead us to our home with God in paradise.

Christmas celebrated in the true Christian spirit will lead us more deeply into the mystery of faith. However, it is not just for the next life – the celebration is also for this life.

At Christmas time, I am always aware that there can be both joys and struggles. There is joy in feasting and celebrating with family, friends and the community of the Church.

There can also be struggles for those who are alone, separated from family or the community, and for those who have lost loved ones.

Wherever we find ourselves, my hope is that each and every one will know the truth that God is not distant and that Jesus Christ is born for our good and the salvation of the whole world.

May every blessing of the Christ child come upon you and your families this Christmas and may the love and the joy and the peace of Christ be with you always. Amen.

## **REFLECTION...**

### **The Present that Gives Forever**

The fact that God incarnate is with us does not bring us immediate festive joy. Our world remains wounded; wars, selfishness, and bitterness linger. Our hearts also stay injured; pain persists. For a Christian, just as for everyone else, there will be incompleteness, illness, death, senseless hurt, broken dreams, cold, hunger, lonely days of bitterness, and a lifetime of incompleteness.

The Incarnation does not promise heaven on earth. It promises heaven in heaven. On earth, it promises us something else – God's presence in our lives. This presence redeems because knowing that God is with us is what ultimately empowers us to give up bitterness, to forgive, and to move beyond cynicism and bitterness. When God is with us, then pain and happiness are not mutually exclusive, and the agonies and riddles of life do not exclude deep meaning and deep joy.

We need to celebrate Christmas heartily. Maybe we won't feel the same excitement we once felt as children when we were excited about tinsel, lights, Christmas carols, special gifts, and special food. But something more important is still given to us, namely the sense that God is with us always, in our joys as well as in our shortcomings.

The Word was made flesh. That's an incredible thing, something that *should* be celebrated with decorations and songs of joy. If we understand Christmas, then carols will flow naturally from our lips.

# CHRISTMAS 2019

## **First Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*A son is given to us.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 95:1-3. 11-13

**R. Today is born our Saviour,  
Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. R.
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

## **2nd Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus  
*God's grace has been revealed to all people.*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from

all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation:** Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

## **Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*Today a Saviour has been born for you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'God to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'. Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**