



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

CHRISTMAS The Nativity of the Lord – 25th December 2021

HOLY FAMILY of Jesus, Mary & Joseph – 26th December 2021

Dear friends, on behalf of Fr John, Fr Eliseus, Martino and myself we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Families young and old gather together to experience the wonder of Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning and a wonderful time it is for everyone.

The fall of darkness on Christmas Eve brings a hush with it. The hustle and bustle of the day recedes. The lights of the Church shine out in welcome. There's excitement in the air. Whatever strife still troubles the world, the birth of Christ promises Peace, Joy and Hope.

In an obscure outpost of the Roman Empire, at a time when there were not obvious grounds for hope, a child is born in mysterious circumstances. A child born of heaven and earth, of flesh and spirit, of time and eternity. A child who will become the light of the world, a child whose life will end in apparent failure only for that to be transformed into a glorious triumph. A child whose birth prompts us to sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will".

(cf Break Open the Word 2022)



CHRISTMAS THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD The Gospel for Christmas Day is the beautiful Prologue hymn to John's Gospel. With echoes of Genesis 1 ("In the beginning," "the light shines on in darkness"), John's prologue exalts Christ as the creative Word of God that comes as the new light to illuminate God's re-creation.

In the original Greek text, the phrase "made his dwelling place among Us" is more accurately translated as "pitched his tent or tabernacle." The image evokes the Exodus memory of the tent pitched by Israelites for the Ark of the Covenant. God sets up the tabernacle of the new covenant in the body of the Child of Bethlehem.

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HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Today's Gospel was probably a later addition to Luke's Gospel, a story from the rich oral tradition of stories told about Jesus. Like many childhood stories of famous people, this one is retold because it shows signs in Jesus' boyhood of the qualities that will emerge in his adulthood that will mark his life forever in history. Luke clearly has the events of Holy Week in mind in the details he has included in the story: the journey to Jerusalem at Passover, the encounter with the teachers at the Temple, the three days Jesus is lost.

At the age of 12, a Jewish boy becomes a "son of the Law" – he becomes personally responsible for following the Torah. The faithful Jesus reveals himself as the perfect servant of his Father from the time of his first legal pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

It was the Jewish practice for teachers to conduct classes not in a lecture format but as an open discussion in which participants were encouraged to ask questions. Portrayals of Jesus dominating the scene, overwhelming the teachers with the depth of his insights, are from what actually happened. As Luke tells the story, Jesus was listening to the teachers and eagerly searching for knowledge in his questions like a highly motivated and interested student typically much older than the 12-year-old boy from Nazareth.

Luke reports that Mary "kept all these things in memory" (Luke 2: 19). Perhaps Mary confronted for the first time the reality that, although she was indeed his mother, her son did not belong to her.

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PLEASE – QR CODE in and wear a MASK before entering the Church.

COVID REQUIREMENTS

Please remember you need to...

- QR code before entering the Church
- Wear a mask for Mass
- Cleanse your hands
- Observe social distancing

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish
Livestream 8:30am Mass

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Visiting sick at home - If you, or if you know of anyone who are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing

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 community



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

There will be one Christmas collection at all Christmas Masses using cash or your card on the tap and go machines.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2022



Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday 26th December – Please note there will be NO Vigil Mass on Saturday 25th December at both Churches..

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

St Mary's Church Manly at 6pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

9.15am at St Mary's Manly and St John the Baptist, Freshwater

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION?



Please scan the QR code for Credit Card donations or direct deposit details are below

New: Scan to Donate using the QR code to access our BPoint Donation page. You will then be able to click the BPoint logo on the webpage to take you to the payment page. This secure system provided by the Commonwealth Bank Australia will give you the option of having your receipt emailed to you.



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 Parish Bank Account Supports our Priests

Account: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784

Thank you for your ongoing support



Come together and join us for
CHRISTMAS DAY
LUNCH!

St Mary's Catholic Church

Enter from Denison Street, School Entrance

11am – 1pm

This year we will be providing a **Take Away Picnic and gift**. There will be some tables set up to use if you wish to enjoy your Picnic Lunch with some other guests.

It's been a tough year for many, so no matter what your circumstance, you are always welcome to come along!!

- ✓ COVID-19 Safe
- ✓ Free
- ✓ Special Gift Bag for all guests
- ✓ Family friendly
- ✓ Non-alcoholic
- ✓ Friendly Community

Hosted by Manly Freshwater Parish ph: 9977 5822

Bishop Anthony Randazzo
21 December 2021

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In a few days we will celebrate the Birth of our Savior when God entered the world in human form, giving us His only begotten Son.

orn in a darkened stable and placed in a humble manger, the birth of Jesus is the wonderful reminder God's love for us is so great He became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him. The Christmas story is also one of joy and hope.

For all of us, in varying degrees, it has been another challenging year. However, during the Holy Season let us not forget this overriding message of hope which started with the miraculous, hidden and vulnerable act of a baby born for all people.

I pray you and your family all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas and are filled with the hope of the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes are available on the pews. This is a special collection to support the sick and retired priests of our Dioceses of Broken Bay. Thank you for your generous support.



A BIG thank you to those who supported the Christmas Day Picnic Lunch with gifts, money and food donations and all the volunteers who assisted on the day.

CHRISTMAS

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.

Second 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

Presbytery phone out of order – Emergency contact 0499 910 010

HOLY FAMILY – 26th December 2021 Year C

First Reading *1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 (JB)*

A reading from the first book of Samuel

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10*

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God. R.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. R.

O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed. R.

Second Reading *1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 (JB)*

A reading from the first letter of St. John

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the

future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Gospel Acclamation *cf Acts 16:14 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 2:41-52 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.