



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Epiphany of the Lord – 3rd January 2021



Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Matthew 2: 1-12

Today’s Gospel: The story of the astrologers and the star of Bethlehem is unique to Matthew’s Gospel. Note that Matthew does not call them kings nor does he give their names nor reports where they came from – in fact, Matthew never even specifies the number of magi

(because three gifts are presented to the Child, it has been a tradition since the fifth century to picture “three wise men”). In stripping away the romantic layers that have been added to the story, Matthew’s point can be better appreciated.

A great many First Testament ideas and images are presented in this story. The star, for example, is reminiscent of Balaam’s prophecy that “a star shall advance from Jacob” (Numbers 24: 17). Many of the details in Matthew’s story about the child Jesus parallel the story of the child Moses and the Exodus.

Matthew’s story also provides a preview of what is to come. First, the reactions of the various parties to the birth of Jesus parallel the effects Jesus’ teaching will have on those who hear it. Herod reacts with anger and hostility to the Jesus of the poor who comes to overturn the powerful and rich. The chief priests and scribes greet the news with haughty indifference toward the Jesus who comes to give new life and meaning to the rituals and laws of the scribes. But the magi – non-believers in the eyes of Israel – possess the humility and the openness of mind and heart essential to faith that leads them to seek and welcome the Jesus who will institute the Second Covenant between God and the New Israel.

Secondly, the gifts of the astrologers indicate the principal dimensions of Jesus’ mission:

- **gold** is a gift fitting for a king, a ruler, one with power and authority;
- **frankincense** is a gift fitting for a priest, one who offers sacrifice (frankincense was an aromatic perfume sprinkled on the animals sacrificed in the Temple);
- **myrrh** is a fitting “gift” for someone who is to die (myrrh was used in ancient times for embalming the bodies of the dead before burial).

Reflection: Epiphany calls us to a new vision of the world that sees beyond the walls and borders we have created and to walk by the light which has dawned for all of humankind, a light by which we are able to recognize all men and women as our brothers and sisters under the loving providence of God, the Father of all.

The magi’s following of the star is a journey of faith, a constant search for meaning, for purpose, for the things of God that each one of us experiences in the course of our own lives.

What we read and watch and listen to in search of wealth, fame and power are the “stars” we follow. The journey of the magi in Matthew’s Gospel puts our own “stargazing” in perspective, calling us to fix our search on the “star” of God’s justice, peace and compassion. connectionsmediaworks.com

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for January

Human fraternity May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



We’re COVID SAFE

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS

Facebook – [manlyfreshwaterparish](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish) Sunday 8:30am Mass

LET US PRAY FOR

3rd January 2021

Prayers for the sick in our parish:, Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Debbie Vernon; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Vanessa Squirrel; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Les Reilly; Wayne Smedley; Margaret Burridge; Jill Carmichael; Stephen Robertson; Richard & Cynthia Connolly; Maureen Williams; Gerry Wybrandt; Kathleen Hudson; Amy Farrow; Patricia Duffy; Florencia Lira; Jacqui Dawson; Ken Waller; Mary Helen Fogarty

January 2020

Year B

Mon 4/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17,23-25
Tue 5/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wed 6/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thurs 7/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22
Fri 8/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16
Sat 9/1 – Week of Christmas	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Sun 10/1 – Baptism of the Lord	Is 55:1-11; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook:

facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

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



If you are feeling unwell please do not come into the Church.

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



To assist us with maintaining our attendance registers you now have the option of scanning the QR code with your Phone to register your details to enter the Church at Manly. At the Church please hold your phone over the code with your camera and internet on and follow the link to complete your details.

WEARING OF MASKS IN OUR CHURCHES

Everyone attending St Mary's and St John's Churches must wear a mask for the safety of everyone.



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.



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021




Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who have continued to support the Parish financially.

To help you to make your offering you can use one of the following options:

1. Use the **tap and go machines** at the Church entrance **Now at Freshwater and Manly**
2. Place envelopes and cash in the **collection plates** (1st collection and 2nd collection) at the Church entrances. 
3. Continue to use direct debit with your **credit cards**
4. Making **deposits directly into the Parish 1st and 2nd collection accounts** (details in the bulletin).



Parish Bank Account – 2nd collection funds the running of the Parish

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Acc# 13958001 BSB: 062 784

Please include name or envelope number as reference

Parish Bank Account – 1st collection Support of our Priests

Acc Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Acc# 13958002 BSB: 062 784

To make a **credit card donation** via the internet please right click below to open hyperlink

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/manlyfreshwater>



The following measures for Greater Sydney (including Wollongong, Central Coast and Blue Mountains) are effective from midnight tonight. **Compliance, however, will start from Monday, 4 January 2021 with \$200 on the spot fines for individuals for non-compliance.**

Compliance, however, will start from Monday, 4 January 2021 with \$200 on the spot fines for individuals for non-compliance.

- **Face masks will be mandatory** in the following indoor settings: shopping (retail, supermarkets and shopping centres), public/shared transport, indoor entertainment (including cinemas and theatres), **places of worship**, hair and beauty premises. Please note that the wearing of masks also includes the Celebrant particularly for the entrance procession and recessional, and during Communion. Bishop Anthony is of the mind that given his distance from the congregation, the priest may not require to be masked during certain parts of the Mass and whilst preaching. Certainly, a book stand, rather than a server, should be used to hold the Missal. Children under 12 are exempt but are encouraged to wear masks where practicable.
- Places of worship and religious services limited to 1 person per 4sqm up to a maximum of 100 people per separate area.
- Congregational singing is not to be encouraged. However, music provided by an organist and a cantor is recommended.
- Weddings and funerals limited to 1 person per 4sqm up to a maximum of 100 people.
- People are still encouraged to limit non-essential gatherings and reduce their mobility where possible to further minimise the risk of transmission in the community.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION is held at Manly Church on Wednesdays from 6pm with Divine Mercy Hour held from 7 00pm – 8:00pm.

The Epiphany of the Lord – Year B

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 (JB)*

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment. R.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has

been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah

you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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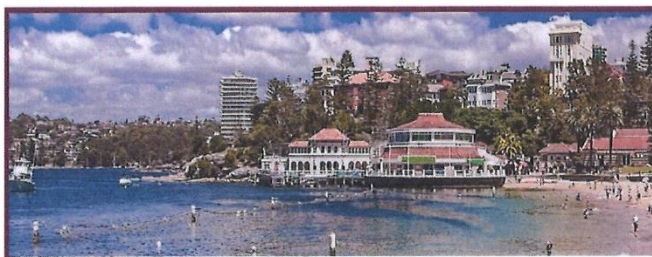
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Assistant Priest: Fr John Puliparambil
john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretaries: Jenny Beninati & Paula Martin

Pastoral Coordinator: Michelle Ellis

Mary Immaculate Church

6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater NSW 2096

Administration Office: 9977 5822 (Parish Office)

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

Presbytery: 9977 2100

After Hours Urgent Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Pastoral Council: Paul Pervan (Chair), Ian Press (Deputy Chair), Margaret Dent (Secretary), Ivica Covic; Laurie de Ambrosis; Joanne Druery; Robert Marshall; Michael McGrath

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

Acting Principal: Fiona Dignan

St Paul's Catholic College 9977 5111

Principal: Chris Browne

Stella Maris College 9977 5144

Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie