



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

First Sunday of Advent – 3rd December 2023

Gospel Reflection

The beginning of the Christian year begins at the end of time: the promised return of Christ at the end of time. In this brief Gospel parable of the master's return, Jesus articulates the Advent themes of waiting, watchfulness and readiness. Jesus calls us to realize our responsibilities in the present as we dare to look forward to the promise of the future.

connectionsmediaworks.com



Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.
Pope Francis (2013)

BLESSING THE ADVENT WREATH

Priest: My brothers and sisters, during Advent we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in glory.

Today we pray that God will bless this wreath, keep us watchful in prayer and make us witnesses to Jesus, the Lord of light and love, who has taken on our human flesh to bring salvation to all people.

Bless wreath with holy water and light first candle.

Priest: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord have mercy.

R: Lord have mercy

Priest: You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ have mercy.

R: Christ have mercy.

Priest: You will come in glory with salvation for your people, Lord have mercy.

R: Lord have mercy



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Each year the Parish hosts a Luncheon on Christmas Day for those who will be spending Christmas Day alone with around 150 guests coming along to enjoy a festive lunch. This year we will be serving an option of a sit down or take away picnic lunch.

If you would like to donate goods for the Picnic Packs we will be including some of the following:

- Box of chocolates – these will be given as gifts to our guests
- Cans of soft drink – coke, lemonade, fanta
- Fresh Fruit
- Cash donations will be used to purchase the Hams, Turkey, Salads, Bread Rolls, Desserts and anything we are short of.

Please drop the Chocolates and Drinks into the Parish Office.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day or be part of the set up or clean teams up please email the Parish Office manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

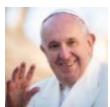
Set up Saturday 23rd December 9am – 11am

CHRISTMAS ROSTER



To help us plan for our Christmas Masses this year we ask that you let us know if you are available to assist in one of the ministries...Servers, Readers, Welcomers, Piety Shop Assistant.

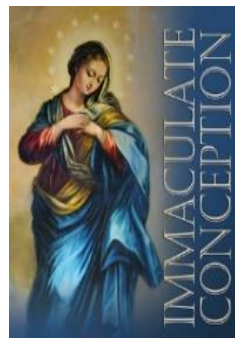
Please advise the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or email manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for December –For persons with disabilities - We pray that people living

with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR Parish Feast Day & Thank You Celebration



Friday 8th December at Manly, starting with 6:00pm Mass followed by dinner under the Big Tree in the School yard.

Please let the parish office know if you are able to join us by 4/12/23 on 9977 5822

or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



PASTORAL WORKS Broken Bay

Pastoral Works Broken Bay is the pastoral charity of the Catholic community in Broken Bay.

Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.

PASTORAL WORKS APPEAL

Our Parish Quota for 2023/2024 is \$47,164. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews. All donations over \$2 are 100% tax deductible.

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES 9:15am
Mass will be held on the following days...
Manly: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Freshwater: Wednesday

**LET US PRAY FOR
Recently Deceased:
Anniversary:**

3rd December 2023

Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage"

Margaret Burridge; 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; Paul Gallagher; Jim Turley

Dates to remember...

- **SMM School at Mass** Fri 8th December at 9:15am
- **Parish Feast Day Mass & Supper**
Fri 8th December at 6pm
- **Christmas Craft Stall** Sunday 10th December from 8:30am – 12pm
- **Cenacle of Our Lady** SMM Tues 9:45am, SJB Wed 9:45am
- **Lectio Divina** Tues 7:30pm and Wed 10am
- **Eucharistic Adoration in Manly**
Wed 6pm – 7:30pm



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.



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

Year of Yes Prayer...

Today and every day I say Yes to you O Lord. In the same way that Mary said yes to your invitation, I say Yes to your Son's presence in my life. May my yes, by the power of your Holy Spirit, allow you to use all the talents, skills and gifts you have given me for the purpose of building up Your Body in our community.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Our appeal begins this weekend.

With your support we will give families a better and happier Christmas.

If you would like to help please take a card from the giving tree and make up a hamper for a family.



There are also envelopes on the pews for you to use or the QR code in the bulletin if you would like to donate.

We would like to thank you for your generosity in the past, you have made a huge difference in the lives of the people we assist on your behalf.

Our families are amazed that a stranger is prepared to help them have a better Christmas, they appreciate it very much.

God Bless... Bruce and Mick

Craft Group Christmas Market Sunday 10 Dec 8:30am – 12pm



There will be beautiful items just right for gifts, including knitted and crocheted toys, baby clothes, blankets, coat hangers, doggy fashion, aprons and much more. All items are handmade by the parish.

You are welcome to join us for morning tea on Tuesdays at 10am in the Parish Centre



The Northern Beaches Catholic Young Adults Community (NBCYAC) will be meeting at Bucketty's Brewery in Brookvale at 630pm on Saturday 9th December for social drinks and dinner.

The NBCYAC is a recently formed group that brings together the young Catholic adults of the peninsula, aged between 18 and 35. We meet on the second Saturday of every month for either a social meet-up or a Catholic event, such as a Mass or Shrine visit, followed by a social gathering.

If you are interested, please meet Richard Heasman under the red-and-yellow cross at St Mary's at the end of the 6pm Sunday Mass, and he will add you to the Whatsapp group.

We hope to see you there!

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

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.

PIETY STORE

Movie of the month – *Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)*

Based on a true story. On Christmas Eve, 1914. On a World War battlefield, a momentous event changed the lives of soldiers from France, Germany and England. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

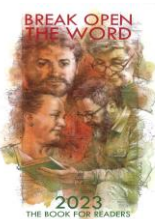
CD of the month – *Advent – rethinking the season – Dr Tim Gray*. Advent is a season not about itself, but about preparing for Christmas. Learn a deeper appreciation of this “pre-season” and get the most out of this Christmas. Only \$5 @ the piety store.



Freshwater Carols:

will be held this Sunday 3rd December from 5pm at Freshwater Reserve

(behind SLSC). Our St John's team will BBQ 1000 sausage sandwiches for the crowds!! ALL WELCOME



Break Open the Word for the 2024 Liturgical Year

Books are ready for collection. If you are a current Reader at Manly or Freshwater, please collect your book from the Sacristy and mark off your name on the list. If you are interested in becoming a Reader, please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822



READERS MINISTRY PROGRAM

Fr David will be offering a program for new and current Mass readers. Please contact the parish office if you are interested, date will be announced soon 9977 5822

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Christmas Blessing Letterbox Drop

This Christmas we are calling for volunteers to deliver a Christmas Blessing Card to every home in the parish, wishing all a Joyful Christmas and letting them know about our Christmas services. If you can assist, please contact the Parish office on 9977 5822 for further information.

Parish Vocations Volunteers Wanted!



The Broken Bay Vocations Team is seeking your help to nurture a culture of vocations in our local Church. As a Parish Vocations Volunteer, you could play a vital role in promoting vocations awareness, encouraging prayer, and supporting local events in your parish. If you feel called to this rewarding service, your involvement would be greatly valued. To express your interest, simply scan the QR code provided and follow the prompts. In Christ, Fr Sam



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. Directly into Parish Bank Accounts**
- 6. 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
- 7. 1st collection** Supports our Priests
Account: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral
Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank
Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784



SOUP KITCHEN 2024 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For more than 20 years our Parish and other Churches from the community have been assisting with the Soup Kitchen which is run by the Salvation Army at their premises on Pittwater Road. We serve a meal on Wednesday's twice a month to around 30+ people.

For the past few years, including in covid times, some young mums from the Parish have ensured that a home cooked meal has been available.

We are looking for some assistance in 2024, if you are interested in any of the following please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822

- Preparing a Meal at home to feed 30+ people
- Preparing Sandwiches at home or onsite
- Prepare a Meal onsite and assisting with serving
- Serving Meals

The Parish will reimburse the expenses for the ingredients for the meals and sandwiches.

If you would like to know more about what is involved please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822.



FRESHWATER SUNDAY MORNING TEAS

Our last morning tea for the year will be Sunday 17th December, returning after

Australia Day on Sunday 28th January 2024. Special mention of thanks to Francis and his merry helpers who provide the hospitality every weekend.



We invite you to join us at one of our Christmas Masses...

St Mary's Manly

Sunday 24th December

- 6pm Children's Mass
- 8pm Tongan Choir
- 10pm Parish Choir

Monday 25th December

- 8.30am & 10.30am

St John the Baptist Freshwater

Sunday 24th December

- 5pm Children's Mass

Monday 25th December

- 9am Parish Choir



**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
FRESHWATER**
COMPASSION, COURAGE, HUMILITY



JOIN US FOR OUR
**SJB
PLAYGROUP
TEDDY BEAR
CHRISTMAS
PICNIC**

DECEMBER 7, THURSDAY
9AM TO 10AM

TO CELEBRATE OUR YEAR TOGETHER
(ANY NEW FAMILIES WELCOME)

Morning tea will be provided, please bring drink bottles

Please RSVP to sjbf@dbb.catholic.org.au

7 Johnson Street Freshwater 2096

You're invited To
**CHRISTMAS
DAY LUNCH**

St Mary's Catholic Church
Enter from Denison St, School Entrance
11am - 1pm

This year we will be providing a
Take Away Picnic Lunch and gift.

There will be some tables set up under
the big tree if you wish to enjoy your
Picnic 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
Tel: 9977 5822




**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
FRESHWATER**
COMPASSION, COURAGE, HUMILITY



Limited spaces still available
in our two Kindergarten
classes in 2024.
Spaces in other grades also available.

- Strong parent partnership
- Direct teacher access
- The Resilience Project
- STEM opportunities
- Sporting pathways
- Targeted support including MultiLit Suite
- Before & After School Care
- Diverse, inclusive, welcoming community
- Ongoing teacher professional learning
- Language lessons coming in 2024

Priority feeder school for St Paul's College, Manly,
secondary co-educational opportunities from 2025!

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE SJB DIFFERENCE!

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

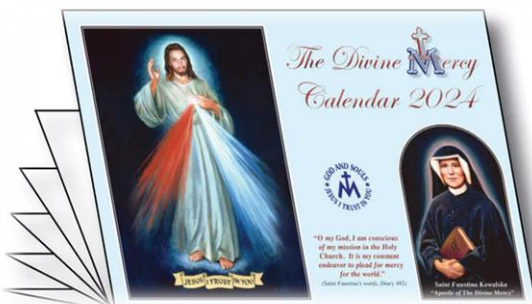
sjbf@dbb.catholic.edu.au 7 Johnson Street
02 9939-6699 Freshwater 2096



MANLY PIETY STORE

Celebrate Christmas with one of the beautiful nativity sets on display in our Manly Piety Store at the back of the Church. We also have a selection of Christmas Cards, 2024 Divine Mercy Calendar and advent candles as well as rosary's, DVD's, CD's and more.

The Piety Shop is open before and after Mass on the weekend or call into the Parish Office during office hours.



NORTHERN BEACHES REFUGEE SANCTUARY LTD

32 Aitken Ave Queenscliff NSW 2096 Website:

www.nbrs.org.au

Email address: nbrs@optusnet.com.au ABN

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Welcome to the NBRs Summer 2023 Newsletter

We have had a very busy six months with 300 airfares paid. They have arrived from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bhutan, South Sudan, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia and Congo. The largest numbers were from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary's first family arrived in June 2003. We have now helped 8460 people from 48 different countries.

The demand for our assistance remains high, especially with the approaching Christmas season causing a surge in airfare costs. We have continued to help a lot of Afghan families coming from Pakistan, most of whom are families of interpreters who worked with the Australian Defense Forces. It is very difficult for the families as most are in Pakistan illegally. When they leave, they need an exit permit. The permits are very expensive as they must pay for each year they have been in Pakistan. We are seeing costs of \$2,000 per person. They then have the cost of the airfares as well. It has been very challenging for us and of course much more difficult for the families.

We are helping a large family from Democratic Republic of Congo. The sponsor last saw her sister twenty years ago. She applied for a visa in 2018 which was granted in 2020. Sadly, the Australian borders had just closed due to COVID. The visa is granted subject to medical clearance which lasts for a year. Covid meant that the visa had expired so the family had to get an extension. While they were waiting for the borders to open the family welcomed a baby. The baby required a visa and IMMI card. (IMMI cards are issued by Australia and are used as a travel document.) This process was slow as there were large numbers of cases needing to be updated by the Depart of Immigration. The clearance was finally given. We asked The International Organization for Migration to arrange the travel. The tickets were extremely expensive but by changing dates and IOM arrangements with airlines we were able to get a more reasonable price. The flights were booked and the family were due to arrive on 8th Sept. The week before they left the Malawian Government closed the borders to refugees leaving the country. A number of Government officials were arrested. 58 non refugees were taken off a plane just before it left for the US as they stole the identity of refugees who had been granted visas. The fraud was only on refugees getting visas to USA. Our family was caught up in the blanket ban. They had to change the flight but didn't know when the borders would be reopened. They allowed two months as it costs to change a booking and we didn't know when the problem would be fixed. The family rebooked it for November. It is also difficult to get a booking for 9 people on multiple connecting flights without having too long in transit. The medicals expired before they could depart so the visa is suspended while they pass another medical. The sponsor is sad and stressed as the situation in the refugee camp is dangerous. The medical clearance was issued today so great excitement. We hope they will be able to arrive before Christmas.

It is always difficult when there are delays. The families are so happy when the visas are granted and want them to arrive ASAP. We try to find a balance with waiting time and costs as the family will need to repay the loan.

We helped an Afghan family of 9 coming from Pakistan recently. They need an exit permit to leave. The sponsor asked us if we could help. We assisted with a loan for \$25,000. She arranged the exit permit and flights. The family travelled in three groups over four weeks. The sponsor's responsibly is to meet the family at the airport and then assist them to register with Medicare, Centrelink, Tax dept and get bank accounts etc. This can be time consuming. They travelled in two groups.

The sponsor met the first group who were staying with her until they could get accommodation. She took them to the different agencies to register. She then showed them the trains and buses. She had the wife and mother of the children staying with her, so she started to teach her about the opportunities that Australia presented her. She suggested she get some qualifications so that she could look for work. The two of them went walking in the area as she showed her some of the facilities. Walking alone, getting a job and driving were not available to her in Afghanistan so she was excited about the future. Her husband then arrived. A few days later the wife was in the kitchen crying. The sponsor asked what was wrong. She said her husband was telling her she couldn't leave the house without him. She wouldn't be allowed to work or drive. She would have to cover up when they left the house.

The sponsor said she would speak to the husband and asked him to join her on a walk. She explained that life was much safer in Australia and that women worked. She wears shorts and no head covering. She asked him if he thought she was an immodest person. She had sponsored the family and worked, clearly this had been very good for his family. If he wanted to afford a house and car, they would need more than his wage. He understood the benefits for the family and could see the value of a second wage.

The family is lucky to have such a strong successful sponsor who will help them understand Australia. Needless to say, the wife loves the sponsor!!

We have a waiting list of 8 weeks for airfare loans. We are looking for donations if you can help. It would help us get extra families here for Christmas.

Donations are tax deductible and reused many times.

Our bad debts were about 0.3% of loans this year which is fantastic.

If you want to help, please transfer the money to our account.

- The Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary Ltd
- Commonwealth Bank.
- BSB 062197
- Account 10993154

Please email me your details so that I can email you a tax receipt.

Merry Christmas and let's hope for a peaceful New Year
David Addington

28/11/23

First Sunday of Advent – Year B

First Reading *Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19*

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. R.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. R.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (JB)*

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our

Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Ps 84:8 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel *Mark 13:33-37 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



SOUTH STEYNE
medical CENTRE

Nestled between the pines at South Steyne – our Medical Centre born from the belief of looking from a fresh perspective towards healthcare. You will find highly trained, experienced GPs and Nursing Staff, with a range of skills to provide you with quality comprehensive care.



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Fax Number: (02) 7209 2921
Website: southsteynemedical.com
Email: SSMAdmin@southsteynemedical.com


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**St Mary's Primary
Catholic Schol
K – 6**
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www.stpaulsmanly.nsw.edu.au
E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

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);
Michael McGrath (Deputy Chair); Margaret Dent
(Secretary); Patricia Carroll; Joanne Druery;
Val Buono; Ivica Covic; 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: 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 the month

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

Stella Maris College 9977 5144
Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



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