

# MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

# Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

# Fourth Sunday of Advent – 22nd December 2024



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

## Mary Immaculate Manly

Tuesday 24th December

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

Wednesday 25th December

• 8.30am & 10.30am

# St John the Baptist Freshwater

Tuesday 24th December

• 5pm Children's Mass

Wednesday 25th December

9am Parish Choir

# 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.





**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from** Tuesday 24th December and reopen
Monday 13th January 2025 May you all have

Monday 13th January 2025. May you all have a Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year.

### **New Appointments to Our Parish**

We are pleased to share that Bishop Anthony has appointed Fr Samuel French as one of the Assistant Priests here in our parish. It might interest you to know that Fr Samuel is also the elder brother of seminarian Matthew, who has been part of our community. Fr Samuel joins us after serving as the Vocations Director of the Diocese of Broken Bay and will officially begin his ministry with us on 31st January 2025.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr Alfred Soliman, who will be undertaking a one-year internship in our parish as part of his ongoing formation for the priesthood. Both Fr Samuel and Mr Alfred will be a great blessing to our community, and we look forward to warmly welcoming them in the new year.

## A Special Thank You

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to some of our parish choir members, accompanied by Fr Marek, who recently performed Christmas carols for the residents of Uniting Wesley Heights, Manly. The messages of appreciation we have received highlight what a beautiful and meaningful act of Christian outreach this was.

The group will also be performing Christmas carols this weekend after the 10:30am Mass at Manly Hillside Care, North Manly. Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas with those in our wider community!

#### **Celebrate Christmas with Us**

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, I warmly encourage you to invite your families and friends to join us for one of our Christmas Masses. Together, let us celebrate the birth of our Savior with joy, faith, and gratitude.

We look forward to celebrating this holy season with you and your loved ones.

Fr. Chima



#### CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Thank you to all who have supported the parish Christmas Day lunch. We

are looking forward to another festive and joyful day. If you are able to assist with any donations, please drop off to the parish office on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec.

Set up Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am

LET US PRAY FOR

22nd December 2024

Recently Deceased: Elizabeth Winny; Elena Mangraviti

Anniversary: Wiktor Chrzanowski

Prayers for the sick in our parish: "Lord, grant them and their carers strength and courage" 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; John Connors; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Paul Donnelly; Julie Wallis; Lyn Hillard; Ian Flynn; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O'Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Veronica Rinaldo; Chinnamma Puliparambil; Rena Curll; John Santos; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Rita Hogan; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai

#### Dates to remember...

- Spanish Prayer Group returns Fri 10 Jan 6pm
- Craft Group returns Tues 14 Jan 10am
- RCIA returns Tues 21 Jan 7pm



If you are new to the Parish or are not currently registered we warmly welcome you and ask that

you complete a Parish Census form. This will assist us to connect with you and your family and advise you of any of 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 or emailed to the Parish Office - manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



The Pope's Prayer Intention for the month of December –. For Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith, helping us to

recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

# 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



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm - 7.30pm

Quiet Prayer, Adoration and reconciliation will be available

6pm – 7pm concluding with **Benediction** 

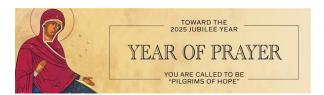


### **PARISH MORNING TEA**

**MANLY:** 3rd Sunday after the 10:30am Mass hosted by the Tongan

Community.

**FRESHWATER:** every Sunday after the 9am Mass in the parish hall.





# CHRISTMAS REFLECTION by Ivica Covic

As many of you know, my sister and brother-in-law have spent most of this year living in Europe. Praise God, they've

recently returned to Sydney, just in time to celebrate Christmas with us. While we're happy for the life they've been enjoying abroad and their adventures, it's no secret that they've been deeply missed—especially by me and my family.

During their time away, we stayed connected through frequent phone calls, video chats, and messages. Yet, despite our constant communication, something was still missing. Why is that? Why, even with modern technology, did their absence feel so deeply?

This longing for closeness with each other was something that we all faced during the pandemic. Physical separation was a pop challenge for families, friends, and communities worldwide. Though we made every effort to stay connected through video and phone calls, we struggled. Why? Because true love requires physical closeness.

And it's this very need for closeness that lies at the heart of what we joyfully celebrate at Christmas. John 3:16 tells us: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". Christmas is a celebration of God's overwhelming love, a love so deep that He didn't remain distant in heaven but chose to come to us. He walked among us, befriended us, shared in our joys and struggles, and became one of us in all things except sin.

Even after His return to the Father, Jesus did not leave us. Through the Mass and the Sacraments, He offers us ongoing, personal physical encounters with Him. In Holy Communion, we receive Jesus Himself—His real presence given to us in love. In this profound union, He lives in us, and we in Him. This is the closest we can be to God in this life: to receive Him in the Eucharist and be in holy communion with him.

This truth fills us with hope. No matter how difficult life may be, we are never alone. God is with us, consoling us, guiding us, and loving us.

So, this Christmas, let us rejoice with hearts full of love and gratitude. Let us celebrate the birth of Jesus—the moment that replaced God seeming distance with a closeness so intimate that He became one of us to be with us and remain with us forever. For God is love.

Wishing you all a joyful and holy Christmas, and a peaceful, prosperous New Year in 2025.



#### **Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

If you would like to make a donation please use the envelopes on the pews or by using our QR code.

God Bless Bruce and Mick

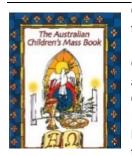


# Places of Pilgrimages Jubilee of Hope 2025

The three diocesan "Jubilee Shrines of Hope" which will form significant places of pilgrimage, worship, prayer, and hope for God's people in

Broken Bay during the Jubilee Year

- The Parish of Gosford with the Relic of Saint John
   Paul II will be a Shrine of Hope for our families.
- The Parish of Chatswood with the Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be a Shrine of Hope for our young people.
- The Parish of Manly Freshwater with the Relic of Saint John Vianney will be a Shrine of Hope for our Priests and Vocations.



**Children's Activity pages** available at the entrance of the Churches.

**Children's Mass books** are now available at the entrances of the Church for use during the Masses. Please return after the Mass.

Mass booklets can be purchased from the Piety Store for \$10.00



# **CAROLS ON THE BEACH - FRESHWATER**







We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Francis Raymond for his continual support of the the Carols on Beach Freshwater, along with his merry helpers who braved the drizzle for 2.5 hours and served 400 sausage sandwiches - Tim, Terri, Leanne, Toni, Sally, Brigid,

Jackie, Paul and Skye. Fr Chima also visited the troops for moral support, and they raised funds to support our Parish Christmas Lunch.



#### **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, 2025 Divine Mercy, Columban and Josephite Calendars, advent candles as well as rosary's, DVD's, CD's and more.

A small collection of quality Christmas movies available @ the piety store.

CD of the month: What is true and what is false about Christmas – Robert M. Haddad. An insightful presentation on the good, true and beautiful things about Christmas. Also, the myths and things which detract from Jesus. Only \$5 @ the piety store.

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



CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Children's Liturgy will
be held on the 2nd and
4th Sunday of the
month during the
10:30am Mass.

This will cater for children aged 3 to 8 years old. Each week a theme that correlates to the readings and Gospel is presented to the children using ageappropriate materials. The adult catechists incorporate discussion, prayer, song, group worksheets and other activities so the children can relate the Word of God to daily life. The children leave the church after a blessing from the priest, gather in the parish meeting room, and return during the offertory.



We welcome all youth who are in High School (Yr 7 – Yr 12) to come along and join the Manly Freshwater Parish Youth Group which

is held every **1st and 3rd Sunday** following the 6pm Mass (7pm – 9pm). Join us for free food and drinks, table tennis, basketball, party games, talks and new friends! Feel free to check out our instagram or send us an email! Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Instagram: manlyfreshwater\_catholicyouth





# PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am Parish Centre
- Christian Meditation: Tues 12:15pm Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Weds 6:00pm Manly
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm & Weds 10am Parish Centre
- Piety Store: open on weekends or call the Parish Office
- Prayer Group in Spanish 2nd & 4th Friday 6pm Parish meeting room
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Freshwater Tues Fri 8.45am in Church
- Youth Group (Yrs 7 Yr 12): 1st & 3rd Sunday 7pm – 9pm

#### **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 Conferences:
   Manly 1st Mon each month 5:30pm
   Freshwater 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm



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.

# 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
- 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. Direct into Parish Bank Accounts
  - Parish Giving (2nd collection) Funds the running of the Parish
     Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish

Account Name: Manly Freshwater Parish Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank Account # 100002025 BSB: 062 784

Clergy Giving (1st collection)

Supports our Priests

Account: Manly Freshwater Parish Pastoral

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank Account# 13958002 BSB: 062 784

#### HAS YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRED?

If you donate to the Parish using your credit card please let us know if you have a new card or the card has expired by contacting the Parish Office 9977 5822 or email

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

#### **DIRECT DEBIT FROM BANK ACCOUNT**

Please consider changing your giving from a credit card deduction to a direct debit from your bank account. Please contact the parish office to have this set up automatically for you.

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 MANLY community.



# **Christmas Mass Roster 2024 - Manly**

	6pm Christmas Eve	8pm Christmas Eve	10pm Christmas Eve	8.30am Christmas Day	10.30am Christmas Day
Servers	Matthew French Ivica Covic Kieran Wan Gabriele Wan Teresa Hearn Claude Remond	Matthew French Ivica Covic Teresa Hearn	Matthew French Louise Wareham Richard Heasman Owen Koster	Matthew French Ken Thompson Louise Wareham	Matthew French Ivica Covic Owen Koster Lucas
Readers	Family Mass	Katalina Taefotu Janie Fonua	Sandie Cornish Rita Bruzzese	Patty Thompson Jan Van Den Broek	Bill Tango
Music and AV Screens	Simon Hyland	Tongan Choir	Parish Choir	Gina & Robert	Bianca Zatz
Wardens	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required
Welcomers	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Claire Carmody	Assistance Required

# **Christmas Mass Roster 2024 – Freshwater**

	5pm Christmas Eve	9am Christmas Day			
Servers	Mick O'Farrell Ian Press Amorina Wright	Francis Raymond			
Readers	Josh, Jasmine & Joleena Wright	Toni Walsh & Vincent Bokanovic			
Music AV Screens	Bianca Zatz	Pat Brown and Choir			
Wardens	Assistance Required	Vincent Bokanovic			
Welcomers	Assistance Required	Pam Brown			

## **Our last Young Adults Formation Night.**

It was a smaller number as 5 of us went to a retreat organised by Sydney Archdiocese.



#### **Christmas Carols**

Last Sunday our parishioners visited Uniting Wesley Nursing Home, Manly bringing them some Christmas spirit. It was a joy, and we reflected over the gift that God has become for us. Thank you everyone who have given their time, voice and smile to those who needed them.

There were almost 40 residences, and everyone received a Christmas Card made by our little parishioners. So, thank you children and parents for making all the cards.





The attendance at Matthew's Thank You Mass and Morning Tea last Sunday showed how much he has made an impact on the parish during the time he has been with us. All the best Matthew and look forward to you visiting us!













Manly Freshwater Parish hosted the **Northern Beaches Deanery Christmas Gathering and Lunch** on Wednesday. There were 14 priests from the Deanery who came to share a meal together.





On Wednesday night the parish held Eucharistic Adoration as a preparation for The Year of Hope from 6pm – midnight.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C

#### First Reading

Micah 5:1- 4 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Micah

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (JB)

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

Hebrews 10:5-10 (JB)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

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

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Luke 1:38 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Luke 1:39-44 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured

with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



#### **Gospel Reflection**

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent each year shift the focus from Advent's call to preparation for the Messiah to setting the stage for the birth of Christ. In today's Gospel, Elizabeth proclaims her joy-filled faith in God's promise of salvation that will be accomplished through Mary's child and praises her young cousin for her "yes" to God's plan. Connectionmediaworks

#### ADVENT WREATH PRAYER



Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. This signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, and we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story and in Mary's faithful response.

There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

**Priest**: Blessed are you, loving Father, Lord of heaven and earth: We give you glory and praise. For loving us as your children; And for sending your Son Jesus to save us. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord. *Amen* 

4<sup>th</sup> Candle is lit and antiphon sung

**Priest**: Lord Jesus you are Emmanuel; God with us.
Lord have Mercy.

All: Lord have mercy

**Priest:** Lord Jesus you are son of God and son of Mary. Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus you are the Word made flesh and splendour of the Father.

Lord have mercy. All: Lord have mercy.

May Almighty God have mercy on us and forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting. All: Amen

#### **Opening Prayer**

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

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

## **PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA**

<u>Parish facebook:</u> facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish <u>Parish website</u>: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater





Finding guidance during a difficult time is comforting

# MAURER FAMILY FUNERALS

4 Generations of Family Serving the Community since 1941

Offices at

Balgowlah & Chatswood 9977 2113

www.maurerfunerals.com.au

Accredited Funeral Home
Australian Funeral Directors
Association





Jenny Smith, Funeral Director

340 Sydney Rd Balgowlah 9907 9765

Offering Australia's leading prepaid funeral plan. All area Australian owned.

www.simplicityfunerals.com.au



Local Australian family owned and operated Available 24/7

Personally talk to Ann Wilson and her team

Suite 3, 1440 Pittwater Road North Narrabeen, Sydney wilsonfamilyfunerals.net.au



'Providing outstanding service to our community for over 65 years'

# Residential, commercial & industrial installations and repairs

- Lights & Power
- Stoves & Hot water
- Telephone & Internet

FREE QUOTATIONS PLEASE CALL BEN 9948 3799 0418 419 718



St John the Baptist Primary Catholic School K – 6 7 Johnson St.

Freshwater 9939 6699



St Mary's Primary Catholic School K - 6

Denison Street, Manly 7256 2135



A Catholic Girls' College of Good Samaritan Education from Years 7-12

Strong minds. Open hearts.

Stella is leading the way in girls' education!
With a record of sustained academic success and an environment that prioritises wellbeing, our students thrive.

Eurobin Ave, Manly NSW www.stellamaris.nsw.edu.au



02 7256 2112 124 Darley Rd, Manly www.stpaulsdbb.catholic.edu.au



Parish Priest: Fr Chima Ofor

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Marek Woldan marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au

Seminarian: Matthew French

Parish Secretary: Jenny Beninati manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Mary Immaculate Church (Parish Office)

6 Raglan St, Manly 2095 Phone: 9977 5822

After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

Parish Office: Mon to Thurs 8:30am – 4:30pm manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

St John the Baptist Church

cnr Johnson & Oliver St, Freshwater 2096

#### Parish Pastoral Council:

Michael McGrath (Chair); Ivica Covic (Deputy Chair); John Zemek (Deputy Chair); Val Buono; Patricia Carroll; Robert Marshall; Peter Nacard; Ian Press Weekend Masses:

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses: Manly & Freshwater

Tuesday - Friday 9:15am

**Baptisms**: please contact the parish office **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 7256 2112 Head of College: Mark Robinson

**Stella Maris College** 9977 5144 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie