



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Second Sunday of Advent – 8th December 2024



Mary Immaculate Feast Day 8th December

You are welcome to join us at our Parish Feast Day & Thank You Celebration this Sunday at Manly, starting with 10:30am Mass followed by lunch under the Big Tree in the School yard.



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
- Cans of soft drink – coke, lemonade, fanta, sugar free drinks
- Fresh Fruit
- Bon Bons
- Cash donations will be used to purchase the Hams, Turkey, Salads, Bread Rolls, Desserts and anything we are short of

Please leave all donations in the Parish Office Monday to Thursday.

We thank you your generosity which enables the Parish to offer some Christmas joy for all who come along.

Set up Monday 23rd December from 10am



Advent Confession will be held on **Thursday 19th December at 6:30pm in Manly.** A special opportunity to

prepare for Christmas is Reconciliation. We come together as a Faith Community to reflect on our shared weakness and sinfulness and to seek forgiveness.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday
18th December
6pm – Midnight



The program is published in this weekends bulletin.

Parish Feast Day and Exciting News for Our Community

This Sunday, we joyfully celebrate our Parish Feast Day at the 10:30am Mass, followed by lunch under the big tree in the school yard. This year marks 148 years since the creation of our parish, and we have so much to be thankful for. We take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers who serve so generously in the many ministries of our parish—you are the lifeblood of our community, and your dedication allows our parish to thrive.

This celebration is also the beginning of an exciting time as we prepare for the 150th anniversary of our parish in 2026. The journey to this milestone begins now, and we look forward to working together to mark this historic occasion in a meaningful way.

The 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope offers us a special opportunity for prayer, blessings, and grace as we approach our sesquicentenary. It is a time of renewal and inspiration for our entire Diocese of Broken Bay. We are honoured that Bishop Anthony has nominated Manly Freshwater Parish as one of three pilgrimage shrines in the diocese, alongside Chatswood and Gosford. Manly Freshwater has been selected as a "Shrine of Hope for Priests and Vocations."

As part of this honour, we will be receiving a first-class relic of St. John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of priests. This is a tremendous blessing for our parish, and we look forward to welcoming pilgrims and embracing this sacred responsibility.

In the coming weeks and months, we will provide updates on how we as a parish can actively participate in the Jubilee celebrations, both here in Manly Freshwater and across the diocese.

Let us come together this Sunday to celebrate our parish's rich history and pray for the grace and hope to continue our journey of faith into the future.

Fr Chima

**THANK YOU MORNING TEA FOR
SEMINARIAN MATTHEW**
Sunday 15th December following the
10:30am Mass.

Come along and join us in thanking and farewelling our Seminarian Matthew French as he will be finishing his Parish placement on 25th December 2024.



LET US PRAY FOR

8th December 2024

Recently Deceased: Alejo Arancibia; Raffaele Maiolo; Antonio Coniglio; Donal Mac Manus

Anniversary: Rody Sia; Norma Sia Chua; Sam Sia

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...

• Thank You Morning Tea for Matthew

Sun 15 Dec following 10:30am Mass

• SJB Class Mass Fri 13 Dec 9:15am

• RCIA Tues 10 Dec 7pm

• Spanish Prayer Group Friday 13 Dec at 6pm

• Cenacle of Our Lady

Manly: Tues 9:45am; Freshwater: Wed 9:45am

• Children’s Liturgy in Manly

2nd & 4th Sunday at 10:30am Mass



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



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm – 7.30pm

Adoration

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.

THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT THE MASS

Holy Intercessions: Uniting Earth, Purgatory and Heaven

Have you ever noticed all the plaques?

The plaques. Around our church. I’m sure you’ve seen ‘em.

On the sanctuary, the organ, the chapel, adorning the walls. They’re everywhere. Seriously, take a look. If you go up close, you’ll see they each remember a *special* person who has served or given generously to our church over the years. How good.



Still, why the plaques, you might ask...

...Well, there are several reasons, but traditionally plaques help us to *remember* the person – to remember to pray for them; yes, for their generosity, but importantly, for their soul.

It’s the same reason we pray for our past loved ones during the Eucharistic Prayer – we want to bring them as quickly as possible into Heaven. So then, turning to the Mass, this week, let’s ask the question: *along with the dead, who else do we pray for during the Eucharistic Prayer – Intercessions?*

† † †

Firstly, the Church on Earth – From the beginning, the Church has always prayed for her members living. In the Patristic era, deacons would read out names in Mass from the *diptychs*; two wooden boards hinged together and wax covered so that names could be etched (and erased) with a stylus. Given their importance, the names of the Pope and the local bishop were always included on one of the *diptychs*, and even today it is a serious obligation to pray for them during the Eucharistic Prayer. So too today we pray for *all* of us, the living faithful, to be *one* as the Body of Christ.

Secondly, the Church in Purgatory – Having finished praying for members living, the deacons then turned to the second *diptych*, to read out the names of the dead. A prayer from the ancient Mass gives us a taste: “*We pray You, too, for all the dead who have fallen asleep, whom we call to mind [recalling the names]: sanctify these souls, for You know them all... Number them with Your holy Powers, give them a place and a dwelling in Your Kingdom.*” What a prayer! And how good is it for us today to pray for the dead, most especially our loved ones who may be in Purgatory – that their purification may be hastened and be brought to Heaven with God forever.

Thirdly, the Church in Heaven – Lastly we pray with Mother Mary, the Apostles, Martyrs and Saints – obviously not *for* them, because they are already in Heaven; but instead *with* them, seeking their help. Calling upon the saints is one of the most efficacious ways by which our prayers are answered. As the Catechism states, “They were ‘put in charge of many things’. Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and the whole world.” Never forget to call upon the saints!

† † †

So then, what shall we do this Mass?

Well, **before Mass, just think of one person** for each of the states of Church above; namely: 1) a living bishop or priest or consecrated or lay person; 2) a deceased loved one; and 3) a saint whose intercession you seek.

Then, at the Eucharistic Prayer, **offer the Mass up with and for them**. Truly it’s the most powerful way to help our brothers and sisters grow closer to Christ and get to Heaven. And in terms of its power to answer our prayers: *nothing compares to the Mass.*

– God bless you. Seminarian Matthew.



Christmas Blessing Letterbox Drop ...help required!!!

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.



Vinnies Christmas Appeal

We begin our Christmas appeal this weekend.

If you would like to help a family with a hamper, please take a card from our giving tree which will have all the details on it.

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

On behalf of the families, we would like to say a huge THANK YOU for your support of Vinnies. Through your generosity we all make a difference to the lives of many.

God Bless Bruce and Mick



ADVENT PROGRAM BOOKLET "A Journey of Hope"

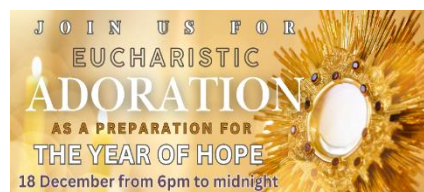
As we journey towards the 2025 Holy Year, may this Advent resource inspire hope-filled hearts as we joyfully prepare to celebrate the birth of the Lord.

Please collect your free copy from the entrances to the Church.

The 2nd and 4th Sunday Gospel Reflections have been written by Fr Marek.

Below are the sessions held in the parish starting next week

- Mondays 7pm Parish Meeting Room
- Wednesdays 10am Parish Centre
- Thursdays 7pm Parish Centre



**Eucharistic
Adoration
Program**
**Wednesday
18th December
6pm - midnight**

- 6.00 - 7.00 pm: Usual Adoration
- 7.00 - 7.30 pm: Rosary with Lectio Divina Group
- 7.30 - 8.00 pm: Divine Mercy
- 8.00 - 8.30 pm: Silent Adoration
- 8.30 - 9.15 pm: Rosary to the Holy Spirit with Larissa
- 9.15 - 9.45 pm: Chaplet of the Holy Wounds with Larissa
- 9.45 - 10.15 pm: Silent Adoration
- 10.15 - 10.45 pm: Praise and Worship in Spanish with Spanish Prayer Group
- 10.45 - 11.00 pm: Silent Adoration
- 11.00 - 11.45 pm: Vocations and Young Adults with Matthew French
- 11.45 - 12.00 pm: Benediction
- Confession will be available at every full hour.
- Tea and coffee available from 6pm to 11.30pm



**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.**

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





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.

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

Movie of the month Saint Bridget of Sweden

A documentary on an incredible 14th century Saint. Wife, mother and mystic who received divine revelations on the afterlife. Only \$10 at the piety store.

CD of the month Purgatory – from the other side – Karlo Broussard

For thousands of years Saints and Holy souls have revealed a cleansing process before entering heaven and also the importance of prayers for the dead.. This is also supported by Biblical texts. Only \$5 at the piety store.



CHRISTMAS MINISTRY 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

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Break Open the Word for the 2025 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 off on the list. If you are interested in becoming a Reader, please contact the parish office.



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 age-appropriate materials. The adult catechists incorporate prayer, song, group discussion, 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.



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Faith Candle

Reflection: Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst.

Priest: Faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love. Our Faith in Jesus, the Word made flesh, who became one of us, as part of our history, and a companion on our earthly journey; transforms us, and joyfully lights up our way to the future.

Faith is nourished by relationship based in God's love and sustained by prayer and, by being in relationship with him, how we respond freely, with generosity, with all our hearts to care for those around us.

Pope Francis Angelus 10 Oct 2021.

Light 2 candles + Hymn Refrain

Penitential Rite

Priest: The kingdom of God has already begun among us. We ask God's pardon for the times our actions have not reflected that.

Lord, you are the way that leads to the Father. Lord, have mercy. **All:** Lord have mercy.

Christ, you are the truth that brings joy to the world, Christ, have mercy. **All:** Christ have mercy.

Lord, you are the life that renews the world. Lord, have mercy. **All:** Lord have mercy.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

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

Opening Prayer/ Collect

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen



CHRISTMAS CARDS – would you

like to prepare with your child or grandchild a Christmas Card which will be given to those in our local Nursing Homes.

Please drop into the parish by Wednesday 11th December.



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](https://www.instagram.com/manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth)

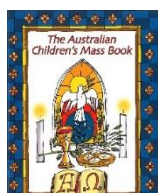


Places of Pilgrimages Jubilee of Hope 2025

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

FRESHWATER BEACH CAROLS

this Sunday 8th December from 5:30pm

Come along and join in the fun at the Freshwater Carols, Freshwater Reserve on Sunday 8th Dec.

If you are able to assist in serving sausage sandwiches from 5.30pm to 7.00pm please speak to Francis Raymond or contact the parish office.

The Carols will commence at 7pm.

**JOIN OUR
NORTHERN BEACHES**

YOUNG ADULTS

COMMUNITY

Every 2nd Saturday at pub/restaurant
Every 4th Saturday at Manly Parish
message: (6 Raglan St)
Fr Marek at 0422532173
or Cam at 0432895304

ALTARATION RESPONSES...

For five Mondays in our parish group of around 40 people gathered to discover the beauty and mystery of Holy Mass. At the end of the course they were asked to write down what do they think about Mass. Here are some thought from them:

Mass for me is:

So beautiful, carefully, & well-thought of by God who love us so deeply & madly. He is truly good & faithful to us that He will never ever abandon us. What great love!

Hazel Jean Soriano

Mass for me is:

an opportunity to connect with God in a physical and spiritual way, through understanding the symbolism and the meaning behind the actions I have developed a deeper appreciation.

Mitchell Harmer



SCHOOL OF NEW EVANGELISATION

**NEW
LIFE**

RETREAT
FOR YOUNG
ADULTS

CONTACT FR MAREK FOR DETAILS

24 - 27 January 2025
SOMERSBY RETREAT CENTRE

Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass
[manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish/videos)

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: [facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish)

Parish website: bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

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.



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**
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. **Direct into Parish Bank Accounts**
 - **Parish Giving (2nd collection)** Funds the running of the 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.



XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

Pope Francis has written a note to accompany the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary

General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, a text that captures the results of the two-year-long Synod of Bishops on Synodality which Pope Francis called for in October 2021 that concluded in October 2024. Read Pope Francis's note [HERE](#) or the link below.

[Note of the Holy Father Francis to accompany the Final Document of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops](#)

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



Second Sunday of Advent– Year C

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem - God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125 (JB)

**R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. R.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. R.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. R.

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. R.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 (JB)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Show yourself sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4, 6 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6 (JB)

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

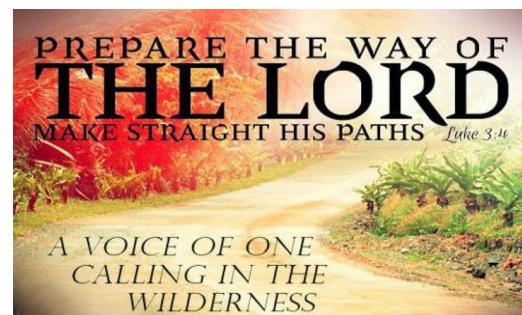
All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Gospel Reflection


So important is the emergence of John the Baptiser in human history that Luke dates his appearance in six different ways. In his Gospel, Luke introduces John as prophets were introduced in the First Testament ("the word of God was spoken to John son of Zechariah in the desert"). As does Matthew and Mark, Luke cites the famous passage from Isaiah regarding "a herald's voice in the desert" to describe the Baptizer's mission – but Luke quotes more of the Isaiah prophecy than his synoptic counterparts, including the promise of universal salvation that is so central to Luke's Gospel.

Forms of "baptism" were common in the Judaism of Gospel times: in some Jewish communities, it was through baptism rather than circumcision that a Gentile became a Jew. But John's baptism was distinctive. His baptism at the Jordan was a rite of repentance and *metanoia* – a conversion of heart and spirit. The Baptizer's ministry fulfilled the promise of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36: 25-26): that, at the dawn of a new age, the God of Israel would purify his people from their sins with clean water and instil in them a new heart and spirit.

In his book **Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Community**, theologian Ronald Rolheiser writes about the two baptisms John speaks of in today's Gospel: "John's baptism is only a preparation for Jesus' baptism. What's John's baptism? It is a baptism of repentance, a realization of what we are doing wrong and a clear resolution to correct our bad behavior. What is Jesus' baptism? It is an entry into grace and community in such a way that empowers us internally to do what is impossible for us to do by our willpower alone." *Connectionmediaworks*

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.



Address: 15 South Steyne, Manly
Phone Number: (02) 7209 2920
Fax Number: (02) 7209 2921
Website: southsteynemedical.com
Email: SSAdmin@southsteynemedical.com


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manlyfreshwaterparish@bbccatholic.org.au

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

Seminarian: Matthew French

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

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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