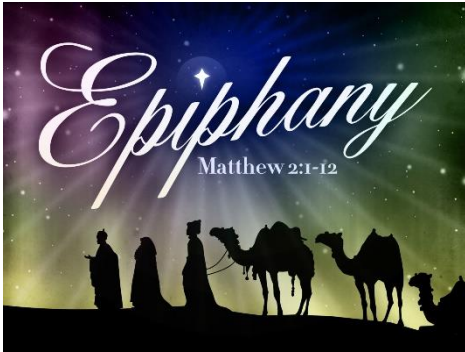




MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Epiphany of the Lord – 7th January 2024



Gospel Reflection

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).

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THE PARISH OFFICE

will reopen on Monday
8th January 2024.

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*



Pope Francis Prayer Intention for January – For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic 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 MANLY community.

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

LET US PRAY FOR

7th January 2024

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary:

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; 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; Rena Curll

Dates to remember...

- **Cenacle of Our Lady** SMM Tues 9:45am, SJB Wed 9:45am
- **Eucharistic Adoration in Manly** Wed 6pm – 7:30pm

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.



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



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.

The three wise men had to search for Jesus. Where are some of the places we can find Jesus in our world today?

PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS

- Bible Study via Zoom: 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 7pm
- Cenacle of Our Lady: Tues 9:45am Manly Church
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Weds 6:00pm – 7:30pm Manly
- Lectio Divina: Tues 7.30pm & Weds 10am Parish Centre
- Piety Store: open on weekends or call the Parish Office
- Prayer Group in Spanish – contact Parish Office 9977 5822
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary via Zoom: 1st Thurs 6pm, every other Thurs 7pm
- Rosary: Freshwater Tues – Fri 8.45am in Church.

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: Manly & Freshwater Conferences 2nd Mon each month 5:30pm

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES 9:15am

Mass will be held on the following days...

- Manly:** Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Freshwater: Wednesday

Draw yourself offering a gift to Jesus



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 judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. 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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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
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