



# MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

## The Holy Family – 31st December 2023



### Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, the faithful Joseph and Mary bring their son to the temple for his presentation to the Lord, a ritual required by the Law. The Book of Exodus taught that a family's first-born son "belonged" to the Lord who saved them when the first-born sons of the Egyptians were destroyed at the first Passover (Exodus 13: 15).

The prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna are idealized portraits of the faithful "remnant" of Israel awaiting the Messiah's coming. Simeon's canticle praises God for the universal salvation that will be realized in Jesus; in his prophecy, the shadow of the cross falls upon the Holy Family.

Anna, as an elderly widow, is considered among the most vulnerable and poor of society. Her encounter with the child typifies the theme woven throughout Luke's Gospel: the exaltation of society's poorest and most humble by God.

In Matthew and Luke's stories of Jesus birth and childhood (which were later additions to those Gospels, drawn from the many stories about Jesus' life that were part of the early Christian oral tradition that had developed), life for the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus is difficult and cruel: they are forced from their home; they are innocent victims of the political and social tensions of their time; they endure the suspicions of their own people when Mary's pregnancy is discovered; their child is born under the most difficult and terrifying of circumstances; they experience the agony of losing their beloved child. And yet, through it all, their love and faithfulness to one another do not waver. The Holy Family is a model for our families as we confront the many tensions and crises that threaten the stability, peace and unity that are the joys of being a family.

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### THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

from Friday 22nd December and  
reopen Monday 8th January 2024.

May you all have a  
Happy and Holy Christmas!

### Farewell message from Fr John...

Hello all,

I am happy to have met you! I have been here in Manly Freshwater Parish for three years. This church and its parishioners have meant so much to me. You made it easy for me to feel at home. Thank you for your belief in me, support and your friendship. The successes we've enjoyed together have been the result of our mutual co-operation and collaboration.

However, I am going to miss you all. You've been part of my journey for a long time. I've already packed memories of fun, collaboration, consultation, and friendship into my heart to take with me. This is not goodbye, but as we find in Jeremiah text, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29 :11). I will never be far away. Memories will be cherished by me always.

I wish to thank Fr David Taylor and all the parish team for their generous hospitality and the continued support. I am looking forward to my new appointment at Holy Name Parish, Wahroonga.

Thank you for listening to me; loving me, for smiling at me, please remember me in your prayers as I will remember you.

Wishing you an abundance of grace during this Christmas season and Happy New Year.

*God Bless Fr John Puliparambil*

### Christmas Offering



### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

envelopes are available on the pews. This is a special collection to support the

sick and retired priests of our Dioceses of Broken Bay. Thank you for your generous support.

**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*

**LET US PRAY FOR  
Recently Deceased:**

31st December 2023

**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 Curl



**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  
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**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

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

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

*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.*



**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.



**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.

**Ministry Teams**

**JANUARY 2024 MINISTRY ROSTER  
IS AVAILABLE AT THE BACK  
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24/7 Telephone Crisis Support:  
13 11 14

# The Holy Family – Year B

## First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3 (JB)

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Your own son shall be your heir.*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 104:1-6, 8-9 (JB)

**R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.**

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! R.

Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. R.

Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. R.

He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. R.

## Second Reading

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 (JB)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 1:1-2 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Luke 2:22-40 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,

just as you promised;

because my eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared for all the nations to see,

a light to enlighten the pagans

and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

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](mailto:manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr John Puliparambil  
[john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:john.puliparambil@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Jenny Beninati  
[manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au)  
[www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater](http://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

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**Baptisms:** please contact the parish office  
*Manly:* 4th Sunday of the month  
*Freshwater:* 2nd Sunday of the month

**Reconciliation:** *Manly* Sat 10am – 11am

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**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

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