



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

The Nativity of the Lord – 25th December 2023

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Fr David, Fr John and the parish team wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

At last the wait is over and the Christmas festival is about to begin. Schools and Colleges have closed, end of year functions have been held, arrangements are in place for family meals and visits, and around the world Christians are gathering to celebrate the Saviour's birth. It's a time of grace and a time of wonder. We marvel at the Word of God assuming our human flesh, as Jesus Christ, so we could be led into the glory of the Blessed Trinity.

It's been a challenging year, but a good year as our parish community has come together after the disruptions of Covid. We thank you all for your generous cooperation and participation in the life of our parish.

Great news, we welcome Fr Eliseus Shin who will be helping us with Christmas Masses along with our good friends the Augustinian Fathers from Manly Vale and Brookvale.

Please keep Fr John and myself in your prayers, and please pray for peace in our troubled world.

I wish you every blessing of the Christ Child, Jesus.

God Bless

Fr David Taylor and Fr John Puliparambil



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

There will be one Christmas collection at all Christmas Masses using cash or your card on the tap and go machines.



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REOPEN ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2024

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.



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

St Mary's Manly 24 December

6pm Children's Mass

8pm Tongan Choir

10pm Parish Choir

25 December 8.30am & 10.30am

St John the Baptist Freshwater

24 December 5pm Children's Mass

25 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



COME AND VISIT OUR NATIVITY SCENE



We invite you and your family to come forward before or after Mass to visit our Nativity scene. Please feel free to take one of the small greeting cards as a remembrance.

Below is an extract from the Angelus on the 16th December 2019 where Pope Frances spoke to the Children present about the Astonishment of the Crib.

"Dear children, when you recollect yourselves in prayer at home before the Crib, fixing your gaze on the Child Jesus, you will feel the astonishment . . . You will ask me, what does "astonishment" mean? It's a stronger feeling; it's more than a common emotion. It's to see God: astonishment because of the great mystery of God made man; and the Holy Spirit will put the humility, tenderness and goodness of Jesus in your heart. Jesus is good; Jesus is tender; Jesus is humble. This is true Christmas! Don't forget it. May it be so for you and your families."



SUPPORT OUR PARISH & PRIESTS FINANCIALLY by using one of the following...

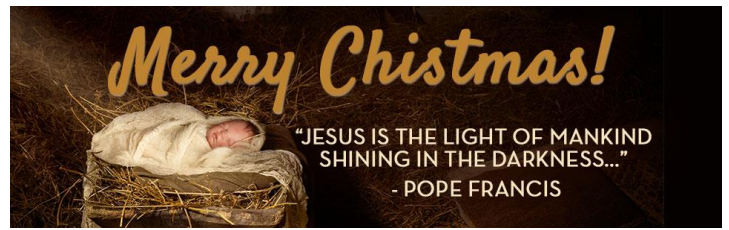
- 1. Planned Giving:** through a monthly direct debit or credit card. Please contact the parish office for more information 9977 5822.
- 2. Collection plates during Mass**
- 3. Tap and Go machines** using your credit/debit card or. **EFTPOS Terminals.**
- 4. Scan to Donate** using the QR code to access 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



24/7 Telephone Crisis Support: 13 11 14

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)



A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION FROM IVICA...



One of my favourite things about being an Altar Server is that you get to be the closest to the Altar and assist the Priest in the Celebration of the Eucharist. In doing so, you get to hear the Priest say some prayers as a whisper or in a low voice that the

rest of the congregation may not hear. One of these occasions is when the wine and water is poured into the chalice, and the Priest prays these words: *"By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."* This mingling of the water with the wine is symbolic of the exact thing we celebrate at Christmas - the coming together of divinity and humanity through the Birth of Jesus Christ.

And so when we look at our Nativity Scene, in that child lying in the manger, we see God who, because of his birth, has united himself to every human being. How? For at the moment of our Baptism and at every moment we go to receive the Body of Christ at the Eucharist, we truly do share in the divinity of Christ who has humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Wishing all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas, and many heavenly blessings for the New Year 2024. ~Ivica Covic



A BIG thank you to those who supported the Christmas Day Lunch with gifts, money and food donations and all the volunteers who assisted on the day. A special thank you to Dee Why RSL and Manly Leagues Club who again this year generously supported the Parish Luncheon.

The Nativity of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
A son is given to us.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1-3. 11-13

**R. Today is born our Saviour,
Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth. R.
4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed to all people.

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be

his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Today a Saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'God to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'. Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Entrance:

O, Come All Ye Faithful

O, come, all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant!
 O, come ye, oh, come ye to
 Bethlehem;
 Come and behold him
 Born the king of angels:
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord!
 Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
 above!
 Glory to God, in the highest:
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord.
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 Born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given!
 Word of the Father,
 Now in flesh appearing!
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 O, come, let us adore him,
 Christ the Lord

Offertory: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
 no crib for a bed
 The Little Lord Jesus lay down his
 sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky look
 down where he lay, the Little Lord
 Jesus asleep on the hay
 The cattle are lowing, the baby
 awakes, the Little Lord Jesus, no
 crying he makes.
 I love thee Lord Jesus, look down
 from the sky, and stay by my side
 'til morning is night.
 Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee
 to stay, close by me forever and
 love me I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in thy
 tender care, and take us to heaven
 to live with thee there.

Communion: O Holy Night

O Holy night!
 The stars are brightly shining
 It is the night of our dear Savior's
 birth
 Long lay the world in sin and error
 pining
 'Til He appeared and the soul felt
 its worth
 A thrill of hope the weary world
 rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and
 glorious morn
 Fall on your knees;
 O hear the Angel voices!
 O night divine,
 O night when Christ was born
 O night divine, O Holy night,
 O night divine!
 Led by the light of Faith serenely
 beaming
 With glowing hearts by His cradle
 we stand
 So led by light of a star sweetly
 gleaming
 Here came the Wise Men from
 Orient land
 The King of kings lay thus in lowly
 manger
 In all our trials born to be our friend
 He knows our need, he guards us
 all from danger
 Behold your King;
 before Him lowly bend
 Behold your King;
 before Him lowly bend

Communion: The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in
 fields as they lay
 In fields where they lay keeping
 their sheep
 On a cold winter's night that was so
 deep.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!
 They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the East beyond them
 far
 And to the earth it gave great light
 And so it continued both day and
 night.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!
 And by the light of that same star
 Three Wise men came from
 country far
 To seek for a King was their intent
 And to follow the star wherever it
 went.
 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
 Born is the King of Israel!

Thanksgiving: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
 All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and
 Child
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace!
 Sleep in heavenly peace!
 Silent night, holy night
 Shepherds quake at the sight
 Glories stream from Heaven afar
 Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
 Christ the Saviour is born!
 Christ the Saviour is born!
 Silent night, holy night
 Son of God, Love's pure light
 Radiant beams from Thy Holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 Jesus Lord at Thy birth
 Jesus Lord at Thy birth
 Silent night, holy night
 Wondrous star, lend your light
 With the angels let us sing
 Alleluia to our King,
 Christ our Saviour is born.

Recessional:

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild
 God and sinners reconciled"
 Joyful, all ye nations rise
 Join the triumph of the skies
 With the angelic host proclaim:
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Christ by highest heav'n adored
 Christ the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold Him come
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
 Hail the incarnate Deity
 Pleased as man with man to dwell
 Jesus, our Emmanuel
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of
 Peace!
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings
 Ris'n with healing in His wings
 Mild He lays His glory by
 Born that man no more may die
 Born to raise the sons of earth
 Born to give them second birth
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 "Glory to the newborn King!"