

MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

Third Sunday of Advent – 15th December 2024

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.



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday 18th December 6pm – Midnight

The program is published in this weekends bulletin.



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.



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 lunch we will be including some of the following:

- Boxes of chocolates
- Cans of soft drink coke, lemonade, fanta, sugar free drinks
- Fresh Fruit
- Children's Toys (presents)
- Toiletries deodorants, toothbrushes, tooth paste etc
- 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

Celebrating Our Community Spirit

Thank you, everyone, for a beautiful Parish Feast celebration last Sunday. It was a joyous occasion filled with warmth and fellowship.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible volunteers who dedicated countless weeks to planning and executing a truly memorable day. Their tireless efforts transformed our gathering into a beautiful moment of community spirit, ensuring that everyone felt welcomed and cherished.

As I mentioned last week, our seminarian Matthew will conclude his pastoral internship on Christmas Day. Many of you have shared how deeply he has impacted your lives, especially through his work with our youth and students across all the schools in the greater parish precinct. Thank you, Matthew, for sharing your gifts and passion with us.

As we reflect on the theme of Gaudete Sunday, let us embrace the joy and hope that this special time brings. This Third Sunday of Advent invites us to pause and give thanks for the blessings we have received. It also calls us to turn our hearts with anticipation towards the approaching celebration of Christ's birth. May we continue to support and uplift one another, rejoicing in the blessings of our faith and community.

Fr. Chima



LET US PRAY FOR

15th December 2024

Recently Deceased: Mike Power

Anniversary: Rachael Lo Grasso; Luke Bell; Margaret Burridge; Amelia Barbosa Guimaraes;

Alaerte Vaz

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
- SMM End of Year Mass Wed 18 Dec 9:15am
- SJB End of Year Mass Wed 18 Dec 9:15am
- Adoration Wed 18 Dec 6pm midnight
- Advent Reconciliation Thur 19th Dec 6:30pm
- St Paul's Staff Mass Fri 20 Dec 9:15am
- Cenacle of Our Lady

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



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.

THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE MASS

Singing from the Steps: The Responsorial Psalm

Imagine you're the Pope.

It's the year 595, and you have a problem.

Your deacons are doing excellent work, but unfortunately they have been dedicating far too much time perfecting their singing voice for Mass, rather than preaching and caring for the poor. As Pope, what do you do:



- a) Set time limits for deacon's singing practice;
- b) Teach deacons about their primary duties; or
- c) Ban all deacons from singing in Mass.

Well, Pope Gregory the Great chose C... Ouch!

To be fair, he did let the deacons sing the Gospel; it was the Responsorial Psalm (or *Graduale*) that really took a hit.

...Speaking of which – this week let's look at the Responsorial Psalm – you know, the verses we sing between the first and second reading. Our question:

Why do we Catholics sing the Responsorial Psalm?

+ + +

Jewish Roots – In ancient Israel, singing the Psalms was worship reserved only for the Temple in Jerusalem. It was special. Over time however, psalm singing spread out to the local synagogues, and soon came to be practiced by Jews at work and at home, during festivals, on pilgrimages, upon births, marriages, and at other major life events. Indeed, because Jesus Himself frequently went to Jewish prayer gatherings, He too would have sung and learnt the Psalms. No wonder he referenced them up to 50 times in the Gospels!

Early Christians – Emerging from this tradition, the early Christian liturgy too cherished the Psalms for worship, as testified by St Hippolytus and Tertullian in the third century. Very early on, trained cantors would chant the Psalms (or Gradual) while standing on the *gradus* (steps) of the sanctuary, slightly lower than the ambo from which the Gospel was proclaimed. This way, the early Christians could visualise how God gradually revealed Himself to humanity, starting with the Old Testament and culminating in Jesus Christ – the high point – in the Gospels. To this day, Catholics consider the Psalms indispensable to our sacred worship.

+ + +

So then, what can we do this week:

Well, firstly, sing or recite the Psalms to your best ability – St Augustine says, "he who sings well, prays twice". True indeed, and even the liturgical rubrics state that the Responsorial Psalm ought to be sung, and if not possible, at least recited in a way that allows meditation on the Word.

And secondly, meditate on the verses – St Ambrose puts it: "What is more pleasing than a psalm? ...It is a blessing on the lips of the people, a hymn in praise of God, the assembly's homage, a general acclamation, a word that speaks for all, the voice of the Church... the joy of freedom, a cry of happiness, the echo of gladness. It soothes the temper, distracts from care, lightens the burden of sorrow. It is a source of security at night, a lesson in wisdom by day." Yes, the Psalms are powerful – and possess an amazing ability to speak into whatever situation or struggle we are facing. So then, let us meditate on each verse of the Psalm.

...After all, to recite the Psalms is to pray the same words as Our Lord Jesus. - **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

God Bless Bruce and Mick



lives of many.

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

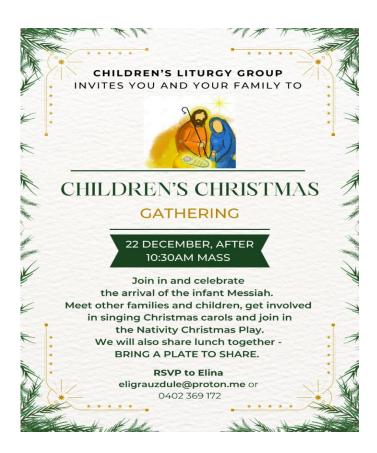
St John the Baptist Freshwater

Tuesday 24th December

• 5pm Children's Mass

Wednesday 25th December

9am Parish Choir





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.



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.



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.



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.

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

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

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



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 email! Email: an manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Instagram: manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth







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.

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.

Advent Wreath Lighting



Today's liturgy asks us to "Rejoice in the Lord always;". Indeed, the Lord is near. On the Advent Wreath we light our pink candle to mark this day of joy. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The third candle on the wreath is lit and antiphon sung

Penitential Rite

Priest: You came as our redeemer.

Lord have mercy. All: Lord have mercy

Priest: You are the light of the world.

Christ have mercy. All: Christ have mercy

Priest: You are the way that leads us to the

Father. Lord have mercy. All: Lord have mercy

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen

Collect/Opening Prayer

Let us pray O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

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

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

MARY IMMACULATE FEAST DAY MASS AND LUNCH





Last Sunday the parish came together to celebrate our Mary Immaculate Feast Day with Mass followed by lunch.

We wish to pass on our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the volunteers who have assisted in all our different ministries in the parish. Special thanks to all the volunteers who set up, served and cleaned up after our very successful parish function last Sunday.







ALTARATION RESPONSES...

... the highest form of praise we can offer God, who has called us to the "wedding supper of the lamb", and highlights the closeness God wants to have to each who receive.

Ivica Covic

... Most Holy Sacrifice of God the Son on the altar uniting our gifts, the bread transformed and consecrated for the Father.

We His People are one in Christ united to give glory to God the Father in Our Father for the witness and love for all, the whole world.

Bernadette





Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel is unique to Luke's Gospel: a summary of the themes of John's preaching.

The Baptiser is approached by two groups whose professions were scorned by the Pharisees: tax collectors, who usually made handsome profits by gouging their fellow Jews, and Jewish soldiers who belonged to the Roman peacekeeping force. John requires of them not a change of professions but a change of heart and attitude, that they perform their duties with honesty and integrity. John calls for selfless concern for one's disadvantaged brothers and sisters.

John assures his Jewish listeners that he is not the Messiah; in fact, John considers himself lower than the lowest slaves (only a non-Jewish slave could be required to loosen his master's sandal strap and John does not presume to do even that).

In proclaiming the Messiah's "baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire," John employs the image of a "winnowing-fan." A winnowing-fan was a flat, wooden, shovel-like tool, used to toss grain into the air. The heavier grain fell to the ground and the chaff blew away. In the same way, John says, the Messiah will come to gather the "remnant" of Israel and destroy the Godless.

Connectionmediaworks

Third Sunday of Advent- Year C

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Isaiah 12:2-6 (JB)*

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. R.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. R.

Second Reading *Philippians 4:4-7 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greaterthan we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel Acclamation *Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Luke 3:10-18 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.







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St Mary's Primary Catholic School K - 6

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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