

## MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

## Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist Churches

## Third Sunday of Advent - 17th December 2023

## **Gospel Reflection**

God has revealed himself to his people through the incarnation of his Word, Jesus the Christ. In today's Gospel, John the Baptizer points to this revelation as standing "among you whom you do not recognize."

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 clear water and instill in them a new heart and spirit.

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This year we will be hosting our annual Christmas Day Lunch for those in our parish and community who will be spending Christmas Day alone.

We will be serving an option of a sit down or take away picnic lunches to around 160 people.

To help make this a joyful and festive occasion we ask if you would like to donate goods for the Picnic Packs which will include...

- Box of chocolates these will be given as gifts to our guests.
- Cans of soft drink coke, lemonade, fanta.
- **Fresh Fruit** watermelon, grapes, cherries, peaches.
- **Toiletries** deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap
- Cash donations will be used to purchase the hams, turkey, salads, bread rolls, desserts and anything we are short of.

Please drop the chocolates and drinks into the Parish Office.

If you would like to assist with the Set up on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 9am – 11am please email the Parish Office manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

#### ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." Pope Francis

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. The third candle of Advent is also called the "Shepherd's Candle" and its colour is pink, the liturgical colour for joy. On this third Sunday of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday", meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem.

2 Purple and 1 Pink Candle are lit

Priest: Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the

Father: Lord, have mercy. *ALL: Lord, have mercy.* 

Priest: Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of

the truth: Christ, have mercy. *ALL: Christ, have mercy.* 

Priest: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading

us into everlasting life: 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.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES...

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

# **St Mary's Manly Sunday 24th December**

- 6pm Children's Mass
  - 8pm Tongan Choir
  - 10pm Parish Choir

## **Monday 25th December**

• 8.30am & 10.30am

## St John the Baptist Freshwater Sunday 24th December

• 5pm Children's Mass

## **Monday 25th December**

9am Parish Choir

LET US PRAY FOR 17th December 2023
Recently Deceased: Margaret Burridge;

Ligia Aveledo

## 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
- Lectio Divina Tues 7:30pm and Wed 10am
- Eucharistic Adoration in Manly Wed 6pm - 7:30pm



# 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.



**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

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES 9:15am Mass will be held on the following days...

Manly: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Freshwater: Wednesday

**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* 



## Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Our appeal continues this weekend.

With your support we will give families a better and happier Christmas.

If you would like to help please take a card from the giving tree and make up a hamper for a family.



There are also envelopes on the pews for you to use or the QR code in the bulletin if you would like to donate.

We would like to thank you for your generosity in the past, you

have made a huge difference in the lives of the people we assist on your behalf.

Our families are amazed that a stranger is prepared to help them have a better Christmas, they appreciate it very much.

God Bless... Bruce and Mick

## **PIETY STORE**

**Movie of the month** – *Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas).* Based on a true story. On Christmas Eve, 1914. On a World War battlefield, a momentous event changed the lives of soldiers from France, Germany and England. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

**CD of the month** – *Advent* – *rethinking the season* – *Dr Tim Gray.* Advent is a season not about itself, but about preparing for Christmas. Learn a deeper appreciation of this "pre-season" and get the most out of this Christmas. Only \$5 @ the piety store.



## PASTORAL WORKS APPEAL

Our Parish Quota for 2023/2024 is \$47,164. Donation envelopes will

be available in the pews. All donations over \$2 are 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your donation.



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.

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

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 MANLYcommunity.



## **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.



## **SUPPORT OUR PARISH & PRIESTS** FINANCIALLY by using one of the PARISH 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**



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



## FRESHWATER SUNDAY **MORNING TEAS**

Our last morning tea for the year will be this Sunday, returning after Australia Day on Sunday 28th January 2024.

Special mention of thanks to Francis and his merry helpers who provide the hospitality every weekend.



## **READERS MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Fr David will be offering a program for new and current Mass readers. Please contact the parish office if you are interested, date will be announced soon 9977 5822

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



If you, or someone you know needs support, Lifeline Northern Beaches, Northern Beaches,

provide the following support services:

24/7 Telephone Crisis Support: 13 11 14

Face2face counselling: 9949 5522 Financial Counselling: 9949 5522

Support Groups: 9949 5522



#### PARISH CRAFT STALL

A big thank you to everyone who visited the parish craft stall last Sunday. As a result with proceeds and some raised previously we were able to donate \$1,000 for the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter and \$2,200 for the Northern Beaches Refugee Sanctuary.

Thank you for helping raise the spirits of those seeking refuge from domestic violence or war and persecution.

## THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED



Friday 22nd December & reopen Monday 8th January 2024. May you all have a Happy and Holy Christmas!

#### 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

# You're invited To

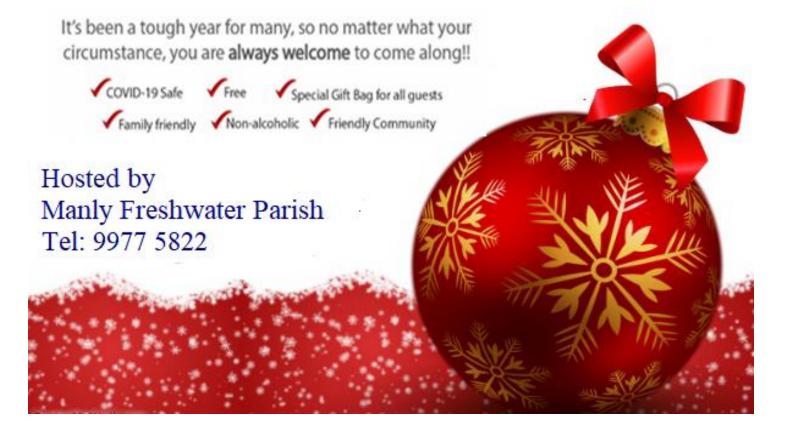
# CHRISTMAS

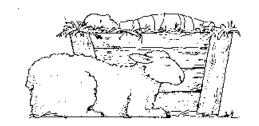
# DAY LUNCH

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.





## **Christmas Mass Roster 2023 – Manly**

	6pm Christmas Eve	8pm Christmas Eve	10pm Christmas Eve	8.30am Christmas Day	10.30am Christmas Day
Servers	Ivica Covic Kieran & Michael Wan Teresa Hearn	Ivica Covic	Louise Wareham Richard Heasman	Ken Thompson Richard Heasman Ivica Covic	Louise Wareham Kieran & Michael Wan
Readers	ТВС	Rita Bruzzese Janie Fonua	Sandie Cornish	Patty Thompson Jan Van Den Broek	Ron Gravolin Jean Halcrow
Ministers of Holy Communion	Assistance Required	Val Buono Janie Fonua Carol O'Donnell	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required
Music and AV Screens	Simon Hyland	Tongan Choir	Parish Choir	Gina & Robert	Bianca Zatz
Wardens	Dean Gale	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required
Welcomers	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required	Assistance Required

## **Christmas Mass Roster 2023 – Freshwater**

	5pm Christmas Eve	9am Christmas Day	
Servers	Ian Press Joanne Druery Amorina Wright	Lou Maruca	
Readers	Josh & Jasmine Wright	Toni Walsh Vincent Bokanovic	
Ministers of Holy Communion		Toni Walsh	
Music AV Screens	Bianca Zatz	Pat Brown and Choir	
Wardens	Assistance Required	Vincent Bokanovic	
Welcomers	Amanda, Sloane & Lexi Duell	Assistance Required	



## Diocesan Advent Resource

O Come O Come Emmanuel, prepared by our Vicar General, Fr David Ranson, is a beautiful series of Advent Reflections based on the O

Antiphons; the Christmas hymn. These reflections will accompany the participants towards the sacred Mystery of Christmas in wondrous anticipation for the birth of the Lord. The resource is downloadable from this <u>link</u>.

1. O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain
- 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times did give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain
- 4. O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them! From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain
- 5. O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home. Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain
- 6. O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar! Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. Refrain
- 7. O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain

Psalter Hymnal (Gray)

## O Wisdom - 17<sup>th</sup> December

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

## O Lord - 18th December

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

#### O Root of Jesse - 19th December

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

## O Key of David - 20th December

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

## O Dayspring – 21<sup>st</sup> December

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

## O King of the Nations – 22<sup>nd</sup> December

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

#### O With Us is God - 23rd December

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

#### Christmas Eve - 24th December

And so we come to the morning before Christmas. There is a great sense of expectation and anticipation in the air as we attend to all the many things ahead of tomorrow. The Church stops, however, on this morning of Christmas Eve in a moment of silence and wonder before the event that it is about to celebrate. And it does so through this most remarkable hymn of praise it places on the lips of Zechariah the father of John the Baptist. It is the canticle by which the Church welcomes every new day. The day dawns, there is a new beginning. And in Christ something dawns, something begins. Through Zechariah we ponder on the marvel of this. We draw in our breath at the sheer mystery of God's unfolding plan, and the way that it has come to this point. As the sun rises, we wonder at the new beginning that is about to shine forth. Zechariah recognises his son's part in this remarkable drama. And as we are drawn into the sheer poetry of his prayer, we recognised that this is not just a prayer of Zechariah for John the Baptist, his son. It is both our own prayer, and it is a prayer for us. Zechariah affirms deep within his heart that the promise that God has made his people, he will keep. It is the promise of delivery. For the Israelites it was delivery from oppression. But for us the need for delivery is no less real. We stand before the mystery of Christ's coming conscious of all that holds us in its grip - our memories, our mistakes, how anxieties our addictions, of all the things that rob us of our future, all the things that capture us in the past and the present, but which deny us of fresh possibility. Conscious of all that holds us, we stand before this new beginning with both hope and trust - trust that in end the freedom of spirit will indeed be given us. We pray Come Lord Jesus come because we hunger deep within ourselves for freedom, and we hunger for those around us that they too may be unfettered from what binds them so that they too may live in freedom and with possibility. Zechariah is praying both for himself and for his son. But he is also praying for us who will follow in the example of John. We too are those who are to become signs of what God is doing in the midst of the world, agents of reconciliation, prophets of a new way of being, heralds of a different way of living, signs of salvation. In the silence of our hearts this day let us praise God for what he has accomplished in Christ his Son, and for what he is accomplishing in us too who receive the life of his Son with open hearts.

## Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

**First Reading** *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11 (JB)* 

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

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

## Responsorial Psalm Luke 1:46-50, 53-54 R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. R.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. R.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. R.

#### **Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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** John 1:6-8, 19-28 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.





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St Mary's Primary Catholic Schol K – 6

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E: stpauls@dbb.edu.au

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 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 Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie



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