

MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5th October 2025



Waves of Grace: Our 150th Anniversary Mission

Dear Parish Family,

In 2026, our

parish will celebrate a milestone of extraordinary grace: **150** years of faith, community, and witness here at Manly Freshwater. This is more than an anniversary; it is a sacred opportunity to thank God for what He has done among us, and to recommit ourselves so that generations yet to come will inherit a living legacy of faith.

This moment is bigger than any one of us. It is God's work in us, for His glory. I invite you to allow the Holy Spirit to stir your heart, so that together we may rise to this occasion with the same courage and generosity that has always marked our parish story. A moment like this calls us to be bold, to honour our past, and to invest in our future.

Our Mission Goals: Restoring for the Future

These projects will enhance the beauty of our church, honour our history, improve functionality, ensure wise stewardship, and make our parish more welcoming for all:

- New carpet throughout the Church \$125,000
- Repainting and heritage restoration \$135,000
- Upgraded sound and AV system \$120,000
- Roof and weatherproofing repairs \$100,000
- Security and site safety upgrades \$25,000
- Restoration of the Tabernacle (purchased in 1886) – \$15,000
- Restoration of other sacred vessels \$20,000

The "150 for 150" Campaign

We are inviting **150** families to pledge **\$1,000** each in honour of our 150 years. In gratitude, your family name will be inscribed on a **150th** Anniversary Plaque in the church foyer—a lasting testament to your generosity and faith.

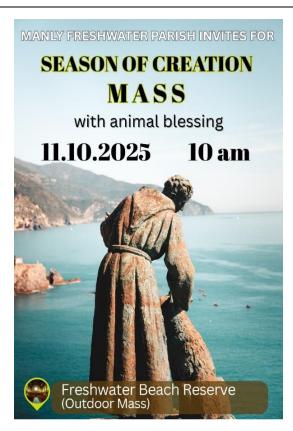
How You Can Join Us

A pledge card is available for you to take home today. This gives you the chance to prayerfully consider your response and make your pledge in a way that is meaningful to you. You may also speak to me directly or contact our parish office if you prefer to make your pledge through that way.

This is more than restoration—it is renewal. It is our chance to build on the faith of our forebears, and to ensure that those who come after us will find here a place of prayer, beauty, and welcome.

Let us embrace this sacred opportunity with joy, faith, and courage.

With gratitude in Christ, Fr. Chima



You are invited to join us for the **Season of Creation Mass** followed by a BBQ on Sat 11 October 10am at Freshwater Beach Reserve.

\$5 donation would be appreciated.



You're welcome to bring your pets and furry companions along for a blessing.

Please register via the QR Code or trybooking link below or call the parish office 9977 5822.

https://www.trybooking.com/DFZFA



SOS - ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

We require about 4 strong individuals to assist in moving the BBQ into position on the day for the Season of Creation

Outdoor Mass. If you are able to assist, please meet Francis Raymond at 9.30am at the Freshwater Beach Reserve where the stage will be set up. We will also need to return the BBQ at the end of the day.

LET US PRAY FOR Recently Deceased:

5th October 2025

Anniversary: Matthew Beninati

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; Don Hews; Joan Jacobs; Paul Donnelly; Julie Wallis; Jake Usher; Wayne Smedley; Apolinar Anasarias; Kay Flenady; Annette Frances O'Leary; Anna Kalayzich; Veronica Rinaldo; Rena Curll; Shirley Ford; Ana Maria Saladana; Peter Hoang Ngoc Thai; John Santos; Garry Kirkman; James Douglas; Fiona Hipkiss; Shirley Stapleton

Dates to remember...

- Our Spiritual Journey Mon 6 Oct at 7:30pm
- Spanish Prayer Group Fri 10 Oct at 6pm
- Spiritual Conversations Group Thursday at 7pm
- · Cenacle of Our Lady

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



Sacrament of

confession/reconciliation is available in Manly every Saturday from 10am to 11am and Wednesday from 6pm to 7pm.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN MANLY ON WEDNESDAYS 6pm - 7.30pm

Quiet Prayer, Adoration and reconciliation will be available 6pm – 7pm concluding with Benediction

"Hours of Mercy" every First Wednesday from 6:00 pm to midnight, we will hold a special time of grace and prayer. The evening will begin with Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration. This extended time of prayer allows us to deepen our relationship with God and receive the gift of Plenary Indulgences.

Welcome to Our Parish! 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



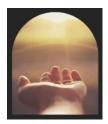
CAN'T GET TO MASS ON SUNDAY AND WANT TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

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 582



Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace, and announces a Rosary in St. Peter's Square on October 11 as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality.

Pope Leo XIV made the announcement at the Wednesday General Audience. "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace—personally, in the family, and in community," he said. The Rosary for Peace will be held during the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, which takes place on October 11-12.



Our Spiritual Journey Week 5 – Praying the Mass

In Week 5 of our *Spiritual Journey* series, we explored the theme of how **the Mass** — the celebration of the Holy Eucharist — is an **essential part of our spiritual lives.** Indeed, the Eucharist is

"the source and summit of the Christian life," and the very centre of our faith and worship (Lumen Gentium, 11; CCC 1324). Therefore, our focus was to reflect on how we can spiritually benefit from this extraordinary sacrament.

Last week, we learned how the Church teaches that the Eucharist comprises two inseparable parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist — together forming one single act of worship (*Compendium*, 277; cf. Jn 6:35, 53). This week, we focused more deeply on the Liturgy of the Eucharist, reflecting on how this part of the Mass nourishes us spiritually and how we can best dispose ourselves to receive its graces efficaciously.

Jesus Christ instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper with His apostles (1 Cor 11:23). He gave this sacrament of His Body and Blood it to the Church as a memorial of His sacrificial offering on the Cross. In every celebration of the Mass, this very sacrifice is made present and actual on the altar through the words of consecration (*Compendium*, 280; Lk 22:19–20). The Eucharist, therefore, contains the whole spiritual good of the Church—Christ Himself — who is present in a "unique and incomparable way," in the fullness of His **Body**, **Blood**, **Soul**, **and Divinity** (Compendium, 274).

When we attend the Eucharistic celebration — the Mass — we are in effect participating in the **liturgy of Heaven**, and are already here on earth having a **foretaste of the celebration of the eternal banquet** to which we are destined. And when we receive the Eucharist in **Holy Communion**, we **share in God's divine life**, which He longs to communicate to us (*Compendium*, 274). The fruits, therefore, of partaking of Holy Communion include: A deeper union with Christ and His Church; A renewal of the life of grace received at Baptism and Confirmation; A growth in virtue and holiness; A strengthening in the virtue of charity — which is love for our neighbour; The forgiveness of venial sins; And the preservation from falling into mortal, or serious sin (*Compendium*, 292)

We also learned that we are all called to actively participate in the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ to the Father by uniting our own sacrifices with His. In practice, this means that during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, we are invited to offer our prayers, praise, works, joys, sufferings, hopes and fears alongside the sacrifice of Christ — thus making them an acceptable offering to the Father. For it is through Jesus that we have been given access to the Father (Compendium, 292).

In union with Christ's sacrifice, our offerings share in His redemptive work — obtaining graces and blessings, making reparation for sin, and bringing forth spiritual and temporal benefits for ourselves and for others, both living and deceased (*Compendium*, 292).

May Our Lady, Mother of Christ, Woman of the Eucharist, and First Tabernacle, teach us to courageously unite our whole lives as a sacrifice to God, in union with the sacrifice of her Son offered on the Cross. Amen.

Alfred Soliman Seminarian



Planning Meeting Tues 14 October 2025 at 6pm in the Parish Centre

A Big Thank You to all who made our Christmas Day Lunch in 2024 such an enjoyable day. More than 180 guests and around 70 volunteers came together to celebrate and share as a community in a meal for the Birth of Jesus.

It's time for us to start planning for our Annual Christmas
Day Lunch and look at ways we can make this a special
day for our guests and volunteers this year.

We will be holding a Planning Meeting on **Tuesday 14**th **October at 6pm in the Parish Center Manly.** If you would like to be involved with the Planning Group, we invite you to come along – we would love to see some new faces and ideas



OLDER CHILDREN BAPTISM PROGRAM

In the coming weeks we will be holding a 'Children's Baptism'

preparation program for children from 6-12 years of age. To be eligible to join the program at least one parent needs to be a baptised Catholic.

Confirmation program 2026 – if you wish you child to be part of this program they will need to be Baptised. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP



If you have any no-Catholic friends or family who might be interested in this, it's a great time to jump on board.

Do you know someone thinking

about becoming Catholic?

A new group is starting up for those who are not baptised, or not fully initiated into the Church, and are **interested in exploring the Catholic faith**. This is *not* a general prayer group or ongoing formation class, but a space specifically for those **discerning entry into the Church**.

The group is informal and begins with conversation, a short reflection from Fr Sam, and time for open questions. It's the first step before the formal RCIA program kicks off in October 2025.

The group meets on **Thursday evenings at 7:00pm** at **St Mary's Parish Centre**.

If you or someone you know is curious about becoming Catholic, feel free to get in touch with

Fr Sam at sam.french@bbcatholic.org.au.



St Vincent de Paul Manly Conference Regional Mass Tuesday 7th October

The conference will be sponsoring a Festival Mass for the eleven SVdP conferences in the

Northern Beaches Region followed by a light supper in the hall. Parishioners are also invited to attend both the Mass and the supper. Fr Sam will be celebrating the Mass which will start at 7pm.

Bruce Whittet

NEW PARISH WEBSITE





manlyfreshwaterparish.org or scan the QR Code





Confraternity of Christian Doctrine CCD

A special invitation to you to become a Catechist teaching Special Religious Education (SRE)

Do you realise you have the qualities to be a Catechist?

A Catechist needs to be a person who:

- Is loving
- · Cares for others
- Is fond of children
- Lives their faith
- Has common sense
- Enjoys a laugh
- Wants to contribute
- Can give 1 hour a week of their time

A Catechist does not need to be:

- Religious experts
- Qualified teachers
- Able to drive

We are looking for more Catechists as we have vacancies for teachers in 2025.

If you are interested in becoming a CCD Teacher please contact the parish office 9977 5822 or manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au



Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Hope

Inspired by the Life and Witness of St. John Vianney

Heavenly Father, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, we thank You for the gift of our parish, Manly Freshwater, chosen as a shrine of hope for priests and vocations. Through the intercession of St. John Vianney, the faithful shepherd of souls, renew in us a deep love for the priesthood and a commitment to fostering holy vocations in our community.

Lord, may this parish be a beacon of hope, where priests find strength and renewal, where Your faithful discover peace and encouragement, and where hearts are inspired to answer Your call with courage and joy.

Teach us, through the example of St. John Vianney, to love prayer deeply, to serve with humility, and to bring Your mercy and hope to those who seek You.

We entrust Manly Freshwater Parish and this Jubilee Year of Hope to Your loving care, confident that You will guide us to renewal and bless us with abundant vocations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jubilee Year 2025 bbjubilee.com.au

"We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to welcoming everyone with open arms—everyone who needs our charity, our presence, dialogue, and love."

Pope Leo XIV 8 May 2025

Jubilee of Consolation 15 September

The Jubilee of Consolation is an invitation for those who are experiencing a time of pain and affliction, due to illness, bereavement, violence or abuse together with their families and friends.

Jubilee of Justice 20 September

The Jubilee Year, a biblical tradition that calls for the forgiveness of debts and the restoration of justice, is a reminder that economic systems should serve people, not exploit them.

Jubilee of Cathechists 28 September

The Jubilee of Catechists is an opportunity to recognise the important role that catechists play in passing on the faith and to express our gratitude for their efforts.



Pope's Prayer Intention for October 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend

and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

<u>Parish facebook:</u> facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

<u>Parish website:</u> manlyfreshwaterparish.org

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 MANLY community.



PIETY STORE OCTOBER THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

SPECIAL - ROSARY PACK

with Rosary beads, a rosary pouch, candle and leaflet on how to pray the Rosary \$15

There is a wonderful selection of rosaries books and gifts. Your Welcome to come in and take a look around.







Movie of the month - Kibeho - Listen, my

children. In the 1980s, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to 3 young visionaries in Kibeho, Rwanda. Our Lady prophesised the Rwandan genocide.

This documentary chronicles the astounding miracles. Only \$10 @ the piety store.

CD of the month Surrender – path to true freedom

Fr Larry Richards. True peace comes when one surrenders oneself to God, the key to finding true peace and true life. Only \$5 at the piety store.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY is held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10:30am Mass.

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 the Mass.

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



PARISH MORNING TEAS & SAUSAGE SIZZLE

MANLY: 1st Sunday after 8:30am Mass, 2nd Sunday after 10:30am Mass with Sausage Sizzle and 3rd Sunday after the 10:30am Mass

hosted by the Tongan Community.

FRESHWATER: every Sunday after the 9am Mass in the parish hall.

Join us for morning tea and a chat.

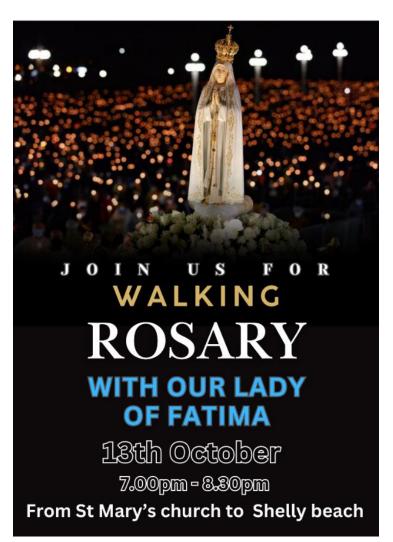
All welcome and bring a friend.



The Craft Group meets each week on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12noon in the Parish Center. We invite you to come along for a cuppa and a chat in a friendly relaxed environment. Bring your knitting or other craft if you wish.



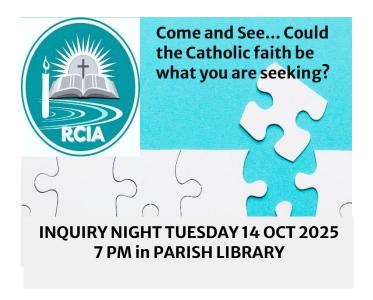
Lectio Divina Read his story in the Gospels. Spend time with him. Lectio Divina groups meet in the Parish Centre on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm and Wednesday mornings at 10:15am





Manly Freshwater Parish Jubilee Pilgrimage





The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a welcoming journey of prayer and learning about the Catholic faith community.

Whether you're new to Christianity, baptised in another tradition, or simply wondering, you are invited to Come and See.

For more details please contact the parish office 9977 5822 manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

PILGRIMS VISITING THE SHRINE THIS WEEK



Two sisters of Our Lady of China working with young adults visited the shrine on Saturday.



Pilgrims from Wyong Parish



Staff from Sacred Heart School Mona Vale visited the Shrine on Friday.



1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month following the 6pm Mass (7pm – 9pm).

We welcome all youth who are in High School (Yr 7 – Yr 12) to come along and join

the Manly Freshwater Parish Youth Group. 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 us an email!

Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Instagram: manlyfreshwater_catholicyou



Morning Prayer



During this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, we are all invited to a deeper spiritual renewal, embracing prayer as a way to grow in faith and trust in God's

providence and love. As part of this journey, Morning Prayer (Liturgy of the Hours) will be prayed at 8:45am, Tuesday to Friday, before Mass, at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, at Mary Immaculate Church, Manly. This ancient prayer of the Church unites us in praise and reflection through Scripture and psalms, drawing us into the rhythm of daily prayer with the universal Church. Prayer books will be provided, and all are welcome to join.



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...

- 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 the parish website
- 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

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.

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

First Reading Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

The just will live by faithfulness.

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9 (JB)

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. R.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. R.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

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

Gospel Acclamation

1 Peter 1:25 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 17:5-10 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

If you had faith!

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

true

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Faith is not something that is won, bought or earned. Faith only becomes genuine in our lives when we realize in all humility that faith is a gift freely given by God. The two images in today's Gospel point to this mystery of faith:

The gift of faith is like the mustard seed, among the tiniest seeds. The seed of faith needs to be nurtured or else it will wither and die; but allowed to grow, it yields the greatest of harvests.

In the light of real faith, we realize our total dependence on the providence of God. To God's graciousness we owe everything. We recognize ourselves as God's "useless servants," deserving nothing by our own account. The only adequate response we can make to God's unfathomable and immeasurable goodness is to live lives of joyful gratitude and humble servanthood.

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Formation Day for Clergy and Parish Senior Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

All Clergy, Senior Servers,

and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are warmly invited to join **Bishop Anthony** for a special **Formation Day** following the release of his new Pastoral Letter, *The Mystery of Faith: Encountering Jesus Christ in the Eucharist*.

Time: 10am - 1pm Date: Saturday 1 November

Venue: The Light of Christ Centre

This day will be a valuable time to grow together in faith, deepen our love for the Eucharist, and strengthen our service within the parish community.

Please register your attendance via email – mission@bbcatholic.org.au





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Parish Priest: Fr Chima Ofor

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr Marek Woldan marek.woldan@bbcatholic.org.au
Assistant Priest: Fr Sam French sam.french@bbcatholic.org.au
Seminarian: Mr Alfred Soliman

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jenny Beninati

manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Mary Immaculate Church (Parish Office)

6 Raglan St, Manly 2095

Phone: 9977 5822

Email: manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au

Website:manlyfreshwaterparish.org

Parish Office: Mon to Thur 8:30am - 4:30pm

After Hours Sick Calls: 0499 910 010

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; Rob Irving; Robert Marshall; Ian Press

Weekend Masses:

Freshwater: Saturday Vigil 5:00pm and Sunday 9am

Manly: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Freshwater Tue, Wed, Thur, Fri 9:15am

Manly Tues and Fri 7am & 9:15am Wed and Thur 9:15am

Reconciliation: Manly Wed 6pm – 7pm; 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

Principal: Gabie Stojanovski

Stella Maris College 9977 5144

Principal: Sharyn Quirk