



MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th October 2025

HOLY-WINS PARTY
31 October 2025
6.30pm - 8.30pm

FOOD AND TREATS PROVIDED

SCAN TO REGISTER
OR CALL: 9977 5822

PARISH MEETING ROOM
Dress your children as saints and join us for an evening of pizza, games, treats and prayer. Let's promote a culture of saints not monsters and death.

MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH, 6 RAGLAN ST. MANLY 2095

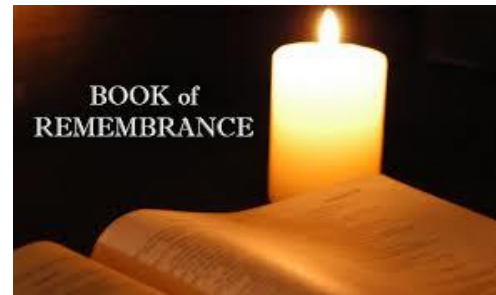
HOLY-WINS PARTY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE TREATS FOR KIDS

Our parish is again organising a celebration for children to promote the culture of the Saints next Friday 31st October.

If you would like to donate some sweets for this event, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. We kindly ask that you choose sweets without nuts to help prevent any accidental allergic reactions. The treats will be collected in the church this Sunday 26 October.

With gratitude, The Organising Team



All Souls and the Month of Remembrance

On Sunday, 2 November we celebrate All Souls Day, a sacred time to remember and pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us in faith.

Throughout the month of November, Mass will be offered every day for the repose of the souls of our dear departed, especially for those whose names are recorded in our Parish Remembrance Book.

Over the next couple of weeks, please use the November Mass envelopes available on the pews and in the church foyer to write the names of those you wish to be remembered. If your list does not fit on the envelope, you are very welcome to attach a separate sheet of paper with additional names. These will be pasted directly into the Remembrance Book before the Feast of All Souls.

Please note that while you are most welcome to include an offering with your November Mass envelope, it is not required.

To help our parish team manage this devotion smoothly, we kindly ask that pages of names not be sent via email. After 2nd November, if you wish to add names, you are most welcome to write them directly into the Remembrance Book in the church yourself. This will ensure that all names are included reverently and promptly, and it will greatly assist our staff in preparing the Book during this busy month.

Because of the many names we receive, it will not be possible for the priest to mention each person individually at Mass. However, please be assured that every Mass offered throughout November will be for all the names recorded in the Remembrance Book.

May this month of remembrance bring comfort to our hearts and deepen our hope in the resurrection.

Fr Chima

Recently Deceased: Irena Dobrijevic; Allen Burrridge; Sandra Bucknell

Anniversary: Ivan (Ivo) Copo; Mary (Maria) Arena; Joan Ellis

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; Stacey

FUNERAL NOTICE – the funeral for **Allen Burrridge** will be held at St Kieren's Church, Manly Vale on Monday 27 October at 10am. May he rest in peace.

Dates to remember...

- **RCIA** Tuesday 28 October 7pm
- **Holy Wins Party** Friday 31st October 6.30am
- **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.



EUCCHARISTIC 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



Our Spiritual Journey

Week 7 - The Power of the Sacraments

What are the sacraments and how do they nourish us spiritually? What are the effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and how do I make a good confession?

The **sacraments** are **visible ritual actions** through which the **grace of Christ's salvation is dispensed** to us. All **seven sacraments** were **instituted by Christ** and **entrusted to the apostles and their successors**. These are the **ordinary means** by which Jesus makes present His saving work to the faithful, through the power of the **Holy Spirit**.

Each sacrament **bears spiritual fruit** — that is, it **effectively communicates the grace it symbolises** — in those who receive it with the proper disposition (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, CCC, 1131). For example, the **washing with water** in **Baptism** is not just symbolic: it actually effects the **cleansing of Original Sin** from the soul (CCC, 1213).

The sacraments are classified into three categories: (i) **Sacraments of Initiation** (i.e. **Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist**) — the foundations of Christian life. We are born again through Baptism, strengthened through Confirmation, and nourished with the Eucharist. (ii) **Sacraments of Healing** (i.e. **Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick**) — these heal the soul by restoring grace through forgiveness of sin, and comforting us in suffering and death. (iii) **Sacraments at the Service of Mission and Community** (i.e. **Matrimony, Holy Orders**) — these are given for sanctification of others, for the building up of the Church and the Community.

One of the most important — and sadly, often underused — sacraments is **Reconciliation (Confession or Penance)**. Jesus instituted this sacrament when He said to the apostles, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23). While **Baptism removes original sin**, it does not eliminate our **human weakness (concupiscence)**. When grace is lost through **personal (especially grave) sin**, it needs to be restored. **Venial sins** can be forgiven through acts of charity or receiving the Eucharist, but **mortal (grave) sins must** be confessed in the sacrament of Reconciliation. We risk not being nourished by the Eucharist if we are in a state of grave sin (CCC, 13825). Certainly, **God can forgive even mortal sin** through an **act of perfect contrition**, but this **must include a firm resolution** to seek out sacramental confession **as soon as possible** (CCC, 1452). This is God's extraordinary mercy, not a substitute for the need to go to the sacrament itself.

To make a good confession, we must begin with an honest **Examination of Conscience**, calling on the Holy Spirit to show us what sins we need to confess, and have **genuine contrition**, that is the **desire to avoid the sin and change**. We also have the right to go to confession **anonymously**. So look up confession times in local churches and contact them to see whether they have screens in their confessionals. Finally, don't worry if you can't remember the steps for going to confession, as the priest can talk you through it.

May **Our Lady of Sorrows** help us discover the healing power of a sincere and humble confession, and may we never grow tired of returning to the mercy of Christ. **Amen.**

Alfred Soliman Seminarian

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE

15 NOVEMBER 2025



ST JOHN PAUL II



GOSFORD



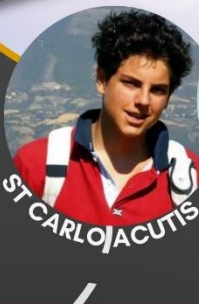
PILGRIMS OF HOPE



CHATSWOOD



ST PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI



ST CARLO ACUTIS



Regular ticket \$35

Family ticket \$110*

* Family of 4 or more

QR Booking



Or book with our parish office

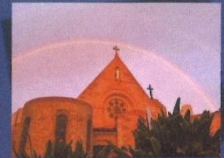
Jubilee Pilgrimage Program

- 8:15am: Gathering at St Mary's Church Manly to depart at 8.30 am
- 9:15am – 10:30am: Visiting the Parish of Chatswood:
 - Morning Tea (supplied) with talk
 - Adoration and veneration of both relics
- 10:30am – 12:00pm: Traveling to Gosford
- 12:00pm – 2:15pm: Visiting the Parish of Gosford
 - Holy Mass
 - Veneration of John Paul II relic
 - Lunch (BYO)
 - Visiting the JP II museum
- 2:15pm: Departing Gosford for Manly – arrive approx. 4pm

Book through QR Code or the parish office

NEW PARISH WEBSITE
manlyfreshwaterparish.org
 or scan the QR Code





Mary Immaculate &
St Athanasius Church Manly

Restoring for the future.

With your help we can maintain this beautiful church for another 150 years and beyond.

Thank you for your generosity and for being part of this sacred moment in our Parish history.

Waves of Grace

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS FROM 1876-2026

Our Goals

- 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

My Pledge

3: Credit Card

I would like to give
Amount \$

I would like my giving to be:

☐ One off ☐ Monthly

☐ "150 for 150 pledge" (\$1000)

Giving options:

1: Direct into Parish Bank Accounts

Account Name:
Manly Freshwater Parish
BSB: 062-784
Account Number: 100002025

2: QR Code



Privacy Notice
The Diocese of Broken Bay Privacy Collection Notice and Policy can be found at: catholic.org.au/privacy-policy

Name
Email
Mobile
Credit card number
Expiry Date
Signature cardholder
Date

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Generosity
Lord, accept this offering of love; may it strengthen our parish and glorify your name.
"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

Special 150th Parish Anniversary Announcement

Waves of Grace about to break! Our 150th Parish Anniversary Celebrations, themed *Waves of Grace*, will commence in December with the planning and organising now underway.

First major initiative: *Grand Prize Raffle and Draw* will launch in February 2026.

We need your help! We have a sub-committee dedicated to this initiative and are looking for all parishioners who could assist us in the planning, organising and delivery of the Raffle and the associated campaign.

Community-wide Campaign: This significant parish outreach and draw will announce the wonderful milestone to our Parish and School communities - and to the broader Manly Freshwater communities. We will be celebrating with outreach throughout 2026 with many other initiatives and events to be planned and delivered.

We would love your support: if you are ready to lend a helping hand – we really need those with time, technology, communication and/or digital design capabilities as well as anybody with general administrative abilities - we would love to hear from you.

Please contact one of the committee leaders below:

- Michael McGrath michael@oasispartners.com.au
- Rob Irving rob@robirving.com.au
- Paul Pervan. paulpervan@yahoo.com.au



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.



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



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



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.**



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 prophesied 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.

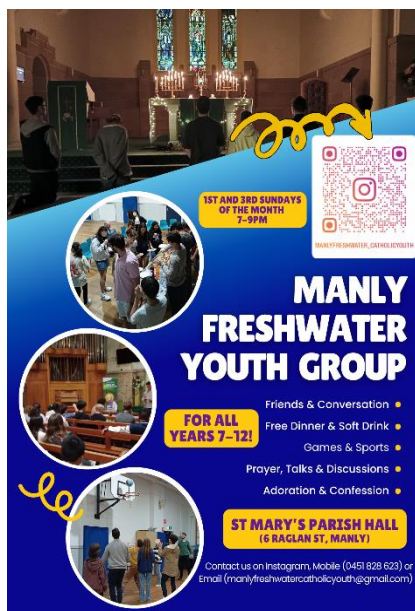


CHILDREN'S LITURGY is held on the **1st and 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10:30am Mass.**

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



Youth Group Meetings

Manly-Freshwater Parish Youth Group warmly invites **all highschoolers!** We run fortnightly Youth Groups on the First and Third Sundays of the month 7-9pm at St Mary's Parish Hall. Feel free to check out our instagram or send us an email!

Instagram: manlyfreshwater_catholicyouth

Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

Email: manlyfreshwatercatholicyouth@gmail.com

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: manlyfreshwaterparish.org

Livestreaming on Facebook Sunday 8:30am Mass
[manlyfreshwaterparishfacebook/videos](https://www.facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish/videos)

MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

among all peoples

This week, you're invited to partner with the Church in Zambia to help women overcome poverty and mothers give birth safely.

The Women's Cooperative, led by Sr Jane will provide women with the training and support required to break the cycle of scarcity, and the Chilonga Mission Hospital is determined to ensure every woman and baby receives a safe and dignified start to life.

During World Mission Sunday, we are called to be 'Missionaries of hope among all peoples', and we invite you to extend Christ's love to those in need in Zambia. You can support this work by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/mission, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also assist many other Church programs around the world.



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mission



MIGRANT JUBILEE CROSS

Our parish welcomed the Migrant Jubilee Cross on Tuesday, 21 October, with the Mission Teams from St Mary's and St John the Baptist Schools attending the 9:15am Mass.

The *Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross Australia 2025 (MJC)* invites us to celebrate the faith, gifts, and resilience of migrant communities and to give thanks for their vital contributions to our Church and our world.



Emblazoned on the Cross is the constellation of the Southern Cross. Embedded with it are two holy relics that deepen the meaning of this pilgrimage: one of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (from the manger, veil and cloak, respectively, on loan from the Order of Discalced Augustinians) and one of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop (gifted by the Josephite Sisters).

Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office info@acmro.catholic.org.au



DE-CLUTTER BEFORE CHRISTMAS: An early fund-raising event leading into the Manly Parish 150-year Anniversary Celebration. Book a spot or just come and browse at the **CAR BOOT SALE** to take place in the Manly Parish Carpark on Saturday 6th December from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

There are 41 car spaces available for rent at \$75.00 for the day. Cars need to be in place by 8:30am and a table will be provided for placement of additional sale items adjacent to your vehicle.

If you miss out on securing a car space, you can still participate in this worthwhile fund-raising event. There will be 9 (non-vehicular) spaces where tables will be allocated at a cheaper rate of \$50.00.

The proceeds from your sales may be kept by you. However, if you are feeling particularly generous, you could donate a percentage to Manly Freshwater Parish to assist in our restoration plans, so that the generations yet to come can experience beauty and peace in a welcoming community. The Carpark must be vacated by 4.00 pm in order to allow parking for the Saturday evening Mass.

To help make the day enjoyable as well as successful, there will be a Coffee Cart, a Craft stall, a sausage sizzle and perhaps a Cake stall. For more information, contact Merle or John via email jzemek@ccz.com.au

We will have more detail in the Bulletin next week with a booking facility to lock in your car space or table space.



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 September. 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



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 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



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.

Book Launch – Introducing Pope Leo XIV: His Story and Australian Connection



A special event within our Deanery: the launch of a new book by Fr Dave Austin, OSA (former parish priest of North Harbour Parish), titled *Introducing Pope Leo XIV: His Story and Australian Connection*.

The book launch will take place on: Thursday, 6 Nov 2025 7:00pm at St Kieran's Parish Centre, Manly Vale

This book offers a compelling introduction to Pope Leo XIV (formerly Fr Robert Prevost, OSA), with a particular focus on his Australian connection. Some of you may recall that during his time as Prior General of the Augustinians, he visited Manly Vale on several occasions and even celebrated Mass on Collaroy Beach—memories that make this launch especially meaningful for our local community.

PILGRIM GROUPS VISITING THE SHRINE



Lower North Shore Parish – Friday 17 October



Young Adults on a loop walk around North Head last Tuesday.

Creighton Model FertilityCare System

Discover the Gift of your Fertility and Health

The Creighton Model FertilityCare System is a natural method that helps:

WOMEN	COUPLES
to monitor & support their health & well-being	to learn how to achieve or space a pregnancy

TO LEARN MORE PLEASE CONTACT
GISELLE ROLDAN
0421725479
GISELLECPN@GMAIL.COM



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

The qualities to be a Catechist – loving; Cares for others; fond of children; lives their faith; can give 1 hour a week of their time.

A Catechist does not need to be – a religious expert; qualified teacher; able to drive

We are looking for more Catechists as we have vacancies for teachers in 2026.

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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C

First Reading

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-19 (JB)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:2-3, 17-19, 23 (JB)

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. R.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. R.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. R.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (JB)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:19 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14 (JB)

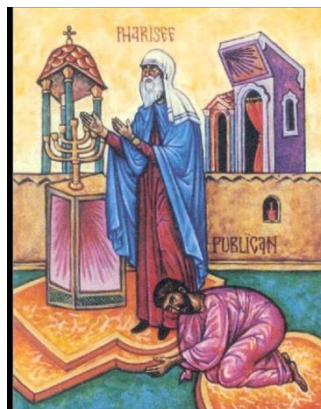
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Pharisee and the tax collector (or "publican" as he is called in some translations) are images of two extreme religious attitudes.

Pharisees were the "separated ones" who positioned themselves in society as the great keepers of the holy law. They were

held in great esteem by the Jewish community, despite the Pharisees' haughty condemnation of those they viewed as less than faithful.

Tax collectors were Jews who worked for Rome. To become a tax collector, one would bid for a certain territory by paying a sum that the government determined that area should yield in taxes. The tax collector then won the right to collect taxes from the people in that locale in order to recoup his investment and make a considerable profit; as part of the arrangement, tax collectors could count on Roman cooperation to enforce their outrageous charges. It was a system that was rife with extortion, with little accountability demanded of the tax collectors and no avenues of recourse for the poor they preyed upon. Tax collectors were despised by Jewish society as thieves and collaborators.

The parable contrasts two very different attitudes of prayer. The Pharisee approaches God seeking the reward he feels he deserves. His prayer is really a testimonial to himself for all the good things the Pharisee has done to merit God's grace. The tax collector, on the other hand, realizes his nothingness before God. He comes before God seeking his mercy because of the good things God has done for undeserving sinners like himself. It is the prayer of the humble who come before God with an attitude of humble thanks for God's unconditional and limitless mercy that is heard and "exalted" before God. connectionsmediaworks.com



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during a difficult time
is comforting*

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Jenny Smith,
Funeral Director

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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