

MANLY FRESHWATER CATHOLIC PARISH

Mary Immaculate and St John the Baptist

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 28th September 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

CHANGES TO WEEKDAY MASSES AT FRESHWATER

Next Tues 30/9 and Wed 1/10 there will be NO 9:15am Mass at Freshwater.



Anointing of the Sick Mass will be held next Friday 3rd October at Manly and

Freshwater.



Hours of Mercy - Mass and Adoration

Wednesday 1 October from 6pm to midnight.

LET US PRAY FOR

28th September 2025

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Vivian Mascarenhas

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; Lira Mascarenhas

Dates to remember...

- Our Spiritual Journey Mon 29 Sept 7:30pm
- Holy Hours of Mercy Wed 1 Oct 6pm midnight
- Anointing Mass Fri 3 Oct 9:15am
- Spiritual Conversations Group Thursday 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.



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.



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

OCTOBER ROSTER

AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH



Our Spiritual Journey Week 4 - The Word of God

As we continue our series on the Spiritual Life, this past week we focused on the theme of how to pray with the Scriptures. We began by asking: Why is the Word of God important for my spiritual life? How

can it change my life?

The Church has always taught that **God is the author of Sacred Scripture** (CCC §105). Vatican II emphasized that the texts of Sacred Scripture are "divinely revealed realities... written down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit." Through them, **God speaks and expresses Himself fully** (CCC §102; cf. Heb 1:1–3).

Because of this, the Church "has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body" (Dei Verbum §21; CCC §103; cf. Jn 6). In John chapter 6, Jesus refers to Himself as the **Bread of Life** who came down from heaven to satisfy human hunger. He is the Bread of Life in two ways: in the Word and in the Eucharist. This is why the Mass is composed of two key parts: the Liturgy of the Word — where we listen to and are nourished by Scriptures, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist — where we receive His Body and Blood (Jn 6:35, 53).

Our focus this week was to explore how the Scriptures — especially the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — are an **inexhaustible source of spiritual nourishment**, available to us every day. As St. Jerome said, "Scripture speaks to all peoples, of all times, at every moment of their lives." And St. Thérèse of Lisieux shared: "Above all, it's the Gospels that occupy my mind when I'm at prayer. My poor soul has so many needs, and yet this is the one thing needful. I'm always finding fresh lights there—hidden meanings which had meant nothing to me before." More recently, Pope Benedict XVI emphasized that the key to spiritual renewal "must be the rediscovery of God's Word through **Lectio Divina**" (Verbum Domini §87).

During our session, we learned how to apply different methods of praying with the Scriptures, especially the Gospel passage of the day. One such method is Lectio Divina, which means "Divine Reading." This ancient practice, developed by Christian monasticism, involves several steps: 1. Invoking the Holy Spirit - who will inspire you as you engage with the text; 2. Reading the Gospel passage - slowly and multiple times; 3. Meditating - on the words or phrases that stand out for me; 4. Praying entering into a personal conversation with the Lord about what He is trying to communicate to you, Contemplating - sitting with any insights or inspirations received, allowing them to efold you and to transform your mind and heart; 5. Making a resolution — responding to what God has revealed by committing to concrete resolutions and actions.

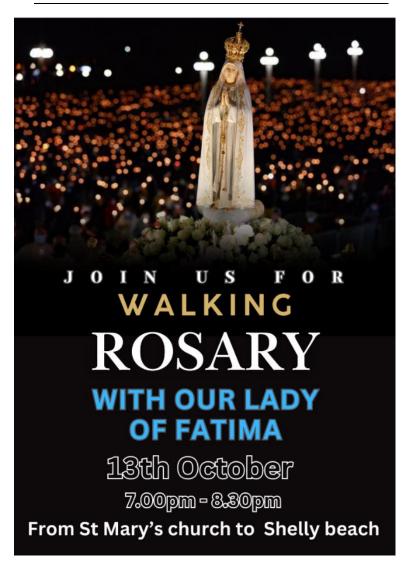
Note, however, that sometimes what stands out to us during our meditation may not make sense right away. In these moments, we are invited to **store these words in our hearts**, trusting that the Lord will reveal their full meaning in His time. Our role is to stay committed and Trust in the Lord.

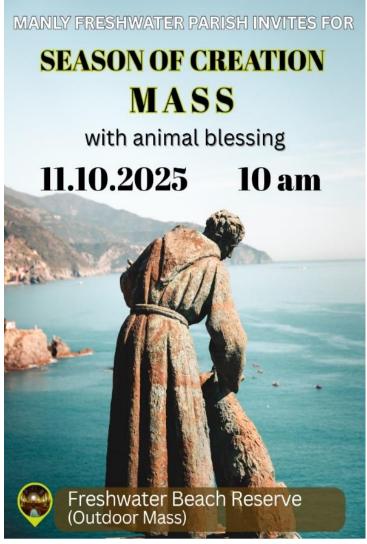
May Our Lady, Mother of the Word Incarnate, teach us to treasure and ponder the Word of God in our hearts. **Amen.**

Alfred Soliman Seminarian



Confession will be available at every full hour from 7pm to 11pm
Light refreshment available from 7pm to 11.30pm at the
Prayer Room in the Parish Office





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



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.



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 September 2025

During the month of September, Pope Leo invites us to pray for our relationship with all of creation. Let us pray that, inspired by Saint

Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

Parish facebook: facebook.com/manlyfreshwaterparish

Parish website: 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.



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.

PIETY STORE



Movie of the month - St Margaret of Castello. Born blind and with severe disabilities she was abandoned by her parents and looked after by the poor. Despite such obstacles she became a third order Dominican and started a school to care for children. Only \$10 at the piety store.

CD of the month - Love conquers all - Michael Aquilina. The most rapid expansion of the Church occurred during the Roman persecutions. It was fidelity to prayer, attendance of Mass and love of neighbour which offered a powerful witness in a culture similar to today. Only \$5 @ 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



OLDER CHILDREN BAPTISM PROGRAM Manly Freshwater Parish

In term 4 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. If you wish your child to be part of this program please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822.

Confirmation program 2026 - Children in year 3 and above who are baptised, will be eligible to take part in the Confirmation program in 2026. If you wish your child to be part of this program next year and they are not Baptised please contact the Parish office to discuss the upcoming Baptism program 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 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.



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









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



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

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

St Paul's College Yr 12 Graduation Mass





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 donate through 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

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.



Season of Creation 2025: Peace with Creation

From September 1 to October 4, the global Christian family will come together to pray, reflect, and act for our common home during the Season of Creation. This is not just a moment to join a worldwide celebration. It's a chance to deepen our commitment and take concrete steps in our own Laudato Si' journeys. *Learn more!*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

First Reading

Amos 6:1, 4-7 (JB)

A reading from the prophet Amos

You who give yourself to licentiousness and revelry will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this: Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10 (JB)

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. R.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. R.

He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11-16 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Obey the commandments until the coming of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 8:9 (JB)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 16:19-31 (JB)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

During your life good things came your way just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted while you are in agony.

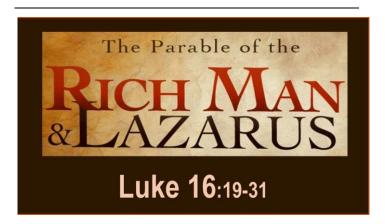
Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham, "let them listen to them." "Ah, no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.""

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

The rich man (sometimes known as "Dives") is not really a bad man, but a self-centered, complacent one. The rich man's sin is his remaining oblivious to the plight of Lazarus (a name which means "God's help") at his gate and his blind acceptance of the poverty of so many and wealth in the hands of so few like himself as the natural, inevitable order of things. It was not his wealth that kept him from "Abraham's bosom," but his untrustworthy stewardship of what he had.

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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