St John Vianney's Catholic Parish

embracing the worshipping communities of
Manly & Gumdale

Cnr Ernest and Kooralgin Sts, Manly *PO Box 5174 Manly Qld 4179*
Ph: (07) 3853 7470 *E: manly@bne.catholic.net.au* *W: www.manlycatholicparish.org.au*

Third Sunday of Advent

13/14 December 2025

Parish Administrator
Fr Baiyi Gong
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Deacon Laurent Fontaine
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Parish Manager | Pastoral Associate
Trish Stapleton
Emergencies: 3853 7472 / 0417 008 025
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Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
8.30 am - 1.30 pm

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair: **TBA**
Secretary **Pam Biggs-Chapman**

Parish Finance Committee
Chair: **TBA**

Safeguarding Officers
Jane O'Brien and Neil Taylor
lsr.manly@bne.catholic.net.au

SJV Primary School Manly
Principal: Mr Jaydem Hadson
P: 3097 2900 E: pmanly@bne.catholic.edu.au

Sacraments of Initiation
All enquiries for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, please contact
manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Funerals and Weddings
All enquiries regarding Funerals and Weddings, please contact **the parish office**
manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4.30 pm or by appointment.

Parish Mission Statement

We follow the words of our patron,
St John Vianney, who said "He is here."

We recognise Christ is in the Word,
the Eucharist, and in us, His people,
with a special reverence for Him,
in the poor and marginalised.
We are called to make Christ present
through our prayer and charity.
We seek to grow in our spiritual lives and
create a community where everyone is welcome;
the young and the old, together to
experience the loving presence of God.
We believe He is here amongst us
and we joyfully go out to make Him present to all.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, the Quandamooka, Yuggera and Turribal Peoples, and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

The Ordination of Laurent Fontaine into the Diaconate

This weekend, we celebrate the Sunday of *Gaudete*, the Sunday of joy. And in our parish, we indeed have a very special joy to share. One of our parishioners, **Laurent Fontaine**, was ordained into the diaconate on Saturday at 11:30am in the Cathedral. Many of us attended the ordination Mass and witnessed this sacred and joyful moment-**his joy, and ours**.

Last weekend, Laurent wrote a short self-introduction for those who do not yet know him well. If you have not had the chance to read it, I encourage you to do so and become more familiar with the new member of our parish clergy. Following his ordination, Deacon Laurent will serve in our parish as a deacon, and his contact details are now included in our newsletter.

Some years ago, when I was working with a permanent deacon, he and I would get vested for Mass and stand at the church entrance, greeting and welcoming people. At times, we heard people addressing him as *Father*. As we know, *Father* is a title for priests. In other words, some Catholics are not very familiar with the diaconal degree of Holy Orders.

I would like to take this opportunity to refresh our understanding of this important ministry.

Holy Orders consists of three degrees: the episcopate (***bishop***), the presbyterate (***priest***), and the diaconate (***deacon***). Deacons are ordained ministers who serve the Church in a variety of ways. Among their responsibilities, deacons assist bishops and priests in the celebration of the sacred mysteries—above all, the Eucharist—in the distribution of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages (outside Mass), in proclaiming the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals (outside Mass) and baptisms, and in dedicating themselves to ministries of charity (see CCC 1536, 1596, 1570).

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Latin Church has restored the diaconate as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy. This permanent diaconate, which may be conferred on married men, is considered an important enrichment of the Church's mission (CCC 1571). **As a married man, Deacon Laurent has been ordained a permanent deacon.** There are also transitional deacons, who are preparing for priesthood. In the Archdiocese of Brisbane, transitional deacons are usually ordained to the priesthood about six months after their diaconal ordination.

Like priests, deacons wear liturgical vestments at Mass and other liturgical celebrations. In addition to the alb, they wear a stole, which is placed over the left shoulder and hangs across to the right side. Over the alb and stole, deacons wear a dalmatic. It looks similar to a chasuble worn by priests and bishops, but actually differs in both design and meaning. And just as their vestments are not the same, so too does the way we address them: while priests are addressed as *Father*, we address deacons as *Deacon*—for example, ***Deacon Laurent***.

Dear friends, let us thank God for blessing our parish with a permanent deacon. Deacon Laurent's ministry will greatly enrich our community and contribute to the building up of our parish. Please join me in congratulating Laurent on his ordination and in welcoming him as he begins his ministry among us as a deacon. ***-Fr Baiyi***

For Your Diary

15 December	Mon	No Mass
16 December	Tues	6.00 pm Mass at SJV
17 December	Wed	9.00am Rosary
		9.30am Mass
18 December	Thurs	No Mass
19 December	Fri	10.30 am Mass LOTA HOUSE
20 December	Sat	4.30pm Reconciliation
		5.00pm Vigil Mass (SJV)
21 December	Sun	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A
		7.00am Mass (St Jude's)
		9.30am Mass (SJV) 10.30 am

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

NO MASS AT 9.30 AM ON WEDNESDAY

Christmas Eve: Wed 24 Dec:

5.00 pm Family Mass [including a children's Tableau] St John Vianney's Church.

7.00 pm Evening Mass at St Jude's.

Christmas Day: Thur 25th Dec:

9.30 am Christmas Day Mass at St John Vianney's Church.

St Vincent de Paul Society– Manly Conference Christmas Hamper Collection 2025

This is the last weekend of the Manly Conference Christmas hamper collection.

Thank you for your most generous support of the St Vincent de Paul Society - the Parish and SJV school parents have really excelled once again this year.

Your assistance helps families, the elderly, the lonely and those down on their luck in our local area.

Approximately 50 hampers will be delivered on Saturday 20th December to spread the joy of Christmas in our community.

Wishing you and your family, a happy and holy Christmas.

Vinnies good works

Weekly Prayer from Fr Baiyi
Third Sunday of Advent (2025)

Almighty God, as we celebrate the Sunday of Joy, we give you particular thanks for the joy we share in the ordination of Laurent Fontaine to the diaconate this weekend. Help us, together with Deacon Laurent, to build up our parish community by encouraging our parishioners to grow in patience as we wait for your coming to save us, and to learn from John the Baptist to be faithful messengers of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

With the setting of an Advent wreath, Nativity figures, and a 'gifting' Christmas tree, the thoughts of those who attended the Advent Carols Service in our church last weekend, would have been - ***what a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon in Advent.***

Based on the Carols at King's College, Cambridge (readings interspersed with traditional Carols), the selected readings were an invitation for the congregation to join with the parish choir and pianist in singing appropriate Carols to enhance the readings. As the final Carol was sung, it was evident that the true meaning of Christmas had been experienced by those present.

Afternoon tea was served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Many thanks to parishioners who helped in any way with this wonderful event, but a very special 'thank you' to Anne Skitmore who produced and organised this prayerful Advent Carols Service.

(Donations received have been given to St Vincent de Paul to help provide Christmas hampers for those in need)

"The Archdiocese of Brisbane holds that children, young people and vulnerable adults are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical and emotional harm. They are to be treasured, nurtured and safeguarded by all."

This policy applies to **Clergy, Religious, Staff, Parishioners, Volunteers, students on placement and visitors to our sites.**

For information or to report an incident: Please contact our local Safeguarding Reps: Jane & Neil or email the Parish Office: ***manly@bne.catholic.net.au*** ***OR*** ***hypps://tinyurl.com/Safeguarding-Incident-Report Laura***

Weekend Rosters	Altar Servers	Commentator	1st Reader	2nd Reader	EMHC	Screen	Counter
SAT 13 DECEMBER	DENIS + VOLUNTEER	MAUREEN	DENISE	ALISON	MIKAELA/JEN/JAN	ANJOLINE	D
SUN 14 DECEMBER	ARTHUR + CARMELINA	DONNA	BOND	HARVEY	HEATHER | ADELINE | VOLUNTEER	EMMA	
SUN 20 DECEMBER	PETER + HENRY	JANE	LAURA	LAURENT	MIKAELA | DENISE | ALISON	CARMEL	E
SUN 21 DECEMBER	JACK + VOLUNTEER	ASHER	DONNA	ANNE	ADELINE | JUNE | HEATHER	AURELIE	

A Reminder to Parents/ Grandparents,

Any child who would like to dress up and come along to be in the Christmas Play is very welcome! The final practices will take place at 8am (before the 9.30am Masses) this Sunday 14th and next Sunday 21st December. *All are welcome and there are roles to suit everyone.*

For your Diary
Please join us to celebrate Laurents Ordination to the Diaconate
Sunday 21st December 10.30 am
[after the 9.30 am Mass]

romero CENTRE
love has no borders

Instead of gifting yet another book, pair of socks or something they don't really want, why not consider a donation to charity as a Christmas gift for your loved one/s?

The Romero Centre relies heavily on volunteers and community donations to exist. The centre assists thousands of people each year who arrive in Australia seeking asylum and safety from torture, war and violence.

Cash or grocery gift cards (in a sealed, labelled envelope) can be donated anytime **via the usual weekend collection**. A member of the Parish Council will ensure the donations reach the Romero Centre as a matter of urgency. ***Thank you for your generosity.*** https://romerocentre.org.au/

Christmas/New Year Admin Notification

As we approach the Christmas | New Year Season we would like to notify you of a few changes over this time:

- **The Parish Office will be closed from 1.30 pm Wednesday 24th December, until Monday 19th January 2026.**
- **During this time, Trish will monitor phones and emails for emergencies.**
- **After the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Newsletter will change to two weeks at a time until the Parish Office is opened in the New Year.**

PLEASE PRAY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE RECENTLY DECEASED AND FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME.

RECENTLY DECEASED:
Marea Peake, Nola Ziebarth, Jim Strauss, Maggie Stewart, Brian Patrick Delaney

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sr Teresita Ahearn, Trevor Alexander, Edmond Baker, Katherine Barton, Fay Bishop, Dean Bramley, Kevin Byrne, Joan Copley, Beth Craig, Rose-Marie Dickson, Catherine Dillon, Margaret Ewers, Sylvia Fens, Alan Francis, Kathleen Galea, Meg Griffiths, Stephanie Hankins, Phillip Hunt, Jean Kuter, Jennifer Lynas, Olivia Lewis, Eric Morrison, Gerard Ring, Jean Rosenstengel, Greg Selwood, Madeline Shenton, Henry Sizeland, David Vidler, Wilma Will, Blanca Wiswell

THOSE WHO ARE SICK: PLEASE ALSO KEEP PRAYING FOR ALL WHO ARE ON OUR LIST:
Elizabeth Lisenski, Dennis Long, Ailbe Caplis, Reg Carmichael, May Horneman, John Abberdan, Robert Patterson, Therese Shepherd, Anne Dixon, Glenda Rogers, Laurie Atzeni, Dan O'Brien, Sue McDonald, Chris Lee, Francis Raisch, Eric Roberts, Sue Wynne-Davies, Jack & Mary Beard, Jocelyn Barron, Dell Chapman, Emily de Looze, Irene Gavrila, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Handcock, Richard Pook, Violet Maureen Phillips, Joanne Small, Barry Smith, Emma Walters, and Patrick Nofoakifolau.

To include a name in our 'Recently Deceased', or "For those Who Are Sick' the Privacy Act requires the permission of a close relative.

MAKING DONATIONS TO OUR CHURCH
The options for electronic donations

If you are new to our Parish, Welcome!
AND if you are able,

- Anyone, including our visitors may use our EFTPOS machine at the Manly parish church. You can swipe, tap or insert your card for the amount of your choice.
- By direct deposit - parish bank details are **BSB: 064-786 Acc No: 100002778** Account Name: **St John Vianney's Parish, Manly.**
- **Check in to the parish office** and ask for gifting envelopes.

Did you know??
There is a special number to call for urgent needs:
1800 846 643
To make donations for the poor.
BSB 046-786 ACC No. 100026597
Name: SVdP Manly Conference.

St Vincent de Paul Society
Good Works

Liturgy of the Word

3rd Sunday of Advent A
Sunday 14 Dec 2025

In this Mass the colour violet or rose is used.
It is often called the Advent Sunday of Joy,
The **Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest)**
is not said or sung during Advent.

First Reading — Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling
knees and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm — Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. 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.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading — James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.
Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation — Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

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

Gospel — Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.
I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord

At the end of Mass a formula of Solemn Blessing may be used.

If a 'Solemn Blessing' is used in special season Masses
The priest prays 3 or 4 short blessings, to each,
we all answer: AMEN.

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20/21 December Next Sunday's Readings:
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading:	Isaiah 7:10-14
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10
Second Reading	Romans 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24