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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

20/21 December 2025

Parish Administrator
Fr Baiyi Gong
gongp@bne.catholic.net.au
Deacon Laurent Fontaine
laurent@lfontaine.com
Parish Manager | Pastoral Associate
Trish Stapleton
Emergencies: 3853 7472 / 0417 008 025
P: 3853 7470 [Parish Office]
manly@bne.catholic.net.au
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.

A Moment of Thanksgiving

As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves in a beautiful season as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. It is also a fitting moment to pause and give thanks for another wonderful year in the life of our parish.

Throughout 2025, our parish has continued to be a strong and vibrant faith community. Together we have praised and worshipped God through our liturgical celebrations, parish events, and the faithful service of our parish staff and lay ministers. Most importantly, our parishioners have continued to strive to live out their faith in their daily lives. For all of this, we give thanks to God.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our parish team—our staff and voluntary office supporters—who have worked tirelessly and faithfully in service of God and his people. Thanks to their dedication, the day-to-day life of the parish has continued to run smoothly. Well done, team.

I also wish to thank all the coordinators and chairpersons of our parish ministries and councils, together with their team members. Their hard work has borne much fruit. This year, 47 children were confirmed, several people received the Sacraments of Initiation, and many children were baptised. Our Children's Liturgy of the Word, held on the first Sunday of each month, continues to offer a wonderful opportunity for our children to celebrate the Word of the Lord. And of course, there is much more that could be said.

In a special way, I would like to thank Hugh Davies, Steven South, and Maureen Hassett for their dedicated service in leadership roles within our parish. Hugh has served as Chair of the Parish Finance Council for 12 years and has recently concluded his service. Steven South served as Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council for about two years and has stepped down due to family and work commitments. Maureen Hassett generously served as Chair of the Parish Liturgy Committee for one and a half years and has also recently resigned from her role. On behalf of the entire parish, I sincerely thank them for their generosity, leadership, and commitment. For your information, their positions will be shown as Vacant/TBA in the newsletter for the time being. The process of appointing new chairs is currently underway, and the appointments will be announced in January next year.

Finally, I wish to thank all our parishioners for your continued support, generosity, and commitment to parish life. We thank God for each and every one of you.

On behalf of the parish office, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the entire parish community, I wish you all a joyful and blessed Christmas. May the Infant Jesus bless you and your loved ones during this grace-filled season.

-Fr Baiyi

Fr Baiyi's Prayer

Let us pray:
Almighty God, as we listen to today's Gospel, we thank you for the example of Saint Joseph, a righteous man who chose mercy over harm. Teach us to do the right thing without causing unnecessary hurt, especially when we feel justified or certain of our own position. Help us to act with restraint, compassion, and respect for the dignity of others. May we grow in love that is faithful to truth and gentle in action.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Your Diary: The Week Ahead!

22 December	Mon	No Mass
23 December	Tues	6.00 pm Mass at SJV
24 December	Wed	5.00pm Family Mass at SJV
		7.00pm Evening Mass at St Jude's
25 December	Thurs	Christmas Day
		9.30am Mass at SJV
26 December	Fri	No Mass
27 December	Sat	4.30pm Reconciliation
		5.00pm Vigil Mass (SJV)
28 December	Sun	Feast of The Holy Family
		7.00am Mass (St Jude's)
		9.30am Mass (SJV)

Our Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve:

Wednesday 24th December 2025

- *Family Mass [including a Children's Tableau] at 5.00 pm St John Vianney's*
- *Evening Mass 7.00 pm at St Jude's Gumdale.*

Christmas Day Mass:

Thursday 25th December

- *9.30 am at St John Vianney's*

There will be two collections at all Christmas Masses:

1. ***First a collection for the Parish and***
2. ***A retiring collection after each Christmas Mass for St Vinnies and The Romero Centre.***

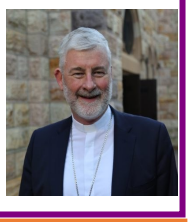
Hanukkah *is a Rabbinic Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple following the Jewish Maccabean Revolt against he Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.*

Sunday's Tragic Assault on the Jewish People as they began their sacred 8-day celebration of Hanukkah [*the Jewish Festival of Light*] is also an assault on all Faith Communities and Churches but indeed on our whole Australian Community. We hold up in prayer all the Jewish peoples traumatised by this event. We are all brothers and sisters of the Abrahamic Faiths.

A few words from Archbishop Shane:

"The tragic events that occurred at Bondi yesterday were confronting to witness and appalling to even consider. I thank those first responders and other heroes who intervened and helped in the awful scenes before them.

The Catholic community in Brisbane joins with people of all faiths and cultural traditions across Australia in expressing our deepest condolences and are praying for those who are grieving and affected by this terrible attack."



What a deacon can and cannot do

What a deacon can celebrate or preside over: baptisms, weddings, funerals (all outside Mass); proclaiming the Gospel and preaching; the liturgy of the Word with communion service; religious items blessing, such as rosary beads, crucifixes; house blessing; all lay ministries.

What a deacon cannot celebrate: the sacrament of anointing of the sick; the sacrament of reconciliation; the sacrament of the Eucharist (Mass); the sacrament of Holy Orders and the sacrament of confirmation.

"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*

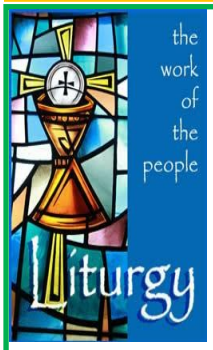
Weekend Rosters	Altar Servers	Commentator	1st Reader	2nd Reader	EMHC	Screen	Counter
Sat 20 December	Peter + Henry	Jane	Laura	Laurent	Mikaela | Denise | Alison	Carmel	E
Sun 21 December	Jack + Lita	Asher	Donna	Anne	Adeline | June | Heather	Aurelie	
Sat 27 December	Peter Volunteer	Gerardina	Denise	Maureen	Jane | Denise | Mikaela	pam	F
Sun 28 December	Lita Laurent	Aurelie	Anne	June	Trish| Mark | Donna	donna	

Dear Parents/ Grandparents,

We would like to invite all children to celebrate with us on Christmas Eve at our Family Mass at 5pm on 24th December.

All are welcome and there are roles to suit everyone: **Mary, Joseph, Wise Men, Shepherds and Angels.** We also have behind the scenes contributions to be made.

LAST CHANCE for Practice at 8.00 am [before the 9.30 am Mass]THIS SUNDAY. Just turn up on Sunday.



Attention Please

ALTAR SERVERS

Dear Adult Altar Servers and Parents of junior Altar Servers,
Could you please send the dates you [or your child] are available for Christmas and New Year, 2026

It would be helpful if you know of any weekends you are *not* available for Saturday or Sunday Masses in Term 1, 2026. Please let us know.

Could you please send your response to the parish Office via Email: manly@bne.catholic.net.au

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, Tyler Whitton, 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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Parish Liturgy Formation Day

Liturgical celebrations are the heart of a Catholic parish.
Through the liturgy, we worship God, listen to his voice, bring our joys and sorrows before him, and are gathered together as one community in the Lord.

We are deeply grateful to our liturgical ministers, who serve faithfully to ensure that the celebration of the liturgy in our parish is prayerful, reverent, and well-prepared.

We thank them for their generosity and encourage all parishioners to continue supporting them through prayer and participation in the liturgy.

To further strengthen and enrich our liturgical celebrations, the parish will be holding a Liturgy Formation Day.

Please note that this is not a parish mission or retreat, it is a day specifically focused on liturgy and is intended as a learning and formation opportunity for our liturgical ministers only.

We will have other opportunities for parishioners to attend the Spirituality Centre during the year.
We warmly invite the following parish ministers to attend:

Liturgy Committee members, commentators, adult altar servers and parents of child altar servers, readers / proclaimers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (including those who minister to the sick, hospitalised, and home or nursing-home bound), musicians & choir members, sacristans, Mass coordinators, collectors, RCIA team, Sacramental team, Children's Liturgy of the Word team, baptismal preparation team and screen operators.

The Parish Liturgy Formation Day will be:
When: Saturday 14 February 2026, from 9.00am to 12.30pm
Where: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, 267 Wellington Street, Ormiston QLD 4160.
Catering: Morning tea and lunch will be provided.
Cost: The parish will cover the cost of the day.

Voluntary donations of any amount are welcome and may be made via the Mass collections or the EFTPOS machine at the church entrance.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent A

First Reading *Isaiah 7:10-14*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.'

'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10*

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. *(R.)*
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. *(R.)*
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. *(R.)*

Second Reading *Romans 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David is the Son of God

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead.

Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ.

To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia, alleluia!
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 1:18-24*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Solemn Blessing A formula of Solemn Blessing may be used.
After each part of the blessing:
All: AMEN x 4

27/28 December Next Sunday's Readings:
Feast of The Holy Family Year A

First Reading:	Sirach 3:3-6, 12-14
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 127:1-5
Second Reading	Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

3/4 January 2026 Sunday's Readings:
The Epiphany of the Lord Year A

First Reading:	Isaiah 60:1-6
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Second Reading	Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel	Matthew 2:1-12