

**Catholic Parishes of
St. Andrew's Malabar & St. Agnes' Matraville**

Parish Priest: Fr. Laurie Cauchi



6 Prince Edward St Malabar
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www.standrewsmalabar.org.au

Office hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9am- 2.30pm

Parish Secretary: Julie Lippmann

Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

SUNDAY MASSES

Malabar

Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am

Weekday Masses: 9.10am Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4pm - 4.30pm

Also available by appointment.

School: 9311 1203



509 Bunnerong Rd Matraville
Ph: 9311 1909
stagnesmatra@bigpond.com

www.stagnesmatraville.org.au

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Mon & Wed 9.30 - 4.30pm

Parish Secretary: Yvonne Larssen

SUNDAY MASSES

Matraville

Vigil Sat. 5.30pm Sunday 10am

Weekday Masses: 7 am Tues, Wed, Fri

9.10am Thurs

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 4pm to 4.30pm at Malabar.

School: 9311 1995

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The candles and the light remind us of the light Jesus brought into the world.

The waiting for the four candles to be lit symbolizes the long years of waiting for the Saviour.

The greenery suggests life, growth and hope.



THE JESSE TREE: Jesse was a shepherd who lived near Bethlehem 1000 years before Jesus was born. Samuel, a prophet of God, chose one of Jesse's sons, David and anointed him as King of the Jewish nation. With our Jesse tree, we are remembering David and other members of Jesus' family; as well as, others who waited for the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Our Jesse Tree reminds us too that each one of us is important and that we each add something special to the coming of Jesus.

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Julie Laporte, Anne Martin (Leonie Burfield's sister), Anthony Wakim, Stanley Geaney, Georgina Stewart, Bryan McDonald (Mary Curotta's twin brother)

Anniversary: Mary Cauchi, Maureen O'Brien, Anna-Maria Chovan, Robert Franke, Margaret Swainbourne

We strongly encourage you to wear a face mask while at church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

ST ANDREW'S MALABAR
Christmas Eve (Thur.) 7pm & 9pm
Christmas Day (Fri.) 9am

ST AGNES MATRAVILLE
Christmas Eve 6pm & Midnight
Christmas Day 10am

Seating in our churches will be limited.

You are asked to be at the church early (20 minutes) to secure a seat

especially for the 6pm and 7pm Christmas Eve.

If you do not have children you are encouraged to attend the 9pm or Midnight.

(This would greatly help to create more room for families with young children)

Receiving God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation really helps to make it a spiritual preparation for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Tues 22 Dec. 7pm-8pm

St Andrew's Children who would like to participate in the

Nativity scene at (7pm mass – Christmas Eve)

Parents please contact Rose on 0410417359 before 22 December

Christmas Hampers

If you know anyone who would experience some Christmas joy by receiving a SVdP Christmas hamper, please contact the parish office asap.

Special Prayer at Christmas Time

Please pray for those who experience sadness instead of happiness at this time.

In our Piety Stall this Christmas

Columban Calendars - \$9, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards - (both parishes)

Christmas Colouring Books - \$3.50 All proceeds go to the SVdP Society

Christmas Roster:

One commentator and two readers are needed for 9pm mass on Christmas Eve.

St Agnes's and St Andrew's are registered as COVID Safe
Those who are unwell or at high risk are asked not attend.

Please observe signs on the pews.

Please keep the physical distance of 1.5 metres (2 arms lengths) at all times.

When coming to Holy Communion or placing your donation, please form **one line** & keep to the **centre** of the aisle and go back along the **side** aisles.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

20 DECEMBER 2020

MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD

If the history of God's dealings with us teaches us anything, it is that God's ways don't always match up with what we expect. David's rise to power was an unexpected one. He could not have foreseen being chosen from among his brothers, or that he could have defeated Goliath. He knew that behind all these events the God of Israel had been at work. As soon as his kingdom was firmly established, he set out to build a Temple to the God who had made it all possible. Despite his good intentions God had other plans. Rather than David building a house to honour God, it is God who will build a royal house for David.

The last thing Mary would have expected was that the promises made centuries before to David would come to fruition in her own life and that the child born to her would be both Son of God and Israel's king. Two thousand years later we are still coming to terms with the meaning of Gabriel's annunciation to Mary – what must it have been like for her? And yet, it is in the midst of this unsettling and unexpected news that her remarkable faith and confidence in God shines through as she responds: 'Let what you have said be done.'

Years later, as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians of Rome, he ponders all the mysterious ways of God. He invites us to respond with praise and wonder to the gift we have been given in Jesus, God's most unexpected and most welcome surprise.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**