

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes
to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to
you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away
– he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on
the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

✠ The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

02 MAY 2021

REMAINING IN JESUS' LOVE

Today's Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the challenge to bear fruit in our Christian lives. There are some plants that are best left alone but a vine needs to be pruned, to cut away what is not essential so that it can produce a good and abundant crop. For Christians the implement of pruning is the word of Jesus which enters into our hearts and challenges us to take stock of our lives and values.

In the second reading John shares a simple and profound truth with us, that the business of bearing fruit requires more than good intentions and fine words. The new life of Easter is something we can all share in by our belief in Jesus and our love for one another. The principles are simple, and the difficulty has always been that of living our lives day by day open to the word of Jesus and the demands of love.

Six times the theme of remaining is mentioned in the gospel. It is clearly an important and difficult dimension of our bearing fruit as Christians. Remaining faithful to our promises and allowing Jesus' word to enter deeper into our hearts is a constant challenge but the readings also encourage us not to lose heart. The example of Paul in the first reading shows how the Lord can enter into the hardest heart and can turn a feared persecutor into a fearless preacher of the word. Even gnarled vines can bear abundant fruit.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

✠ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or) Alleluia!

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / 'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

✠ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

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

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Parish Secretary: Julie Lippmann

Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

WEEKEND MASSES

Malabar

Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am

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

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment.

School: 9311 1203



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www.stagnesmatraville.org.au

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

Parish Secretary: Yvonne Larssen

WEEKEND MASSES

Matraville

Vigil Sat. 5.30pm Sunday 10am

Weekday Masses: 7 am Tues, Wed, Fri

9.10am Thurs

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment

School: 9311 1995

From my desk

Dear parishioners we are travelling very quickly through the Easter Season, and I hope that you are enjoying all Easter treats of lollies, eggs and food? This is a wonderful season to celebrate our Salvation in Christ!

As Parish Priest of two parishes, I have to continue doing a balancing act, to be faithful to both of these wonderful parishes of St Agnes and St Andrew's. It is a great privilege to be asked by the Archbishop to lead, as Pastor of these parishes, that have their own rich wealth of heritage and beautifully faith-filled parishioners.

To this end, Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney will install me as Parish Priest of St Agnes' Matraville, on Sunday 16 May, at our 10am Mass. A great time to celebrate as a Parish! I am indebted to Bishop Umbers for agreeing to confer the Installation. Please bring along a plate of food, as we will have a cuppa in the School Hall to celebrate.

May is the Month of Mary. Pope Francis has asked us to pray to Mary, for an end to this Pandemic. So let our Rosaries be of this special intention of the Pope, and for our world. Next Sunday, is Mother's Day, and we are calling all Mother's to our Masses to receive a special blessing.

All our masses, this week and next week, we are asking parents and their children to commit to the Eucharist Program, together with your prayers as parishioners.

Fr John

First Holy Communion Meeting

On Wednesday 5 May, 7pm at St Andrew's church, there will be a meeting for parents who were unable to attend the meeting on the 28 April.

CHARITABLE WORKS FUND APPEAL *This Weekend*

CWF supports social, charitable & pastoral works in the Archdiocese.
CWF donations are 100% tax-deductible.

Dear Parishioners, as you may have noticed the Malabar Processional Cross has been missing, for some time? The reason is, that it has been at the Restorers being restored. This is a wonderfully, beautiful cross, that we now can appreciate fully in its restorative beauty. There are other items of beauty that are also in need of restoring, since our church opened in 1977. A book of donors has been acquired, so that anyone wishing to make a donation (please place in an envelope and place in any of the collection baskets), can write your name or your family's name to be remembered and inscribed in the Donors Book. Thank you, for your generous giving.

PARISH OUTING – Tuesday, 1st June 2021

Outing by Coach to the Aviation Museum Albion Park and lunch at The Builders Club, Wollongong. \$50 per person (includes coach fare, museum entry, morning tea, and lunch. Full Payment by Sunday, 2 May. Call, Kathy Sullivan: 9311 1749/Marie Jennings: 9661 7186.

All in the Planned Giving (St Andrew's Parish), are kindly asked to fill in the notification form on the table near the donation boxes, and also those wanting to join. If we have accurate information, we may be able to give a higher tax deduction in the new financial year. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

Many Thanks to Joseph Medcalf's Funerals, for their assistance in livestreaming the recent installation of Fr John, as Parish Priest of Malabar. You may wish to view it on our websites.

Where will Fr John be??

This Week Saturday 1 May - 5.30pm Matraville, Sunday 2 May, - 9am Malabar
Next Week: Saturday, 8 May - 5.00pm Malabar, Sunday 9 May - 10am Matraville

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Jack Davis, Ben Bisheden, Roslyn Testa, Diomedes Ocaj,

Fr. Michael McCarthy and Fr Reg Wison

Anniversary: Antoni Depczynski Loi Hangue Lai, Daisy Joseph, Jebamony Pillai,

Louise Micallef, and Maria Dimura



Please try to download the Service NSW app so that your phone can scan the QR Code

St Agnes' 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 please form one line & keep to the centre of the aisle and go back along the side aisles

Memorial Mass for the Late Marika Gubacsi at OLA, Pagewood on Friday 7 May at 10am

Funeral for the late Ben Bishenden – St Andrew's, Thursday, 6 May, at 12noon

Funeral for the late Jack Davis – St Andrews, Friday, 7 May at 10:30am