



far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28: 19, 20
Alleluia, alleluia! / Go and teach all people my gospel. / I am with you always, until the end of the world. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 16: 15-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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CALLED TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS

As I write I'm in a transit lounge and, as it turns out, it's probably the most appropriate place from which to reflect on the feast of the Ascension which was a moment of great transition for the early church. As Jesus ascended the disciples were invited to leave behind what was known and familiar. Now the time had come to begin a new stage of the journey as they continued Jesus' mission. Many questions remained and they were uncertain about their ability to cope with the changes that lay before them. Jesus had proclaimed the coming of the kingdom. Now the task had been entrusted to them.

In a time of transition and change, we can all have the need for a point of reference that helps give direction and a sense of purpose. Paul writes from prison, bound and seemingly powerless, but he knows that the most powerful bonds for the Christian are those of love. For the Christians of Ephesus, the call is to be worthy of the vocation they have received, to grow in their baptism, and in their love and care for one another.

In a sense, the Ascension is something that happens to each and every individual Christian and community when we take up the task of preaching the gospel in our own time and place. We are still called to preach the good news of the kingdom, to carry on the task which Jesus has entrusted to us. There are still many questions in the life of the Church and there always will be.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 1: 1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46: 2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (10)
Alleluia!

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1: 17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven,

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

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WEEKEND MASSES

Malabar

Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am

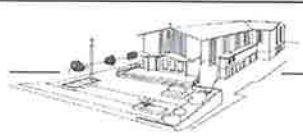
Weekday Masses: 9.10am Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment.

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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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Betty Harkins, Baby Theodore William George, Lee Piper, Alejandro (Alex) Clay,

Anniversary: Andy Couch, Peter Mills, Rosemary O'Reilly, Sylvia Craig, Carmel Donovan, Lillian Hinks, Jebamony Pillai, Tony Galea

Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Andrew & Judy (27years)



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

Where will Fr John be??

This Week Saturday 15 May - 5.00 pm Malabar, Sunday 16, May, - 10am Matraville

Next Week: Saturday, 22 May - 5.00pm Malabar, Sunday 23 May - 10am Matraville

From my desk

Greetings to one and all. What a very special day for St Agnes' Matraville, as Bishop Richard Umbers, DD Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney, installs me as Parish Priest of Matraville. I am delighted for Bishop Richard's presence amongst us today as he represents our Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. Matraville has a rich history going back to 1907, and I am proud to be listed as one of the Parish Priests of this beautiful and prayer-filled parish. Please pray for me, as I do for you.

The Chalice at Matraville which is being used today at the Installation Mass has recently been restored and is being used for the first time today. Bishop Richard will bless it following its restoration. This beautiful Chalice was presented to St Agnes' Church on the base of the Chalice the inscription reads, given by John in memory of Jean Mary Anderson, 12 November 2001. You may wish to donate for the restoration and other restorations, we have Fr Maurice Roche's Chalice that needs restoring. I hope to have restoration envelopes shortly and a Book of Donors to remember you or your loved one within it.

As we celebrate the Ascension Day today, Jesus returning to the Father, we wait for the coming of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Traditionally we pray in this week for Christian Unity, may they be one, as Jesus prayed. Just a note for next week you may wish to wear a red garment in celebrating Pentecost.

Great news for Malabar Parish, we now have a candelabra in front of one of our National Patronal Saints, Mary, Help of Christians. Our lighting of these candles, places our votive prayer before Mary, who am I sure will speak to her divine Son and our brother, Jesus for our requests. You may wish to leave a donation.

Please keep our First Holy Communion 2021 in your prayers. Some families still need to commit to the program, to ensure their child receives their First Holy Communion in a few weeks, time. It is week 3 of the National Attendance Count. This week the count will include all males (including boys and babies) and females (including girls and babies). God bless and love you all.

Fr John

A big thank you to Medcalf Funerals for Livestreaming my Installation as Parish Priest of Matraville. The link is <https://streaming.naoca.com.au/e/eb88b035-0c87-46a5-8691-be69eda10aad?pin=7171>

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.**