

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according  
to John.

*Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of  
everlasting life.*

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers  
of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How  
could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that  
his followers were complaining about it and  
said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should  
see the Son of Man ascend to where he was  
before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,  
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit  
and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.'  
For Jesus knew from the outset those who did  
not believe, and who it was that would betray  
him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no  
one could come to me unless the Father allows  
him.' After this, many of his disciples left him  
and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about  
you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter  
answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have  
the message of eternal life, and we believe; we  
know that you are the Holy One of God.'

✠ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394  
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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

22 AUGUST 2021

**MAKING DECISIONS**

In the lives of us all there are moments when  
we have to make decisions – decisions which  
will radically shape our future. When Joshua  
gathered all the people of Israel to the shrine of  
Shechem it was a moment of decision. Having  
finally taken possession of their own land,  
the risk was that they would be assimilated  
into the religious culture of the people that  
surrounded them. An even greater danger was  
that of forgetting the God who had made all  
this possible. Joshua saw that the time had  
come for the people of Israel to choose.

In a similar fashion, as Jesus concludes the  
bread of life discourse, his disciples and his  
contemporaries are challenged to decide  
where their allegiance lies. While Jesus' words  
are a scandal for even some of the disciples,  
the Twelve, through Peter, decide that Jesus'  
message is truly life-giving and that it comes  
from God.

The decision which is envisaged in the second  
reading is that married couples decide to  
model their relationship on the love that  
Jesus has shown in giving up his life for us all.  
The regulation of relationships in households  
found here is clearly coloured by its first  
century context and its language of submission  
can give the modern reader a jolt. Despite this  
there are reciprocal demands made on both  
spouses to model their love on that of Jesus  
who gave his life for us all.

**FIRST READING**

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

*We will serve the Lord God, because he is  
our God.*

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together  
at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders,  
judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented  
themselves before God. Then Joshua said to  
all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord,  
choose today whom you wish to serve, whether  
the gods that your ancestors served beyond the  
River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land  
you are now living. As for me and my House,  
we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention  
of deserting the Lord our God who brought  
us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt,  
the house of slavery, who worked those great  
wonders before our eyes and preserved us all  
along the way we travelled and among all the  
peoples through whom we journeyed. We too  
will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

✠ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

**R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

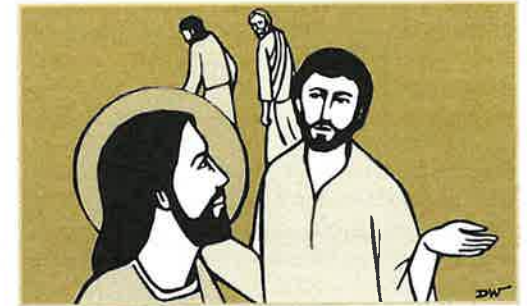
1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise  
always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall  
make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be  
glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked /  
to destroy their remembrance from the earth. /  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his  
ears to their appeal. **R.**

3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues  
them in all their distress. / The Lord is close  
to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is  
crushed he will save. **R.**

4. Many are the trials of the just man / but  
from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He  
will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of  
his bones shall be broken. **R.**

5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those  
who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord



ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who  
hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Ephesians.

*This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and  
the Church.*

Give way to one another in obedience to  
Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as  
they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of  
the Church and saves the whole body, so is a  
husband the head of his wife; and as the Church  
submits to Christ, so should wives to their  
husbands, in everything. Husbands should love  
their wives just as Christ loved the Church and  
sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He  
made her clean by washing her in water with  
a form of words, so that when he took her to  
himself she would be glorious, with no speck  
or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and  
faultless. In the same way, husbands must love  
their wives as they love their own bodies; for a  
man to love his wife is for him to love himself.  
A man never hates his own body, but he feeds  
it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ  
treats the Church, because it is his body – and  
we are its living parts. For this reason, a man  
must leave his father and mother and be joined  
to his wife, and the two will become one body.  
This mystery has many implications; but I am  
saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

✠ **The word of the Lord.**

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

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

Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 2.30pm

Parish Secretary: Julie Lippmann

Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

**SUNDAY MASS**

9am Livestreamed Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment.

School: 9311 1203



509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville

Ph: 9311 1909

[stagnesmatra@bigpond.com](mailto:stagnesmatra@bigpond.com)

[www.stagnesmatraville.org.au](http://www.stagnesmatraville.org.au)

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

**SUNDAY MASS**

9am Livestreamed Mass

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment

School: 9311 1995

## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Go Make Disciples,*

**The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney**



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Anthony Gruber, Paul Bateman KC\*HS, OAM, Sr Maria Roberts, SGS, Elise Mondon, Jane Michaux, Sam Capizzi, Maureen Gardnier, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Anniversary:** Jenny Moy, Moya Buckley, Mary Patricia Knight, Brian & Mary James, Lavinia Roberts, Dorothy Moyes, John McFadyen, and Craig Simmons

**The Sick:** Ken White

**Tax Receipts** for both parishes, have been emailed out. If you have not received, please contact the office on 93112062

**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:** Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [afeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:afeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If anyone in the parish has a love of high-tech equipment and is interested in learning the running of our new livestreaming equipment, we would appreciate your help. We are hoping to get enough parishioners involved, to make up a roster system for weekend masses. Anyone who is interested, please contact our offices on 9311 2062 or emailing [standrewmal@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmal@gmail.com) or [stagnesmatra@bigpond.com](mailto:stagnesmatra@bigpond.com).

### From my desk

Greetings one and all. This week I received my second jab of the Covid vaccine so fully vaccinated from Covid 19. They say it takes a good two weeks for it to kick in properly. I hope that you have been able to get to a vaccination hub or a GP. I am particularly concerned with our HSC students and young adults needing to be able to get vaccinated. I have been told for some older people, that they must wait some time to get an appointment time. I am hoping and praying that you can soon be back to Church, but it seems it is not going to be for a while. I keep you all in my daily prayers and Masses. I am particularly remembering those who have been infected by the virus, and those who have died from the virus and the many people who have their businesses effected and employees losing their employment. I am very aware that we must stay at home, not having the comfort of seeing and hugging our loved ones especially our grandparents etc. Being shut in can be very depressing, together with parents doing home schooling, while working from home. Our world seems very grim with the virus, Afghanistan's government falling, and the many lives that have been threatened. Let us not forget that Jesus, our brother, and savior is there for us to turn to, to pray for our needs. This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph as Patron of Saint of the Universal Church. St Joseph provided for the Holy Family in Nazareth, may we pray to him, as well for the well-being of our families, World and Church. Our Australian Plenary Council, the first Assembly is to begin this October by Zoom. Please pray for our Church in Australia, that the Holy Spirit may speak and renew once again, the face of the Church here in Australia.

We now have the resources to live-stream our 9am Sunday Mass from St Andrew's via the parish Websites of St Agnes' and St Andrew's. It is a wonderful medium to connect in this restricted time and when out of Covid-wherever that might be, it can be continued to assist the sick in connecting with our parish celebrations. Please pass on to parishioners that this facility is available via St Agnes' and St Andrew's websites. These live-streamed Masses are recorded and can be watched anytime on Sundays after 9am or any time on other days. If you are very knowledgeable in computer technology, you may wish to assist in the production of the Masses. I do hope to live-stream Masses at 9am Tuesday-Friday very soon, but the Sunday 9am Mass it fully in action. If you require assistance, please contact our parish offices. I am grateful for the assistance of both St Agnes' and St Andrew's parishioners who are able in assisting and enhancing our liturgies each Sunday.

The finance committees are very grateful for those who have assisted in finance towards the parish during lockdown. In the next week or so there will be via our websites at St Agnes' and St Andrew's to contribute through our donation button on the websites, more on this when operational.

In concern with the Sacrament of Confirmation 2021, the original dates in October for St Agnes' & St Andrew's have been postponed and will be rescheduled for later this year, dates to be confirmed. So, my intentions for candidates in Year 6 to receive confirmation in 2021 together with candidates in Year 3 to receive First Holy Communion in 2021, will all be dependent on restrictions been lifted.

If you need assistance, please contact our parish offices.



God bless and love you all,

**Fr John**

**Supporting our Parish** - Thank you once again for the generosity shown by our Parishioners at this time, it is much appreciated. Whilst waiting for our Donations link to be established under our Support Us link on our websites, please direct any donation enquiries to our parish offices.

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign: People across the country are invited to participate in the "Fan the Flame" prayer campaign leading up to the first assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The assembly starts on October 3. Campaign materials include resources for personal and communal prayer, reflections, musical suggestions and multimedia content. Find the resources at: [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthefflame/)



SCAN ME

**Where will Fr John be??**

**Every Sunday 9.00am mass Live-streamed  
Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube**