

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

29 AUGUST 2021

BE OPEN TO CHANGE

Often there is tension in our lives as we struggle to determine how to be faithful to the past and yet open to the demands of the present and the call of the future. Can what is good and true change and take on new forms? In the area of technology, the matter is often clearer than in the life of faith.

Confronted with Moses' demand that nothing of the law be changed or deleted what options did the Pharisees have for change? Deletion of any of Moses' regulations was tantamount to rejection of God's own word. They dealt with the demands of the present by a rigorous faithfulness to the traditions which they had received. From their perspective who was Jesus to challenge these traditions? What Jesus characterised as hypocrisy they saw as faithfulness to the demands of the living God. The problem was that of discerning that the living God was speaking anew through Jesus who stood before them. Faithfulness to what God has spoken absents none of us from the demand of listening to what God is speaking to us today; *the challenge lies in recognising it and responding with generosity.*

The letter of James also addresses this challenge by reminding us that while God's truth is unchanging, we are called to listen to the word which has been planted in our hearts. It is a word which is dynamic and growing – a word whose clearest demand is to reach out in love to those who cannot defend themselves.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

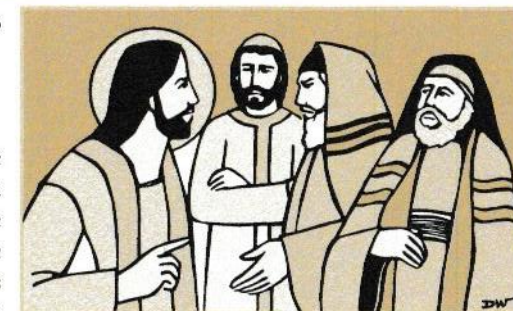
Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. **R.**

2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. **R.**

3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.

**St. Andrew & St. Agnes
Twinned Catholic Parishes**
Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

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School: 9311 1203



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Parish Secretary: 9311 2062

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment

Principal: Rose Andre

School: 9311 1995

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Arthur Tidswell, Anthony Gruber, Paul Bateman KC*HS, OAM, Sr Maria Roberts, SGS, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Anniversary: Ivan Curotta, Henry James Kennedy, Cathy O'Brien, Jenny Moy, and Moya Buckley.

The Sick: Yvonne Plummer

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. 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 or stagnesmatra@bigpond.com.

Where will Fr John be??

Every Sunday 9.00am Mass Livestreamed

Tuesday - Friday 9am

Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME

From my desk

Greetings one and all. It seems like Groundhog Day each day now, and with lockdowns and the number of infections rising, I hope you are getting vaccinated. I am aware of the stresses and strains that have been placed upon each of us, parents' home schooling, people losing their jobs, stood down or their business's going to the wall, grandparents not being able to hold their grandchildren, and people just closed in. It is very easy to be depressed and feel alone and lonely. We together are caught up in this horrible pandemic, and some believe that it doesn't exist and don't want to be vaccinated against it. It is sad enough being part of this whole pandemic, but to ignore the reality, I believe is very selfish, particularly for our front-line workers, whom I know some of them, are our parishioners, who put their lives on the line every day they go to work, to try to save people's lives who have the virus. Please pray that some sensibility will prevail.

We are striving to connect with you all with, our Livestreamed 9am Sunday Masses. As of this week our weekday Masses will be livestreamed 9am, Tuesday - Friday. They will be recorded so you can watch them any time after. Once again, our Twinned Parishes of St Agnes' and St Andrew's are going to help in the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments with these Masses. Because of the protestant evangelical church in Blacktown last weekend, who flaunted the restriction and went ahead with a packed church & singing, the Police now will be monitoring very strictly our allowed numbers at Live streamed Masses. Please, pass on the QR code of our Masses to as many of our parishioners who can participate in these liturgies. I have been particularly heartened by the positive comments to me about this new medium, in which we can connect with you in your homes during this lockdown period via our live-streamed Masses. Also, some have asked about contributions to parish funds. We are in the process of finalising the ability to use our St Agnes' and St Andrew's parish websites to assist you in your contribution to help the parish to remain viable. For further information please contact our Parish Offices. Many thanks everyone!

Some of you will already know that Leonie Burfield, our School Principal of St Andrew's Catholic Primary School after some 8 years as Principal, will be leaving us at the end of the year, to be the Principal of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Sutherland. It's funny, I think I know that place very well, called Sutherland! I wish to congratulate Leonie on her appointment and thank her for her faith, presence, and dynamism as Principal, that she has given over the years, here at St Andrew's. Sadly, I have had the pleasure of working Collaboratory with Leonie just for a year. I wish her every blessing as she goes to St Patrick's, which is close to me, after 12 years as Parish Priest. I know that Leonie will help the St Patrick's community to Nourish, Nurture and Grow in Christ. God bless you Leonie, more as we draw near to our end of the year. Now we must pray that we will have a wonderful new Principal to continue Leonie's legacy.

As I have just concluded over six months in my ministry as Parish Priest here at St Agnes and St Andrew's Catholic Twinned Parishes, I have been indeed blessed by the wonderful parish faith, love and communities on mission as disciples of Christ. Sadly, because of Covid I have not had the chance to really get to know all my flock in our parishes which our Archbishop, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP placed me as Pastor. I do hope very soon, when restrictions are over, we will be able to worship fully in our Churches, of St Agnes and St Andrews, where I will have a fuller picture of you all. In concern with Parish Councils and their members, I hereby dissolved them, and thank them for their ministry. I wish to reconvene them at a future time to be announced. I am very grateful for your wonderful welcome and support you have given me since my arrival with you.

Please contact the Parish Offices if we can be of assistance.

God bless you all, keep safe and well.

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.