

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY AND GENEROSITY

The proper use of spiritual authority is treated in today's readings where both Israel's elders and Jesus' disciples are called to generosity of spirit. The elders have had a brief taste of sharing in Moses' prophetic ministry but it has passed. Upset by the fact that Eldad and Medad are prophesying when they cannot, leads them to ask Moses to intervene.

The scenario is somewhat different for the disciples but both the elders and the disciples saw themselves as sharing in the power and authority of Moses and Jesus respectively. Neither group took lightly the fact that others might have been able to share in this without reference to them. The issue for Jesus and for Moses is not who exercises spiritual authority but what they achieve by it. The disciples are challenged to look deeper into the matter, and into their own hearts, to see that their primary concern should be that of making sure that the word is preached to the little ones. Furthermore, they are strongly challenged to make sure they do not become the means by which others are led to lose their faith by their own poor example.

The elders and disciples were called to have open and generous hearts on the question of who can exercise spiritual authority. James calls us to being generous and just in the matter of the use of our material resources. The letter has been insistent in confronting us with any lack of consistency between what we profess and how we act, particularly towards those who are disadvantaged.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

26 SEPTEMBER 2021

FIRST READING

Num 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14. R. v. 9

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

2. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

3. So in them your servant finds instruction; / great reward is in their keeping. / But who can detect all his errors? / From hidden faults acquit me. **R.**

4. From presumption restrain your servant / and let it not rule me. / Then shall I be blameless, / clean from grave sin. **R.**



SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.
Alleluia!

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



6 Prince Edward Street, Malabar
Ph: 9311 2062
standrewmal@gmail.com

www.standrewsmalabar.org.au

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

Secretarial Staff

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

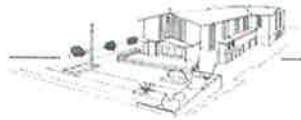
Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

Principal: Leonie Burfield

School: 9311 1203



War Memorial Church
509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville
Ph: 9311 1909

stagnesmatra@bigpond.com

www.stagnesmatraville.org.au

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

Parish Office: 9311 2062

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment

Principal: Rose Andre

School: 9311 1995

From my desk

Greetings to one and all. I hope all who are on school holidays are enjoying the sun, sand, walks and other things that one does in Covid restricted times within our LGA of Randwick. We are moving towards being 70% fully vaccinated, once reached we can then reopen to some freedoms. I do hope that churches will be high on the government list of reopening! I do urge you to be vaccinated and urge your families and friends. If you have concerns about the vaccines, please have a chat with your medical practitioner.

You would have noticed much activity to our St Agnes' War Memorial Catholic Church, Matraville. There is much maintenance that has been in need for some many years. Hopefully by the time we are able reopen most of the maintenance will have been completed, though there are some other matters requiring attention.

Next Sunday's livestreamed 9am Mass, we have been asked to celebrate a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit with its own prayers and reading, this is in conjunction with the opening Mass of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The last Plenary Council was in Australia 1937 and this is the first Plenary Council since the Second Vatican Council (1962—1965). So, what is a Plenary Council? Plenary is derived from Latin *plenarium* (complete or full), hence *Concilium Plenarium*, Plenary Council, meeting of the whole Church, which have a legislative function that does not apply to other national synods. The Plenary Council members (formerly delegates) have listened to the parishes and various agencies together with the Bishops of Australia to discern with the assistance of the Holy Spirit our needs for our Church of Australia. Please visit the Australian Bishop Conference website www.catholic.org.au regarding Assembly One of the Plenary Council and the workings of the Council in general. Please keep in your prayers the success of the Council.

I ask for your prayers our Higher School Certificate students as they make final Preparations for their HSC examinations next term. I particularly think of their families as well especially for all concern in this Covid restricted times.

God bless you all and keep you well and safe.

Fr John

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/fantheffame/



Please visit our website in concern with the **Euthanasia Bill**, to write to your local member to stop this Bill from becoming law.

Where will Fr John be??

Every Sunday 9.00am Mass Livestreamed

Tuesday - Friday 9am

Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as the original custodians of this land

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: John Hines, Yvonne Plumber, Sr Patricia Thame SGS, Tom Fitzpatrick, Victor Ballard, Fr Anthony Simari, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: David Blackmore, Peter John Skeffington, Frank Chessari, Alana Doyle, Dympna Fownes, Teofila Depczynski, Reg Foster, Victor Bonifacio, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, and Lydia & Joe Bujeya.

The Sick: Emilia Grace Kelly

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.