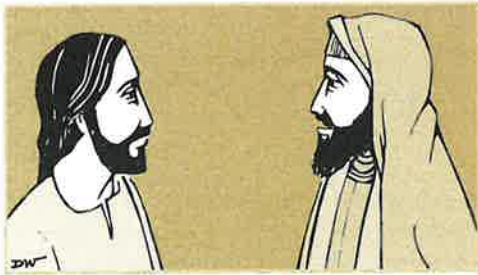


A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

31 OCTOBER 2021

GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

All too often Christians fall into the trap of characterising the Jewish faith as being legalistic. It is a judgement that is both unfair and inaccurate. It is true that Jesus engaged in sometimes heated debates with other interpreters of the Jewish Torah (Law), and this is reflected in the gospel tradition. At the same time, the gospel tradition attests that, apart from the regulations concerning ritual purity, Jesus agreed with many of his contemporaries about the key values that lay at the heart of their religion.

Poised to enter the promised land after forty years of wandering in the desert Moses takes the opportunity to remind the people what will be required to flourish in the future. Their loyalty to God will be measured by the degree to which they write God's law in their hearts. This is the compass that will guide them in the years ahead and nurture their relationship with the living God.

The great first-century Rabbi Hillel was challenged to explain the Torah while standing on one foot. His reply was "Don't do to others what is repugnant to you. All else is commentary." Asked by a scribe to articulate his view of the greatest commandment Jesus highlights Moses' instruction to love God with all one's heart, mind, and strength adding the command to love our neighbour as ourselves. Hillel, like the ten commandments, focused on avoiding harming others. Jesus' genius can be seen in phrasing it positively in terms of love – our best compass and guide.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Deut 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Hear, Israel, you shall love the Lord with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

 The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / he has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

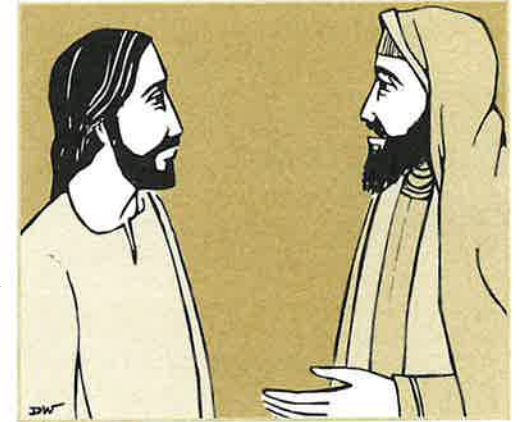
SECOND READING

7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ,



because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

 The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

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
MASSES ARE BACK AT MALABAR

Masses Tues - Fri 9am

Sat 5pm Recorded - streamed

Sun 9am & 10am

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

CHURCH CLOSED DUE TO RENOS

Sat 5pm Recorded & streamed

Tuesday - Friday 9am at St Andrew's

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 1995



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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Joe Brady, Margaret Smith, Pete Quirk, Annette Auld, Robert Donelley, Claude Timbery, Victor Ballard, Delma Davison, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Jennifer Blackmore, Rani Patrick, Mary Philomina, Xavier & Louise Micallef, Som Luks, and Robert Aquilina

The Sick: Fran Evans Fares Tadros, Emilia Grace Kelly and all the sick, dying, poor and homeless.



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.

Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next week?

F John - Sunday 9am Livestreamed and recorded

(Fr John will also be celebrating the First Holy Communion Masses - Malabar)

Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME

From my desk

Greetings to all parishioners of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes. A very special and blessed day for all of us this Thursday 4 November, with our 9am Mass at St Agnes', War Memorial Church Matraville, as we recommence Masses after lockdown, and we conclude stages 1-4 of restoration program towards Consecration of our Church. I would encourage all parishioners of St Agnes' and St Andrew's to come along to the 9am Mass this Thursday 4 November. In preparation of this commencement Mass, can I please invite people to a Working Bee on Wednesday 3 November around 11am to give St Agnes' a good clean down, there is much dust that needs to be removed, so if you can, bring along some rags and buckets to put the finishing touches for this recommencement Mass on Thursday, 4 November 2021.

So, Masses until 4 November will be all at St Andrew's Church, Malabar, Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am & 10am. Monday being All Saints Day (1 November) there will be two Masses at St Andrew's 7am & 9am. All Souls Day, (2 November) on Tuesday there will be 3 Masses at St Andrew's, 7am, 9am & 12 Noon. Wednesday, (Feast Day of St Martin de Pores) at St Andrew's 9am. From Thursday Masses will resume at St Andrew's and St Agnes' as per usual. I do appreciate your patience in these trying times. In concern with our Live-stream Mass on Sunday, this will remain for the time being. Each week, I will advise at which Mass, livestreaming will function and record so you can catch up later. I would urge you all to attend Mass at St Andrew's or St Agnes', it is so good to celebrate together. Please note weekday Masses St Andrew's are Tues & Wed, Fri & Sat morning Masses will be at 9am. At St Agnes' weekday Masses, Tues, Wed & Fri 7am & Thurs 9am.

November is the month in praying for the Holy Souls. In the book Leviticus in the Bible, we read that it is a holy and wholesome thought, to pray for the dead. During November Masses are offered for our dear departed loved ones. You can place your loved one's name on our offering envelopes and place an offering in it. The November envelopes can be found in your envelope pack and around the Churches. These will be collected and placed at the foot of the Pieta that will remain throughout November. All through November at all our Masses, your dear departed loved ones will be remembered.



Please remember our Year 3 parishioners and their families of St Andrew's, who will be receiving their 1st Holy Communion next Sunday, 7 November 10.30am & 12.15pm, sadly because of Covid retractions we can only accommodate 5 plus the candidate. We are hoping to live-stream these Masses.

We are very saddened to learn that Margaret Martin, who after many years with us at St Andrew's, this week has moved to an Aged Care Facility at Blakehurst. May the Lord bless her in this new stage of her life. Margaret has left us a small statue of St Therese, the little flower, which will be restored and placed in the Annex of the Church in remembrance. Congratulations to Erika Gunawan & Stazi Plkos of St Agnes', who were married this Saturday 30 November, may the Lord bless them in their married life with many blessings.

Our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes are always wishing, all to be feeling safe, in particular our children. At St Andrew's this week, a new confessional has been built in the old style, which has a wall between the Penitent and the Priest, so it is child safe, the old one was not child safe. The new confessional is now located just a little further down from the old one. St Agnes' has always had child safe confessionals since, it was built in 1966. What is new is old again. You may wish to use them, they have a comfortable seat and kneeler (if you choose), nice and bright, freshly painted and decorated.

God bless and keep you all safe, **Fr John**