

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.*

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends, and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form Lk 15:1-32*

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

11 SEPTEMBER 2022

## GOD'S MERCY AND FORBEARANCE

If anything could be said to lie at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition, it is the message of the love, mercy and forbearance of God. Many people would falsely characterise the God of the Old Testament as a God who condemns and judges. However, the incident of the golden calf is one of several occasions in the Old Testament where God's mercy is shown to be far more powerful than any desire to condemn.

The beginning of the first letter to Timothy reflects on Paul's experience of this loving-kindness of God. It was well known that he who had persecuted the Church (Galatians 1:13; Philippians 3:6) had still been called to serve the Lord as an apostle. The core of the gospel is succinctly stated in one powerful phrase: 'that Christ came into the world to save sinners'.

This is nowhere more beautifully treated in the Gospels than in Luke 15. Faced with the opposition of the scribes and Pharisees when Jesus chooses tax collectors and sinners as companions, Jesus seeks their understanding and a softening of their critical stance by using parables that speak powerfully of God's mercy. It is not simply a matter of God being merciful since it is accompanied by a call for us to share in it by rejoicing that what was lost has now been found. In the kingdom of God sinners that repent will have a special place at the banquet table. The question remains as to whether our hearts are big enough to accept it.

## FIRST READING

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus

*The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.*

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on the people the disaster he had threatened.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19. R. Lk. 15:18

**R. I will rise and go to my father.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence. / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

3. O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. / My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; / a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Tim 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

*Christ came to save sinners.*

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he  
has entrusted to us.**

**Alleluia!**



**St ANDREW & St AGNES  
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**

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Sunday 9 am

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Syro-Malabar Rite: 1st Sunday; 5pm

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am

Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm

Sunday 10 am

RECONCILIATION:

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Child Protection Sunday*



**Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

**Recently deceased:** Ali Amal, Margaret Borg, Miklos Weiner, and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, *the sick and dying, the poor and the homeless (that they continue to walk in the light of God's love, mercy & compassion)*, the people of Ukraine and Russia, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus



**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane.

**Anniversary:** Giovanni Spano, Robert & Helena Dwyer, Isabel & Atia Leite, Leonard & Rudy Velu, Victor Ballad, Arthur Tidswell, Henry James Kennedy, Robert & Yolanda Aquilina, Pat Weir, James & John Donovan, Vincent Hinks, Teofila Depczynski, and Ivan Curotta,

**The Sick:** Maria Reilly, Lachlan Strawbridge, Josh Peel-Yates, Dagney Payet, Tina Maria, Eva Pethes, Angelo Portelli, Anton Snashel, Ellie Carter, Mary Lau, Lilly Weekes, Brian and Colleen Maguire, Max Fenech, Marc Bakusic, Fran Evans, Ernie Ross Metilda and Jacintha Mary. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes and those suffering from Covid.

**Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend?**

Saturday, - 17th September, 5.00pm St Andrew's - Fr Bijoy (Livestreamed)

Sunday - 18th September 10.00am St Agnes' - Fr Bijoy, 11.30am Fr John

Please scan the QR code to watch on Youtube.



SCAN ME

*From the Pastor's Desk*



**Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes, Malabar — Matraville**

As I pen my pastor's notes today the passing of Queen Elizabeth II has just reached me. It is indeed a sad day after 70 years reigning over the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations, which we are part of. We honour this remarkable woman of duty and service, who for most she is the only Queen we have known and seen of over her many years. May she Rest In Peace.

What a wonderful First Eucharist Retreat Day that was held at St Andrew's last Thursday. All candidates from St Andrew's and St Agnes' Parishes Catholic Schools, State and Home-Schooled being part of this day. I wish to thank all those who made this day so fruitful. This Sunday at St Andrew's parish, 56 of our community will receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. Our special First Holy Communion Masses will be at St Andrew's at 10.30am & 12.15pm this Sunday. Next weekend St Agnes' will celebrate their First Holy Communion Mass at 11.30am. Please keep our candidates and their families in your prayers. This Sacrament is so precious as we know that we receive Jesus' Body, Soul, and Divinity into our own beings. What a gift! Jesus himself enters our bodies and we are in Holy Communion with our Lord and Saviour. What can we do? Pray and communicate our own request to him who loves us! Do not let this moment go by, as we who have received Jesus many times use the opportunity to draw closer to our Divine Lord. Congratulations to all our First Eucharist members of our parish and their parent/carers who have brought them to this moment of Grace.

Some wonderful news from the Universal Church, with the Beatification of Pope John Paul I, "The Smiling Pope" Pope, 26 August—28 September 1978. For 33 days Pope John Paul I, entranced the Universal Church with his smile and love of the Church. His humility and example of joyful service was well known. Albano Luciani born in Northern Italy in the foothills of the Dolomites Mountains as Pope, detached himself from worldly temptations such as power and influence. He lived the joy of the Gospel, without compromises, loving to the very end. What a wonderful example to all of us in living fully the Christian message of love. Blessed Pope John Paul I, pray for us.



**Wishing God's Blessings to all.**

**Father John**



We welcome Lily Bluebell Visser, Heather Francisca Von Schoenberg and Lachlan Phillip Wilmot into our Parish Community, who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend, at St Andrew's.

**Please see Parish websites for other notices.**

**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 [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@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.