

Breaking Open the Word



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

19 MARCH 2023

man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 9:1-41

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CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LIGHT

Learning to read between the lines is not a skill that comes naturally to most of us. Today's readings show just how difficult and challenging it can be to look into the heart of things to see them as God does. Samuel knew that he had been commissioned to anoint one of Jesse's sons as the new king, but which one? As Samuel is reminded, we tend to look at appearances but God looks at the heart. Ultimately, it is the Lord who will teach Samuel that David is the chosen one.

The letter to the Ephesians invites us to join in the journey of discovering what the Lord wants of us. It requires honesty and trust, to bring ourselves as we are to the light of Christ. While fear might hold us back, there is the encouraging reminder that what is brought to the light of Christ is not condemned, but transformed and turned into light.

The episode of the man born blind is a marvellous example of how difficult and yet freeing, it is to come into the light of Christ. The man gradually moves from seeing Jesus as a man, then as a prophet, and finally coming to believe in him as Lord. He was originally treated as an outsider because of his disability. After being questioned three times, his growing insight and faith lead him to be cast out yet again, but now he is no longer alone; now the Lord stands beside him.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / I am the light of the world, says the Lord; / whoever follows me will have the light of life. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent marks our halfway point of our 2023 Lenten journey. It is called Laetare Sunday—'Rejoice' Sunday and the colour of this Sunday is

Rose. God sent his only Son, Jesus to reconcile us from the sin of Adam. This Sunday's rejoicing is a foretaste of our Easter Celebration in a few weeks time. Next Sunday, we journey more and more into our Season of Lent. Our statues and icons in the church will be covered up with purple cloths as we prepare our hearts and minds in celebrating the solemn events of God's redeeming graces the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As this Lenten Season is a time of reconciliation, I would invite all to a 2nd Rite of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) at St Andrew's Church, Malabar this Wednesday 22 March commencing at 7.00pm. There will be another Confessor (Priest), it is a communal celebration with individual confessions. If you have not been to one of these celebrations, you might like to come along, it goes for about 1/2 hour. If you wish the 1st Rite of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) in the Confessional Box, you might like to go to St Agnes' Church, Matraville Thursday 23 March 6.00—6.30pm.

The completion of the Sacrament of Penance Program 2023 Celebrations will be at Matraville, Wednesday 29 March, while Malabar, Thursday 30 March.

As was made note of at Masses at St Agnes' last weekend it is hoped that a new audio-visual system will be installed prior to Easter. Sorry for any inconveniences during the installation.

Palm Sunday is 1 and 2 April, we will be needing palms for Palm Sunday your donations of palm at both parishes will be gratefully accepted. Deliver to Malabar, Wed 29 March and Thurs 30 March. Deliver to Matraville Church, Saturday 25, Sunday 26 March.

God Bless you all

Fr John

EASTER ROSTER for the Easter Ceromnies, asking for volunteers, located at the back of the church St Andrew's, in the Sacristy at St Agnes.

ATTENTION: St Andrew's Carpark is still not able to be used due to resurfacing

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 safeguarding.enquiries@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

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Office hours: Tues & Wed 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

& Fri 8.30 am - 2.30 pm

Secretarial Staff

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 am

Vigil Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 9 am

RECONCILIATION:

Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment

Principal: Mr Phil Tax

St Andrew's Primary School Malabar: 9311 1203

War Memorial Church

509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St, Malabar

Office hours: See Opposite Box

Ph: 9311 2062

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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

Sacred Heart School Matraville: 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.



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: All the people of Syria and Turkey who have died as a result of the Earthquake, all the people of the Ukraine and Russia who have died as a result of War, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: John Brennan, Marika Gubashi, Moyah Buckley, Graham Twitchings, Troy Perey, & Brady North-Flannigan,

The Sick: Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, Gina Buchan, Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Sylvester and Santa Viselli, Ellie Carter and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 25 March - 5.30pm St Agnes'

Sunday - 26 March - 9.00 am - St Andrew's (Livestreamed)