

something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

23 APRIL 2023

CHRIST'S FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

In order to piece a jigsaw together, a great deal of patience is required, as well as the skill of being able to work out the relationship of one piece to the pieces around it. Slowly, large patterns begin to take shape, and so it was with the early Church. In the light of the experience of the Risen Lord, and the catalyst provided by the gift of the Spirit, the first generation of Christians was able to place the life, death and resurrection of Jesus into their proper context. The gift of the Spirit enabled Peter to see that all that had taken place in the life of Jesus was part of a larger plan, and took place with God's foreknowledge. Even Jesus' death was but a preliminary step towards his exaltation and ability to pour out the gift of the Spirit on those who believe.

In a similar vein, Peter saw that promises made before the world began were now fulfilled in Jesus. While the end of days was seen to have already begun, the final pieces of the jigsaw had yet to be put in place. In the meantime, the community was called to remember with gratitude the price Jesus had paid for our freedom, and to live appropriately till the Lord's return.

For the disciples on the road to Emmaus, it was not an easy matter to see how the pieces of the puzzle of Jesus' life fitted together. As they journeyed, they were helped by the Risen Lord to finally understand the message contained in the Scriptures and to recognise him with them in the breaking of the bread.

Christopher Monaghan CP

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FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, / for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. / So my heart was glad / and my tongue cried out with joy: / my body, too, will rest in the hope / that you will not abandon my soul to Hades / nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. / You have made known the way of life to me, / you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11. R. v. 11

R. Lord, you will show us the path of life. (or Alleluia!)

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. / I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.' / O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; / it is you yourself who are my prize. **R.**

2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, / who even at night directs my heart. / I keep the Lord ever in my sight: / since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R.**

3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; / even my body shall rest in safety. / For you will not leave my soul among the dead, / nor let your beloved know decay. **R.**

4. You will show me the path of life, / the fullness of joy in your presence, / at your right hand happiness for ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: / make our hearts burn with love when you speak. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but



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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.



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Adam Towner and Sylvester Joseph, and 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: Louise Micallef, G. M. Joseph, Robyn Deacon, Lydia & Joseph Bujeya, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, Cheryl Rose, Eugene, Catherine & Mario Torchia, Adelaidia Soriano, Robert & Helena Dwyer, Inez D'Souza, and Alfred & Helena Gainge.

The Sick: Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, Gina Buchan, Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, 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 - 29 April - 5.00 pm St Andrew's—Supply Priest
Sunday - 30 April - 10.00 am - St Agnes' - Supply Priest



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

This weekends Gospel the third Sunday of Easter we travel with the disciples on the road to Emmaus with the risen Lord. There is something that prevents them from recognising him, and it is not until he breaks bread with them, when they recognise him. We are not immune to this reality, as we make our pilgrimage of life. We sometimes get so caught up in life's affairs and we fail to recognise the risen Lord walking by our side. As Post Paschal (Easter People) we have received the Risen Lord in our hearts and minds but fail to see him in ourselves and others. Let us open our eyes, minds, and hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit and engage more freely in God's love, joy and peace.

This Sunday is ANZAC Sunday and prior to the 10am Mass the RSL marches to the RSL Club down Bunnerong Road, the March will stop briefly at our War Memorial Church, St Agnes' Matraville before the commencement of the 10am Mass. Next Tuesday is ANZAC Day there is a Dawn Service at the Matraville RSL Cenotaph 1 Norfolk Parade, Matraville at 5.00am all welcome. There will be only one Mass on ANZAC Day at our War Memorial Church at St Agnes' Matraville commencing at 9.00am. All welcome to remember all those who have fallen in war.

Please keep in your prayers Bishop Peter Ingham. Bishop Peter was a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney, ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney as many will remember and subsequently Bishop of Wollongong. He is a very dear friend of mine and actually inspired me in my vocation in becoming a priest when I was a boy at St Joseph's Newtown, many years ago. Bishop Peter is very low in health and in Palliative Care at home. Please pray for him, this faithful servant on his final journey to our Father in heaven.

Next weekend I will be attending the National Retreat of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and one of the MSC Priests from Kensington will be supplying.

An update to St Agnes' Matraville parishioners who use the Sacred Heart School parking during masses. Stage 2 of Sacred Heart School Matraville is to commence and the carpark will not be able to be used from Friday, 12 May, 2023. This includes all vehicles together with school staff.

God bless you all in this Eastertide

Fr John

PARISH OUTING to Bowral/Berrima, Southern Highlands, Berrima Courthouse. Cost \$50, includes coach fare, morning tea and lunch ?at Bowral Bowling Club. Final payment by Sunday, May 7. Contact Kathy 9311-749 or Marie 9661-7186



We welcome into our Parish Community **Callum Anthony Barry, Oliver Vincent Barry and Delilah Marie Black** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St. Andrew's. **Congratulations.**