

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

30 APRIL 2023

FULLNESS OF LIFE

The readings for today invite us to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus and its consequences for us. As Peter concludes his preaching on the day of Pentecost, he reminds the pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem that Jesus' brutal and wrongful death has been reversed by God raising him as Lord and Christ. That is not all, because the resurrection provides them with the possibility to think again and so accept the gracious forgiveness that God is unexpectedly offering. In the midst of human frailty, misunderstanding and violence God's love will find a way to bring life out of death.

In the second reading the focus shifts as Peter pays close attention to Jesus' manner of dealing with his own suffering and death as a model for disciples as we confront suffering and injustice. As the shepherd, Jesus goes before us carrying our weakness and brokenness on the cross, transforming them by the power of his healing love. In our turn, we are called to follow his example of forgiving and life-giving love.

The Gospel today invites us to accept Jesus as the Good Shepherd who calls, protects, and enlivens us. Jesus is the Shepherd who gave himself for the sake of the sheep, the one who still calls us to hear his voice and follow. He has come so we might have life and have it to the full. In Jesus, we have the sure hope that whatever struggles lie before us he will lead us safely home if we listen to his voice and follow where he leads.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)

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

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
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Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 10 am
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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.



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Adam Towner, Sylvester Joseph and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Antonio Castillo, Susan Lee Soo Sim, Jack Davis, Ben Bishenden, Clare Pekin, Joe Smith, Louise Micalef and G. M. Joseph.

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, 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 - 6 May 2023 - 5.30 pm St. Agnes'
Sunday - 7 May 2023 - 9.00 am - St. Andrew's (Livestreamed)

ATTENTION: SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION Parent Information Meeting
Wednesday, 3 May 2023 at 7pm in St. Andrew's Church Malabar



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

This Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally Good Shepherd Sunday where we hear of Jesus as the Good Shepherd watching over his sheep fold. It is traditionally a day in which we pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life. Jesus reminds us in Luke 10:2 "that the harvest is rich, but the

labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest". We pray that many will take up the call of the Shepherd and be priests and religious.

A thought for the Day from Pope Francis: 'All is faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord-each in his or her own way-to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect. We should not grow discouraged before examples of holiness that appear unattainable.' Mother of the Church proposed them to us not to copy them, but so that we can be spurred on in our pursuit of specific path the Lord has chosen each of us. 'The most important thing is that each believer discern his or own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts.'

Please note the Sacrament of Confirmation Parent information evening this Wednesday, 3 May at St Andrew's Church, Malabar at 7pm, for those Parent/Carers of children in Year 6 and above.

Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal will be held next weekend at all Masses. This appeal assists with many agencies of the Archdiocese, your giving is much appreciated. Any giving \$2 and over are 100% tax-deductible. Please note that this CWF Appeal is the last for the financial year 2022/2023 you may wish to use receive tax credits gained from your giving to this appeal.

This weekend, I will be attending the National Retreat for the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Easter Seasons blessings to all.

Fr John



Bob Cameron a parishioner of St Andrew's has published a book about his journey back to God. *21 Days Back to God* retails at \$18.95 per copy and can be ordered through Coventry Press at: <https://coventrypress.cm.au/index.php?route=common/home>. Just enter the title in the search box. Or order through Catholic bookshops such as: <https://www.paulinebooks.com.au/location/index.shtml> and <https://mustardseed.org.au/>.



CWF MAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND 6 & 7 MAY 2023

Help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place. Please give generously. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

PARISH OUTING Tuesday, 30 May 2023 to Bowral/Berrima, Southern Highlands, Berrima Courthouse. Cost \$50, includes coach fare, morning tea and lunch at Bowral Bowling Club. Final payment by Sunday, 7 May 2023. Contact Kathy 9311-749 or Marie 9661-7186



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 police.