

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

7 MAY 2023

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?' Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

he will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 1982. Website: [www.stpauls.com.au](http://www.stpauls.com.au)

## OPEN TO CHANGE

Living with change is often uncomfortable and unsettling. Ways of acting and seeing things no longer work as they once did. We look for direction and a sure guide, to know how to act in the present, and plan for the future. It may be a source of comfort to know that the early Church faced many challenges and needed to adapt to changing situations and contexts. The very growth of the community in Jerusalem had created its own problems and the apostles were stretched thin. Consequently, some groups were disadvantaged. It was a moment of tension and decision which led the apostles to call for deacons to be appointed so that the needs of the poor, and the need for the word to be proclaimed, would both be satisfied.

When Jesus spoke of his coming departure the disciples were rightly fearful. How would they manage without Jesus' presence to guide them? They felt ill-prepared for such change and distrustful of their own ability to find the right path. Addressing this dilemma, Jesus reminds them that his departure is how God will open the way to a future that they have not yet dared to imagine.

To deal with changes creatively we need a solid core on which we can rely. Peter stresses that steadfastness in the face of opposition and misunderstanding is an essential requirement in the life of a disciple. For others Jesus is a stumbling block, but for believers he is a precious stone. In a constantly changing world, there is one firm foundation, and we are called to trust in him and sing his praises.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.*

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v. 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (or Alleluia!)**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; / for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. / Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, / with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**

2. For the word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Pet 2:4-9

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter**

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.*

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:6

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; / no one comes to the Father, except through me. / Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.**

*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am



**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 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  
stagnesmatra@bigpond.com  
www.stagnesmatraville.org.au  
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.



## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

### Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

**Recently Deceased:** George Rezcallah, Joe Tax, Antonia Schilt, Litzia (Letti) Aramini, Adam Towner, Sylvester Joseph and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

**Anniversary:** Andy Couch, Peter Mills, Jela (Jean) Bakuusic, Manuel Alvaro Da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Antonio Castillo, Susan Lee Soo Sim, Jack Davis, Ben Bishenden, Clare Pekin, Joe Smith, Louise Micallef 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.

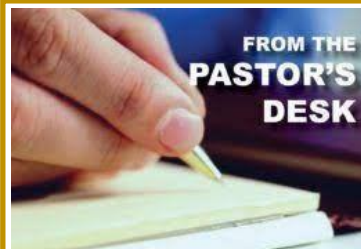


### Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 13 May 2023 - 5.00 pm St. Andrew's (Livestreamed)  
Sunday - 14 May 2023 - 10.00 am St. Agnes



We welcome into our Parish Community Kobi Blair Kelso, Halle Julie Kelso, Madden Murray Lee and Eloise Mae Sprouster who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St. Andrew's. **Congratulations.**



**Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.** Beginning this weekend and next weekend, we will have students and families of Year 6 and above Years from our Catholic Primary Schools together with our State Schools of our Parishes and other Schools, to commit to our Sacrament of Confirmation 2023 program. Please keep these candidates and families in your prayers as

they prepare for this important and last Sacrament of Initiation.

A catch-up Parent and Carer information session for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place this Tuesday 9 May 2023 at St Andrew's Parish Meeting Room at 3.30pm. This meeting is essential for all parent/carers who were not able to make the meeting last Wednesday 3 May 2023. If you are not able to attend, please contact the Parish Office 9311 2062 or [standrewmal@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmal@gmail.com) for a further meeting time.

Sacred Heart School Matraville, have advised that parking in the School grounds will conclude for all cars (even the teachers cars) at the end of day, 10 May as they will commence fencing off the site 11 May 2023. Car Park will resume operations with the completion of Stages 2 & 3 January 2025.

Next weekend is Mother's Day, and a special blessing will be offered to all mothers at our weekend Masses together with remembering and praying for all deceased mothers. Our 9am Friday Mass at St Andrew's our St Andrew's School is having a special Mother's Day Mass.

Last Saturday evening (6 May), you may have watch on your tv's the Coronation of King Charles III. This means that he is now our King of Australia, as we are still part of the British Dominion.

God bless you all in this Season of Easter Joy.

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 THIS WEEKEND

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. Now full.** Contact Kathy 9311-1749 or Marie 9661-7186



**Funeral for the Late George Rezcallah, Tues, 9 May, 10.30am, Maronite Cathedral Redfern**  
**Funeral for the Late Antonia Schitt, Tues, 16 May, 1.00pm--Eastern Suburns Crematorium.**  
**Funeral for the late Litzia (Letti) Aramini, Wed, 17 May, 10am—St Agnes' Matraville.**