

hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 28:19, 20
Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 28:16-20
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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PRESENT IN ALL CREATION

The resurrection of Jesus was clearly a moment of healing victory and the basis of hope for the early Church. While the victory over sin and death had been won a whole new set of questions arose for the first generation of Christians. Where do we go now? What does the Risen Lord ask of us? How will the Lord continue to be present among us? The early Christians reflected on Jesus' Ascension and used this moment of transition to address these questions for themselves and to instruct future generations of Christians.

Much had already been achieved but the time had come for the Risen Lord to entrust the next stage of the mission into the hands of the disciples. Having been schooled for forty days by the Risen Lord they were now entrusted with the mission of bringing the message of Jesus to the world around them. While they would not have looked forward to the day when Jesus would pass from their midst, they were nonetheless reminded that while the quality of his presence had changed, he would never leave them.

While the letter to the Ephesians does not speak explicitly of the Ascension it does reflect on how the Pauline communities saw this change in Jesus' presence among them. Christians are encouraged to see that by being exalted to God's right-hand Jesus is now able to be present throughout all of creation, no longer limited by space and time. They are called to see that he is not absent but is now even more powerfully present.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

■ The word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.
(or Alleluia!)**

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**
3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what



**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.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Sr Judith Carney, Allana Vedder, Ken Beasley, Fabian LoSchiavo, George Rezcallah, Joe Tax, Antonia Schilt, Litzia (Letti) Aramini, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Carmel Donovan, Lilian Hinks, Pagta Delgado Jones, Demi Jean Borg Sultana, Stjepan Cavolic, Brent Baker Antoni Depczynski, Thomas Gauci, Angelina da Cruz, Jesuina Sarmento, Jose Bento, Altino Araujo, Joseph Panetta, Tony Bujeya, and Thomas Gauci

The Sick: Paul Blackmore, 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



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 27 May 2023 - 5.00 pm St. Andrews (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 28 May 2023 - 10.00 am St. Agnes'

Funeral for the Late Sr Judith Carney, Thursday, 25 May, 10.30am - St Andrew's
Funeral for the Late Frank Abela, Friday, 26 May, 10.30am - St Agnes' Matraville



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

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, in which we celebrate the Lord Jesus ascending back to the Father in heaven so as to send the Advocate. The sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles assists them and us to carry on the mission of Church in

spreading of God's love to all. Jesus did not want us to be left as orphans, by sending us the Holy Spirit we have Jesus within us through baptism and the other sacraments. As we await to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost next Sunday, we are like the Apostles prayerfully remembering that moment in time when the birth of the Church took place as the Holy Spirit gave to the Apostles, that by which we are called into the body of Christ, the Church. You may wish to wear red garments if not National Dress to celebrate our Pentecost Feast Day.

Next Sunday we celebrate Pentecost, and we are asking those who have traditional Nation Dress to wear it at Masses next weekend. This is to symbolise that the Spirit has gone to the ends of the earth. Also, we will hopefully have our Universal Prayer, prayed in other languages to show the universal nature of our Church.

This Sunday, I will travel to St Mary's Cathedral to concelebrate the Solemn Mass at 10.30am, as Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP presents the 2023 Dempsey Award recipients for exemplary service to the Archdiocese in our Parishes. Malabar Parish: David Strawbridge & Marie Jennings and Matraville Parish: Sue Donovan & Joji Kandur, congratulations and our heartfelt thanks for your tremendous giving to our parishes. God bless you all.

Congratulations to Joe & Perpetua Pinto (Malabar) as they celebrate their 50years of marriage, 21 May 1973 – 2023. Happy anniversary!

Congratulations to Maria Reilly (Matraville) as she celebrates her 105th birthday, Friday 26 May 1918 – 2023. Happy birthday Maria!

Wednesday is the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, one of our Patron Saints of Australia. There will be Masses at St Agnes' Matraville 7.00am & 11.30am while at St Andrew's Malabar 9.00am all welcome .

Keep our 2023 Confirmation class in your prayers, we are still having commitment to the Sacrament happening at our Masses.

A Memorial Mass for the late Fabian LoSchiavo, of Malabar will take place on Tuesday 30 May 2023 at St Andrew's Malabar commencing at 11.00am.

Easter blessing to one and all.

Father John

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for children not attending St Andrew's or Sacred Heart schools will resume on **Wed, 24 May**, 3.45pm-5.15pm in the meeting room of the Church at St Andrew's.



Available at the Piety Stall (\$20) both parishes. Bob Cameron a parishioner of St Andrew's has published a book about his journey back to God—**21 Days Back to God** . You can also purchase online 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/>.

PARISH OUTING Tuesday, 30 May 2023 to Bowral/Berrima, Southern Highlands, Berrima Courthouse. Now full. Contact Kathy 9311-1749 or Marie 9661-7186

