



SIGNS OF GOD IN THE TIMES

Reading accurately the signs of the times and then responding appropriately is seldom an easy matter. In coming to Mount Sinai, the people of Israel have arrived at a decisive moment, as today's first reading notes. They are called to remember how God rescued them and to pledge themselves to be faithful to their covenant relationship. By doing this each member will share in the priestly duties of bringing others to encounter the living God. Faced with the needs of so many people Jesus had also arrived at a moment of decision. The people were in desperate need of shepherds to care for them. His response was to appoint the Twelve to share in his ministry of healing and proclaiming the reign of God.

For Paul, the most important sign of the times was not the fact that all humanity deserved to be condemned as falling short of the mark. Rather, it was God's unexpected response to our need and powerlessness. Paul stresses our desperate plight in order to emphasise the marvellous gift we have been given in the saving death of Jesus. No greater proof could be found to show us God's love for all people than Jesus dying for us while we were yet sinners. From Paul's perspective, there was never a question of us meriting such an act of self-sacrifice. The death of Jesus is an invitation to wonder, hope and joyfully trust that whatever has ruptured our relationship with God has been healed.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 19: 2-6

A reading from the book of Exodus.

You will be a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99: 2-3, 5. R. v. 3

R. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. / Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We have been reconciled to God through the death of his Son; we are saved by his life.

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy a man might



be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 1: 15

Alleluia, alleluia! / The kingdom of God is near; / repent and believe the Good News! / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 9:36—10:8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He summoned his twelve disciples, and sent them out.

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL THROUGH GREECE AND TURKEY

11-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Chaplain:
Fr Michael Goonan SSP,
Editor of *God's Word* and
St Pauls Sunday Bulletins

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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



11TH SUNDAY IN ODINARY TIME

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Marissa Daito, Rosa Lipari, Brian Harvey, Stjepan Cavlovic, Litzia (Letti) Aramini, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Shirley Foster, Osvana Amirian, Daisy Joseph, Guiseppe Musumeci, Carmelo Borg, Aldo Visselli, Robert & Yolanda Aquilina, Jenny Moy, Aida da Cruz, Joao Bosco da Costa, Joaquim da Costa, Isabel da Luz, Ronelle Knowles, Grace Abela, Aldo Viselli, Tony Gauci, George Kerbage, Ida Rotta, Joseph Rotta, Dr Ralph Baccash, Giselle & Nasri Baccash.

The Sick: Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, Gina Buchan, 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 - 24 June 2023 - 5.00 St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 18 June 2023 - 10.00 am St. Agnes'



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

Last Friday was the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it was also the first Patronal Feast Day of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Matraville. The day was even more significant with the Blessing of Stage 1 of Sacred Heart School, Matraville by Auxillary Bishop Danny Meagher, a former parishioner and student of St Agnes', Matraville and opening by The Hon Matt Thistlewaite, our Federal Member for Kingsford Smith. Stage 2 of the redevelopment of our Primary School is in full swing as with one of the 1950's school building demolished together with the old toilet block. As is moving towards a brand new school in 2025 hopefully. Blessings to Principal Rose Andre' and her executive and staff as they provide a top class Catholic education in bringing all to this stage of development.

Confirmations will be celebrated at our Parishes this week. On Tuesday, at St Andrew's Bishop Brady will confer Confirmation at 6.00pm. On Friday at St Agnes', Bishop Umbers will confer Confirmation at 6.00pm. Our prayers and thoughts to those receiving this last Sacrament of Initiation and their families. Thanks to all who have prepared these candidates for this Sacrament, whether family, class room teacher or catechists. Well done!

Next Weekend the St Vincent de Paul Society, Vinnies will be holding their Annual Winter Appeal. Let us think of all those who are in need especially at this winter time. Your generous giving to Vinnies go to those who need help now and not tomorrow!

Some of our parishioners of our Twinned Catholic Parishes attending the Corpus Christi procession last Sunday.



St Vincent de Paul WINTER APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND — Let us help those who are less fortunate. We who have more than enough certainly feel the cold in winter, imagine how those who do not have enough, are feeling at this time. **Donations to this appeal are 100% tax deductible.**

Planned Giving Envelopes: If you are an envelope givers, your 2023/2024 new envelope is ready to be collected at St Andrew's and St Agnes' at the back of the church. You may wish to become part of Envelope Planned Giving through Envelopes or online. Slips are available if you wish to contribute this way, you can received a tax deduction. Please contact the parish office if you have any queries on 9311 2062. Many Thanks.