

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JUNE 2023

## FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

St Anselm defined theology as faith seeking understanding. As people of faith, we seek to understand and respond to how God's plan is unfolding in our own lives. One of the most difficult hurdles for a person of faith to overcome is coming to terms with the fact that proclaiming the will of God can lead to persecution and suffering. The first reading and the Gospel address this challenge calling us to be steadfast and faithful in times of persecution and rejection. Jeremiah's natural response to persecution was calling on God to intervene and avenge him in the present. When Jesus commissioned the disciples, they were invited to respond in a different way. Disciples of every age are called to trust that our present faithfulness in times of persecution will not be forgotten or go unrewarded.

One of the tasks that faced Paul was teasing out and explaining to his contemporaries how Jesus' suffering and rejection fitted into God's saving plan. What looked like disaster and failure he had come to see as the dawn of a new age. Comparing Jesus to Adam provided Paul with the means to share his understanding that what had been lost by Adam's sin had now finally been regained, and more than regained, through the death of Jesus. God did not avenge Jesus' death but transformed a moment of violence into the most extraordinary moment of grace. Disciples are called to not only understand this mystery but let it penetrate our lives in times of suffering and rejection.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,  
' "Terror from every side!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends

watched for my downfall,

'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;

my opponents will stumble, mastered,

confounded by their failure;

everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be

theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with

justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on

them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy

from the hands of evil men.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

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

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

### ■ The word of the Lord.



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES  
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Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am  
Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 10 am  
RECONCILIATION:  
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Also available by appointment  
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Sacred Heart School Matraville: 9311 2995



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



**12TH SUNDAY IN ODINARY TIME**

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

**Recently Deceased:** Mario Petta, Emmanuele Zarb, Maureen Buchan, Marissa Daito, Rosa Lipari, Brian Harvey, Stjepan Cavlovic, Litizia (Letti) Aramini, all those who have died on the Titan Sub and from the Covid-19 Virus.

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

**Anniversary:** Fr Anthony Simari, Xavier Micallef, Carlyn McMahon, Shirley Foster and Osvana Amirian.

**The Sick:** Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Santa Viselli and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.

**Birthday Anniversay:** Antonio Lopes



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

Saturday - 1 July 2023 - 5.30 pm St Agnes'  
Sunday - 2 July 2023 - 9.00 am St. Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Funeral for the Late Emmanuele Zarb—St Agnes', Tuesday 4 July, 10.30am.



**Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.** Last Tuesday (20 June) and Friday (23 June) Bishop Brady and Bishop Umbers confirmed our Confirmation Class of 2023. I wish to Thank the Bishops for their presence in

conferring this important Sacrament of Initiation. I wish to congratulate all those who received this Sacrament of God's Spirit in Confirmation last week. May this Sacrament that they have received bear fruits of the Spirit that will assist them in their lives of grace, peace, and joy. Thank you, Parents/Carers, in bringing your child(ren) to this Sacrament of God's Holy Spirit of love.

This weekend we will have the Annual St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies), Winter Appeal. Your generosity is much appreciated by those who are in need. I wish to thank all those who are members in our Malabar and Matraville Conferences. You may wish to become a Vinnies member and assist in bringing joy to those who lack hope in this world of harsh extremes. Please speak with one of the Vinnies members after Mass today.

This Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the two Princes of the Church, Sts Peter and Paul. Our Mass for this Feast Day will be 9am St Agnes Church, Matraville. Next weekend at all our Masses the Annual Peter's Pence Appeal will take place. This collection is for Pope Francis and his many works of mercy towards the poor and needy.

God Bless

Fr John

**ALPHA: Explore life, faith & meaning: Come and try Alpha this Monday 26th June, 5.30pm—7pm in the St Andrew's Meeting rooms. Alpha is for everyone you don't have to be catholic or attend church. For more information, please email [frances.addabbo@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:frances.addabbo@syd.catholic.edu.au).**



We welcome into our Parish Community **Taya Patricia Davis and Noah Fabrizio & Marley George Wright** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St. Agnes'. **Congratulations.**

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

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** If you are an envelope giver, your 2023/2024 new envelopes are ready to be collected at St Andrew's and St Agnes' at the back of the church. You may wish to become part of the Planned Giving through Envelopes or online. Slips are available if you wish to contribute this way, you can received a tax deduction.