

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I am gentle and humble of heart.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 JULY 2023

THE GOD OF SURPRISES

In a time of rapid change in the Church one of our community members lamented the fact that 'Just as I got it all worked out, they changed what it was!' Often the word of God has a way of turning our world and expectations upside down. After the exile, the hope for a king from the line of David was rekindled. Zechariah agrees with this hope but his vision of the kingdom that God will establish would have come as a surprise to his contemporaries. Peace will come, but not through the force of arms.

Jesus' own life and message were no less paradoxical. Those who would have been expected to understand were left floundering and confused by his message. On the other hand, those open to the surprising ways of God find in Jesus the one who will gently carry their burdens if they will take on the task of becoming disciples.

Much of Paul's energy was devoted to the formation of Christian communities and it was not uncommon for them to become discouraged when they failed to live up to the demands of the gospel. In the coming weeks, the readings taken from Romans 8 show how Paul both challenges and revitalises the Christian community of Rome. He calls them to live spiritual lives, while also making sure they hear his message of encouragement. There is a firm basis for hope since the Spirit is in us, empowering, enlivening, and transforming us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Zech 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah

See how humbly your king comes to you!

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14. R. v. 1

R. I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God. (or Alleluia!)

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, /
I will bless your name for ever. / I will bless
you day after day / and praise your name for
ever. **R.**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**
3. All your creatures shall thank you,
O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their
blessing. / They shall speak of the glory
of your reign / and declare your might,
O God. **R.**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words / and
loving in all his deeds. / The Lord supports
all who fall / and raises all who are bowed
down. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:9, 11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

■ 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:

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 Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



14TH SUNDAY IN ODINARY TIME

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Josephine Micallef, Anna Couch, Shirley Miller, Mario Petta, Emmanuele Zarb, Maureen Buchan, Marissa Daito, Rosa Lipari, Brian Harvey, Stjepan Cavlovic, Litizia (Letti) Aramini, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Sue Melia, Jenny Moy, Anne Baker, Joaquim Sarmento Jesuina Sarmento, Beatrice de Araujo, Manuel Alvaro da Cruz, Dulce da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Archbishop Rush, Moyah Buckley, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, Fr Anthony Simari, Xavier Micallef and Carlyn McMahon.

The Sick: Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, 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.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 15 July 2023 - 5.30 pm St Agnes'

Sunday - 16 July 2023 - 9.00 am St. Andrew's (Livestreamed)



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

This week throughout Australia thousands of people have celebrated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (NAIDOC) week. Last Sunday at our Masses we reflected such a celebration. Also, last Sunday I was invited to the Reconciliation Church at Phillip Bay (La Perouse) to concelebrate with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, NAIDOC Mass. The Archbishop noted that Recognition, Reconciliation and Respect are noble ideals that we can journey together. On the left a photo captured after the Mass with Elders and others.



As we may remember our oldest parishioner of St Agnes' Matraville, Maria Reilly turned 105 on 26 May 2023. Recently King Charles III offered his congratulations to Maria with a lovely card together with Queen Camila. Maria has now received a greeting from Queen Elizabeth II for her 100th Birthday and also the King for her 105th how wonderful! Maria & Fr John last Saturday. The Governor General of Australia & Governor of NSW sent greetings as well.



I am striving to continually renew both our Parish Churches of St Andrew's and St Agnes' by means of updating or providing that which needs to enhance our liturgy or our Churches. Recently in St Andrew's a new green Altar Frontal see below was made, while at St Agnes' a splendid Red Vestment was purchased reflecting our Patron Saint - St Agnes (Lamb) see below as well. If you wish to assist in giving towards these items, please use our restoration envelopes. Your giving is greatly appreciated and will be noted in our Donors Book.



God Bless



Fr John

ALPHA: will return on the 17 July Please see the Alpha Schedule on the board .



We welcome into our Parish Community **Xavier Lawrence Jonathon Ernest Bostick, Joshua Minh Arief and Reuvin Otto Pigram** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St. Agnes' Matraville. **Congratulations.**

The Malabar Conference of SVDP Paul would like to thank parishioners for their generosity in giving to the Annual Winter Appeal. The Appeal raised **\$3282.85.**

Funeral for the Late Josephine Micallef— St Andrew's, Thursday 13 July, 10.30am.
Funeral for the late Anna Couch, The Coast Chapel, Friday 14 July, 10.30am