

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Command me to come to you over the water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 AUGUST 2023

## THE LORD WITH US IN OUR STRUGGLES

Elijah comes to Mt Horeb because his life is at risk, and he is terrified and discouraged. Having lost hope, he fled into the wilderness to die, and yet it is here that he rediscovers his mission and vocation as prophet. In the turmoil that surrounds him he recognises the Lord's voice, and the promise of a new beginning, not in earthquakes or fire, but in a gentle breeze.

When Jesus' walks on the water towards the disciples his presence was first greeted with terror as their boat struggled with heavy seas and winds. His encouraging words calm their fears and lead Peter to take up his invitation to come to him across the water. His newly found courage is short-lived, but he has sufficient faith to call on Jesus to save him. Immediately, Jesus reaches out and brings him into the boat and calms the storm that threatened to engulf them all. In the life of faith there are moments when events and circumstances threaten to overpower us. In these moments we too need to hear the words: 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

The next three weeks' readings from Paul's letter to the Romans reveal how he wrestled with a theological storm caused by Gentile acceptance of Jesus as their saviour while many people in Israel had rejected him. How could it be that a people who had received so many blessings had missed such an opportunity? Paul comes to appreciate how God's saving plan comes to fulfillment in ways we do not expect.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

*Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



## SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

**Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!**

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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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.



**19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently Deceased:** Wilfred Tsen, Madeleine Micallef, Baby Chloe McMahon, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

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

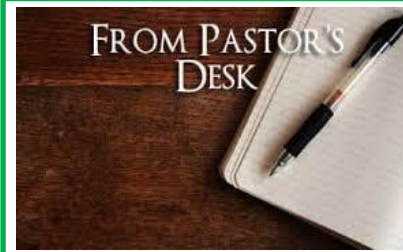
**Anniversary:** Mary Burley, Mary Knight, Ivan Curotta, Elise Mondon, P J Chacko, Leonard & Rudy Velu, Jenny Moy, Moyah Buckley, Emilio Escano, Alan Martin, Roger Minshull, Peter Byrne, Susan Ball, Elvia Tubadeza Aquino, Rita Rombo, Michael Strawbridge, Ivan Friček, Terry Hennessey, Lavinia Roberts, Kevin Roberts and all members of the Roberts and Le Chat families, Esther & Philip Velu.

**The Sick:** Mario Assini, Beatrice Bentley, Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, 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 - 19 August 2023 - 5.00 pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed) (Supply Priest)  
Sunday - 20 August 2023 - 10.00 am St. Agnes' (Supply Priest)



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

This weekend we return to our Sundays in Ordinary Time. This weekend is our 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, and we hear once again the story of Jesus walking on water. This story illustrates the power of faith. Have you noticed that when you believe in

someone, or something, you can do things that would not be possible if you were full of doubts? Recall moments when your faith gave you strength and courage? Name for yourself the different kinds of faith that had this effect: belief in yourself trust in another, and faith in God.

This Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This day is a Holy day of Obligation, which we are expected to attend Mass as like each Sunday. This Assumption tells us that God is not only concerned about our souls but also about our bodies. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. They are part of who we are, and so the feast of the Assumption is a feast that celebrates who we shall be. This feast of the Assumption reminds us that our bodies are holy, and they will be raised in glory on the last day.

Please keep our First Eucharist Program candidates and their families. First Preparation program for State School students will commence, Wednesday 16 August St Andrew's Parish Meeting Room, 6 Prince Edward Street Malabar 3.45—5.15pm.

**MASSES THIS WEEK -with Father John away on holidays** (Which includes Communion Services) Father Paul away for Weekday Masses this week.

<b>Tuesday 15 August</b>	<b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary:</b> Masses 9.00am St Agnes' & 9.00am , 7.00pm S Andrew's
<b>Wednesday 16 August</b>	Communion Services: 7.00am St Agnes' 9.00am St Andrew's
<b>Thursday 17 August</b>	Communion Service: 9.00am St Agnes'
<b>Friday 18 August</b>	Communion Services: 7.00am St Agnes' 9.00am St Andrew's
<b>Saturday 19 August</b>	Masses 5.00pm St Andrew's & 5.30pm St Agnes'
<b>Sunday 20 August</b>	Masses 9.00am S Andrew's & 10.00am St Agnes'

**God Bless to you all**

**Fr John**



We welcome into our Parish Community **Caylie Kehane, Everly Nina Diane Kirk, Zephyr David Allan Kirk** and **Sophie Grace McMahon** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this Saturday morning at St. Andrew's Malabar.  
**Congratulations.** We thank Fr Peter Guy for joining us for the Baptisms.