

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 AUGUST 2023

GOD OPEN TO NEW WAYS

For the people of Israel, Isaiah's words about all nations coming to worship in Jerusalem would have been a source of great disquiet, consternation, and surprise. Surely, they were the chosen people and as such stood apart from the nations that surrounded them. It is perhaps difficult for us to imagine their horror at the idea that Gentiles would have the effrontery to worship in the Lord's own temple in Jerusalem. Isaiah goes further and points out that all this will happen with God's blessing.

Paul speaks at a time when Gentiles had come to accept Jesus, but many Jews had not. His problem was to work out how this possibly fits into the tapestry of God's saving plan. He came to see that by means of Israel's non-acceptance, a way was opened for the Gentiles. This would serve as a prompt for other Jews to accept Jesus and so pave the way for the general resurrection of the dead.

The Canaanite woman shouting out to Jesus clearly unhinged the disciples. In the first place, they were in Gentile territory, in the second place she was advertising to all and sundry that Jesus and his companions were Jewish, in the third place Jesus seemed to be turning a deaf ear to the woman's request. Ultimately both the disciples, and Matthew's readers must come to terms with the fact that faith, and God's response to it, recognises no boundaries. The loving mother's persistence and faith will have its just reward.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

- O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**
- Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**
- Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 1997. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



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



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Ted Lynne Woodbury, Wilfred Tsen, Madeleine Micalaf, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Dorothy Moyes, Father Carroll, Renato Lobo, Lorenca, Jacinta De Sousa, Humberto Soares, Genoveva Da Costa, Anrton Buttigieg, Margaret Borg, Ines Poggi & Family, 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 - 26 August 2023 - 5.30 pm St Agnes' (Supply Priest)
Sunday - 27 August 2023 - 9.00 am St. Andrew's - Livestreamed (Supply Priest)



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

This Sunday we continue with Ordinary Sundays, 20th Sunday and Jesus and the Canaanite woman. Having met with rejection

from the Pharisees Jesus goes to Gentile territories and encounters unexpected faith in the Canaanite woman. His mission had previously been to his own people. This adds a new dimension to his mission. Have you had occasions when a change encounter set your life in a new direction?

In our days of widespread migration welcoming the stranger can be a challenge. We are more comfortable with our own. What differences has it made, to you and to others, when were you able to offer, when you were able to offer, a friendly welcome face to a stranger?

Let's keep our First Eucharist candidates and their families in our prayers. State School Students preparation class number 2 Wednesday 23 August, St Andrew's Malabar Meeting Room 3.45—5.15pm, 6 Prince Edward Street, Malabar.

Masses this week with Father John away on holidays which include Communion Services.

Tuesday 22 August

Mass 7.00am St Agnes'

Communion Service 9.00am St Andrew's

Wednesday 23 August

Mass 7.00am St Agnes'

Communion Service 9.00am St Andrew's

Thursday 24 August

Mass 9.00am St Agnes'

Friday 25 August

Mass 7.00am St Agnes'

Communion Service 9.00am St Andrew's

Saturday 26 August

Masses 5.00pm St Andrew's & 5.30pm St Agnes'

Sunday 27 August

Masses 9.00am St Andrew's & 10.00am St Agnes'

God bless and keep you all in God's love

Fr John

REMINDER: Tax receipts are available at the back of the church.

Please see Parish websites for further notices.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding.enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.