

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

CHALLENGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we listen to Jeremiah pouring his heart out to the Lord, it is not unusual for us to be somewhat embarrassed by his candour. It is as though we are eavesdropping on a very personal and private conversation between the suffering prophet and the God who has commissioned him. There is an enormous battle in the heart of Jeremiah as he wrestles with the message he must proclaim and the impact his preaching has on his own life.

Last week Peter was praised because he had come to understand that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Now he must learn what the consequences mean for Jesus and then for those who follow in his footsteps as disciples. His well-meaning attempt to protect Jesus is misguided and like Jeremiah, he must struggle to accept the paradoxical and costly ways of God.

The Christians of Rome are encouraged by Paul to continue with the struggle to live a life of faith in a world that did not share their values and vision. In a world where there were many temples, gods and sacrificial banquets, Paul goes to the heart of the matter when he calls for an offering of one's life as a living sacrifice to God.

All the readings for today converge in laying the challenge before us of not losing heart, even though at times the difficulties might seem beyond our strength. Making our own the mind of Christ is not easy, but then again, it never was.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my
heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting, / My body pines
for you / like a dry, weary land without
water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see
your strength and your glory. / For your love
is better than life, / my lips will speak your
praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your
name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall
be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall
praise you with joy. **R.**

4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow
of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to
you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!

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



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Mario Selar, Courtney Howell, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Ali Amal, Athur Tidswell, Hasang Paul IN, Vincent Hinks, James Donovan, Cathy O'Brien, Iris Summons, H J Kennedy, Brad O'Hare Victor Ballad, Nora Morahan and all the deceased members of the Morahan family, Esther & Philip Velu, Angelo D'souza and Genoveva Da Costa.

The Sick: Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, 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.

Prayers for: Christian people of Manipur India, and for the care of the World Environment.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 9 September 2023 - 5.00 St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 10 September 2023 - 10.00 am and 11.15am St. Agnes'

From the Pastor's Desk



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

It is good to be back with you after a wonderful 4-week break through Belgium, UK, and Ireland, catching up with friends and relatives. Thanks to

all those priests who assisted in Supplying Masses during my break, our MSC priests from Kensington and Father Paul who assists us each weekend. I wish to thank all those behind the scenes 'that have kept the home fires burning', you are much appreciated. God bless you all.

This Sunday is Father's Day and this weekend we will be giving a special blessing to all Fathers at all our Masses. Thank you, Fathers, for your wonderful example of love just as St Joseph was to the child Jesus as his Foster Father. Each Father's Day weekend the Archdiocese holds a special Father's Day Appeal, these monies assist the retired Priests of the Archdiocese in their retirement. This collection is 100% tax deductible and each dollar that you contribute the Archdiocese will match. Your generosity gives to our retired clergy a special thanks for their work that they have given to God in our Archdiocese of Sydney.

We are now in the final stages of preparation for our First Eucharist Program. This Thursday 7 September, we will be holding a Eucharist Retreat Day for all students of the Program from State and Catholic Schools. This Retreat Day will commence at 9.00am with Mass at St Andrew's Catholic Church, Malabar. There will be no 9am Mass at Matraville this week.

Next Sunday there will be an extra Parish Mass at 11.15am, St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville where we will celebrate First Eucharist Mass for Matraville Parish. You are most welcome to come along to that Mass. Please keep those who will receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist together with their parents/cares and families.

God bless you all,

Fr John



We welcome into our Parish Community **Jonas James Best, Daniel Connor Mantarro** and **Finn McAleer** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this Saturday morning at St. Andrew's Malabar and **Jack Dimitri Tobias Gabriel, Hazel Teagan Higgins, Jade Joey Higgins, Chloe Mangia** and **Mateo Mangia** who will also receive the sacrament of Baptism this Sunday at St. Agnes' Matraville. **Congratulations.**

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.