

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

22 OCTOBER 2023

## FAITH IN ACTION

Jesus was certainly caught on the horns of a dilemma as he faced the hostile demands of his opponents in Jerusalem. The Pharisees as religious authorities had combined with the Herodians (those who supported the Roman-backed Herod) to trap him on the question of payment of taxes. Jesus' response not only unmasks their hypocrisy but demonstrates his adroitness in dealing with a particularly pointed question: 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' Stated like this it all seems clear; the problem arises when we must determine what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. What is the proper response for a Christian?

Today's readings warn us that false dichotomies are to be avoided between faith and the world. Isaiah reflects on the way Cyrus, the great ruler of Persia, is an unwitting instrument of God's will. In other words, God is at work in the world in ways that are unseen and often unnoticed. Consequently, if God is at work in the world the person of faith is called not to withdraw from the work but to transform it.

As far as Paul is concerned, the community of Thessalonica is a living example of what it means to be Christian in the world. Their faith has been expressed in actions seen in their working together in love, and persevering through hope. Living in the Roman empire they are praised for their ability to give both to Caesar and to God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7  
**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ The word of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 10 am

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



**29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—MISSION SUNDAY**

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



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently Deceased:** Lydyo Dobrovic, Kathleen Lundy and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane, Tomo and Pavica Hasanovic, intention No 15879 and All the souls in Purgatory.

**Anniversary:** Doug Nicol (25 years), Josh Peel Yates, Kayleen Brindley, Nick Bacon, Annette Auld Inez D'Souza, Noel Mahon, William Hurworth, Lydia & Joe Bujeya, Joe Brady, Dr Ralph Bacash, and on the 21st Anniversary of the Bali Bombings, Gayle Airlie, Cathy Seelin, Geradine and Steven Buchan, Tom Singer and all those who died in Bali.

**The Sick:** Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, 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 - 28 October 2023 - 5.30pm St Agnes Matraville (MSC Priest Supply)  
Sunday - 29 October 2023 - 9.00am St Andrew's Malabar (MSC Priest Supply)



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew's & St Agnes' Malabar-Matraville. This Sunday we celebrate World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis constantly reminds all of us that our life is a missionary journey to our Father in Heaven. So, all of us are missionaries and each one of us are commanded by Jesus to Go and Proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. So not all can transverse all the continents of the earth, but we can do it in our little way in proclaiming Jesus Christ truly risen and share the joy of the Gospel to all. There are missionaries like Sr Carolina in Timor a developing country who gives of her life in spreading the Good News together with other missionaries throughout the world. These missionaries need our help by our prayers and our treasure. Last week our twinned Catholic Parish of St Agnes' held the Annual Catholic Mission Appeal. This week our St Andrew's Parish is being asked to give generously to the Catholic Mission. Your generous giving goes so gratefully in assisting in spreading the God's Good News. Thank You!

We welcome Year 5 of St Andrews Primary to their Year Mass this Saturday 5.00pm Mass.

If you Google up the Viking disease gene, you will be able to read about Dupuytren's contractions. It is the contraction of the tendons of the last two fingers of generally men's hands. The old adage "the Vikings are still invading" is somewhat true. I have such a disorder and have to have my left hand operated on Monday. I have had my right hand done some time ago, but the left will be needing attention. It is an overnight affair and their will be a lot of rehabilitation. I will be about but will have some Supply Priests to assist as least for the first week. So a little prayer would be appreciated.

Please remember in your prayers those students who are sitting for their High School Certificates together with their families. May our tender loving God bring peace to their lives.

We also pray for the conflict in the Middle East, we pray for those who have died, or been injured, and that may peace be at the hearts of all to bring a lasting peace. We will have a special appeal for the Gaza Crisis through Caritas next week.

God Bless

Fr John

**Anniversaries**

**Pat & Marie Curran** 50th Anniversary of Marriage (14 July 1973—2023)

**Rosa Wells** 80th Birthday (1 Sept 1942—2023)

**Jusup Darma Tjandra** 90th Birthday( 19 Oct 1933—2023) Stefan Tjandra's Mother

**Marie Therese Cullen** 95th Birthday (20 Oct 1928—2023) Martina Rotta's Mother

**Gloria Margaret Wright** 95th Birthday (22 Oct 1928—2023) Julie Wright's Mother-in-law

**Juliana Elarde** Our lovely Church and Presbytery Cleaner celebrated 15 years last Friday (20 October of her Miracle of Lourdes, in being able to walk again.

**Parish Outing:** By Coach, Tuesday 21 November 2023—Penrith RSL, Nepean River, Penrith Printing Museum. Cost \$50 p.p. includes coach fare, museum entry, morning tea and all you can eat buffet lunch. Contact Kathy Sullivan: 9311-1749 or

Marie Jennings :9661-7186. **Full payment required by 29th October 2023**

