

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

8 OCTOBER 2023

BEARING FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

In the ancient Near East, the struggles involved in agricultural life were numerous and well-known, lack of water, poor soil, and rocky ground. In such a setting, Isaiah's image of the people of Israel as a lovingly tended vine was an extremely powerful one. How could God's own people, so dearly loved, produce only sour grapes?

This image formed the backdrop for Jesus' own parable of the wicked tenants and Matthew's reflection on it. The religious authorities gathered and were marshalling their forces against Jesus. Now the moment had come for him to call them to account for their tenancy. During Jesus' ministry, this parable was unsettling and provocative, but for the early Christians, this parable provided them with a filter through which to see and understand Jesus' violent death at the hands of his own people. It also gave them a means by which they could understand that the vineyard had passed into the hands of others.

At first sight, it seems a far cry from the disappointment and violence that underlie the parables of Isaiah and Jesus to the tranquil encouragement of Paul to the Christians of Philippi. A deeper look reveals that today's parables rightly challenge us to bear fruit. Paul, on the other hand, is concerned as a pastor to give some practical guidance as to how to go about it. The fruit of peace will be ours if we turn to the Lord in prayer and seek what is truly of value.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,

I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,

and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am

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Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

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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.



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Stuart Collings, Peg Denny, Antonio Lamagna, Pam O'Grady (Mick Hall's sister-in-law), Albert Mirza, Patrick Sargent, Cathy Slowey, Fe Perez and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Deceased: Agnes Brisbane, May Peraets Stoja, Ivan Zubčić Braders Molrito, Stanko Grgo Marijan, Sistar Zorka, Zubric Masq Pelisich, Wasa Pedisich and All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Maree Knight (10 years), Geoff Reid, Gayle Lippmann, Dorothy Hall, Giovanni Andreatta and Jim Walshe.

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.

Prayers for: Patrick Silva and care of the World Environment.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 14 October 2023 - 5.30pm St Agnes' Matraville Supply Priest
Sunday - 15 October 2023 - 9.00am St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)

Note
from the
pastor



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew's & St Agnes' Malabar-Matraville.

This Saturday, 14 October Australia will have a decision to make in this 2023 Referendum on recognising First Nation Peoples in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia and a Voice to Parliament. Might I suggest we pray this prayer during this week leading up to this Referendum.

We pray for the Gift of Discernment

**Creator God, we pray for our Nation Australia as we come
Together in this referendum on the Voice to Parliament .
Guide every mind to seek the truth and every heart to act with Justice.
Help us come together to make an informed decision that will move
Our Nation towards Reconciliation, Healing, and Honour.
AMEN.**

Recently the Archdiocese of Sydney offices moved to Renwick St, Leichhardt as a temporary move. The Chapel in the Polding Center has been dismantled, and some objects were offered to parishes. In the mix, St Andrew's now has a lovely Travertine/Marble Ambo, while St Agnes' has gained a Travertine/Marble Credence Table.

This Sunday Fr Paul will be away and this weekend we are grateful for the assistance of Father Peter Guy MSC of Kensington. I will be away Vigil Mass next week to attend another Cousins Wedding on the Central Coast.

Next Weekend our Parish of Matraville will be holding the Annual Catholic Mission Appeal. We are asked to pray for all those missionaries especially in Timor and if you could assist by generously giving, this would be very much appreciated.

To those attending St Andrew's you would have noticed our large TV monitor is not operating. This monitor is under warranty, and they say it is going take weeks to sort out with a new one. We are in the process in gaining a temporary one in the interim.

God Bless

Fr John

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**



We welcome into our Parish Community **Louie Aidan Bradley, Nicholas Russell Bradley, Hunter Maree Briggs, Lucia Debra Sorley and Stella Daniel Sorley** who will 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.

Funeral for the Late Pamela O'Grady, 11.00am, Friday 13th September—St Andrew's