

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 OCTOBER 2023

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Communities, like the individuals that make them up, cannot exist or grow without reflecting on their stories. In remembering our past, we are reminded of lessons learnt, values shared, and obstacles overcome.

While the setting for the first reading is that of the time of the Exodus it clearly reflects the problems the Israelites faced when they had settled in the land. In order to resolve these problems, they are called to remember that they are a people where every member should be valued, especially those who cannot defend themselves. The other person is precious to God and has a dignity that is to be respected and preserved. They are reminded of their past so as to build a present that is just and equitable.

Jesus in his turn was asked what the most important commandment of the law was. The law of Moses was that formative and guiding tradition that shaped the Jewish people's self-understanding. In a sense, by asking what is the greatest commandment the Pharisees were asking, who are we? Jesus' reply is that we can only be truly ourselves when we can balance a wholehearted love of God with care for our brothers and sisters.

As Paul reflects on the history of the Thessalonian community, he praises God for the way they have overcome numerous obstacles. In the midst of opposition, they remained faithful to each other and to the Lord, so much so that they became a base for Paul's further missionary endeavour in the rest of Greece.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans."

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ The word of the Lord.



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



30TH 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: Bob Robert Spanswick, Beris Clark, Sean Carr, Lydyo Dobrovic, 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: Merle Robertson, Kenneth Velu, Robert & Yolande Aquilina, Dr Ralph Bacash, Doug Nicol (25 years), Josh Peel Yates, Kayleen Brindley, Nick Bacon, Annette Auld Inez D'Souza, Noel Mahon, William Hurworth, Lydia & Joe Bujeya, and Joe Brady,

The Sick: Barry Dalton, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, 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 - 4 November 2023 - 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 5 November 2023 - 10.00am St Agnes'



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew's & St Agnes' Malabar-Matraville. Many thanks for your prayers and thoughts in concern with my operation to release the tendons of my left hand in concern with my 'Dupuytren's' contractions. The operation was successful, now comes the hard repetitious work in exercises in bringing the hand back fully functioning, it can take 3-6 months.

This coming Wednesday is 1st November, Solemnity of All Saints there will be Masses at St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville at 7am and St Andrew's, Malabar at 9am. Also, this coming Thursday is All Souls Day There will be Masses at St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville at 7am & 9.00am. Also, St Andrew's, Malabar at 7pm. November is the month of praying for the dead. There are envelopes in your giving pack and around the Church to place your dear departed loved ones names. These are collected and placed at the foot of the Pieta and prayed for at all our November Masses. In concern with the bulletin throughout November only recently deceased and anniversaries will be printed in the November bulletins.

Many thanks to all who helped towards our recent Annual Mission Appeal at Matraville and Malabar. You can still assist by your prayers for all missionaries and you can still place any of those Mission Appeal envelopes on any of the collection plates. A third collection at our Masses this weekend is for the Caritas Gazza Appeal, if you so desire to contribute. There are special Caritas envelopes on the pews if you require a tax deduction.

Reflection from Pope Francis: Terrorism and extremism do not help reach a solution the conflict between Israeli and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence, revenge, and only cause each other to suffer. The Middle East does not need war, but a peace, a peace built on dialogue and the courage of fraternity. "Please do not shed any more blood, neither in the Holy Land, nor in Ukraine, nor anywhere else! Enough! Wars are always a defeat, always."

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**



DONATION OF OUR NEW PIANO: We would like to thank Paul and Li San Nicol, for their generous donation of the new parish piano at St Andrew's, in memory of Patricia and Dudley Nicols' 100 years since their birth.