

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, ‘The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men’s shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

‘You however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 NOVEMBER 2023

CALLED TO SERVE

Leadership has always been a risky business. With leadership comes prestige and the esteem of others and yet these can be dangerous and murky waters. Those involved in leadership often experience being caught in the tension between the respective privileges and responsibilities that accompany their position. Today’s readings converge in their concern to reflect on the nature of authority and how it should be exercised.

At the time Malachi wrote, the people of Israel were in dire need of religious reform and the priests were called to account for their role in creating that situation. If the charge could be laid at the feet of the priests in Malachi’s time that they did not care for the people, the same could not be said for Paul. While Paul was called to be an apostle, he was also most concerned to offer the gospel without charge. In the ancient world wandering teachers were usually sponsored financially. Paul avoided such ambiguous relationships by not accepting any help from a community till he had established it and was ready to move on to another.

When Jesus sets out to address the disciples and the people about the scribes and Pharisees it probably sounded fairly safe. Anyone can be comfortable when another person is being subjected to scrutiny and criticism! But the second half of the Gospel suddenly changes direction and disciples in every age are given some guiding principles. Firstly, leadership comes from God, secondly, we belong to one family and thirdly, leadership means service.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Mal 1: 14–2: 2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

- O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. **R.**
- Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother’s breast, even so is my soul. **R.**
- O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 2: 7-9, 13

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

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God’s Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really is, God’s message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 23: 9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia! / You have one Father, your Father in heaven; / you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. / Alleluia!



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Sunday 10 am
RECONCILIATION:
Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment
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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.



31st 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, 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: Ruth Kelly, Mary Philomina Rani Patrick, Alelaida Soriano, Daniel Soriano, Rebecca Soriano, Merle Robertson, Kenneth Velu, Robert & Yolande Aquilina, Dr Ralph Bacash, Doug Nicol (25 years),

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, Heracléo & 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 - 11 November 2023 - 5.30pm St Agnes'
Sunday - 5 November 2023 - 9.00am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



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

Last Thursday we celebrated the Feast of the Holy Souls—Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, our dear loved ones who have completed their earthly journey and are hopefully now on their way to heaven. In this feast and the whole of November we pray for the faithful departed, as they are not able to pray for themselves. We believe that to enter heaven we may need to be purged from any stain of sin that may have been part of us when we died. This place of purification is called purgatory. In the 2nd Maccabees we are told that it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead. If you are a weekly contributor to the envelope system, you will have received a November Mass envelope. Or you may pick up one from the pews of our churches. You may wish to fill out your dear loved ones on the front page of the envelope and place an offering in the envelope and place it on any of the collection plates. This envelope will be placed at the Pieta area of our churches as we pray for their eternal souls thought of November. May they rest in peace.
Many thanks to those who gave towards the Caritas Gaza Appeal.
Many thanks for all your prayers and thoughts after my Dupuytren Contraction operation on my left hand. The surgeon has taken all the stiches out and remarked of the remarkable healing of the hand and the skin grafts taken so well. I would say it was a lot of your prayers for my healing, thank you all., now for the rehabilitation of the hand back to full motion.

God Bless

Fr John



Congratulations to Chloe Tomaz Khalil who made her First Eucharist last Sunday at St Andrew's Church.

Congratulations to **Amber Sait** and **Mario Sarrinikolau** on their wedding, which took place at St Andrew's on Friday, 3 November 2023.



Fr. Justin Torres, a priest of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be celebrating **Mass at St. Andrew's Church, Malabar at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 16th November.**
Fr. Justin is visiting Australia from The Philippines to share his ministry, which emphasises the Love of Jesus and Mary for all. Mass will be followed by anointing for those who wish to partake in this gift of Healing. We all have a need of some type of healing, whether emotional, physical, or spiritual.

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.