

He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE / A

26 NOVEMBER 2023

## INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of the duties of a king in the ancient world was that of being the judge of the highest court in the land and the last court of appeal for anyone seeking justice. In the readings for today, we are invited onto a large stage to witness a drama in which the lives of individuals, nations, and all forms of authority and power, must stand before God's judgement.

In Ezekiel, the cries and suffering of the people have not gone unnoticed by God. The religious leaders had proved themselves to be unworthy and God will now provide the care and leadership that had been entrusted to them. Using the beautiful image of the shepherd who shelters, comforts, and heals, Ezekiel shows how God's judgement and rule are accompanied by loving care for those who suffer.

For his part, Paul reflects on the role of Jesus in the larger scheme of salvation history. The resurrection of the Lord had convinced him that a new age, a new creation was dawning. Jesus had been exalted as Lord and King and his rule would last until death had been conquered. Then he will offer a renewed creation back to God the source of all.

The fascinating development in the Gospel passage is that we are called to share in the development and growth of the kingdom by means of our loving concern for others. The responsibility of caring for the flock is one in which we are all called to share, and it is on this basis that we will be judged.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

*You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.*

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22:1-3, 5-6. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. **R.**
2. Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. / He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. **R.**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

## SECOND READING 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way



the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mk 11:9, 10

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL Mt 25:31-46

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES  
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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.



**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Lucy Mary Winifred Tyler, Marie Cullen (Martina Rotta's mother), Alejandro Yepes, Fr John Alt, Fr Ken Sargent, Monsignor Bill Mullins, Tony Brown, John Francis Mockler, Sr Margaret Mary Birgen OLN, Rita Bartolo, Bruce Skippen, Beverley Greene, all the holy souls in purgatory and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Anniversary: Patrick "Pat" Wiley, Dr Ralph Baccash, Cec Knight, Desmond Edeyer, Josephine Evans, Jennifer Blackmore, Carmen Farrugia, Georgette Ghosn, and Fr Peter Maher

The Sick: Carmel Kennedy, Maureen Maron, 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, 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: Bridie Culleton and care of the World Environment.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?  
Saturday - 2 December 2023 - 5.30pm St Andrew's Livestreamed  
Sunday - 3 December 2023 10.00am St Agnes'

Note  
from the  
pastor



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

Today we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church's year with the Solemnity of Christ the King. The liturgy of this Sunday celebrates Jesus as Lord of love, revealing God's love for all people and calling his followers to live in that love. Jesus is the Lamb who is slain, who rose from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father. He is worthy of the praise of the whole creation, and he has made us worthy to receive his Body and Blood.

Next Sunday we move into a new Church's year with the Season of Advent and preparation of the celebration of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ as the Babe of Christmas.

With the coming of Christmas, I am sure that you are beginning to plan for the festivities. Vinnies Malabar are preparing to get together Christmas Hampers. The Jesse/Christmas tree will appear by next weekend at Malabar, please place goods that can be used in the Vinnes Christmas Hampers under the tree. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Next Thursday, 30 November is the Feast Day of St Andrew our Patron Saint of Malabar one Churches of our Twinned Parish Churches. There will be no Thursday 9.00am Mass this coming week at Matraville as will have Mass to celebrate St Andrew's Feast day at St Andrew's, Malabar. All welcome to attend!

You may remember that session one of Synod on Synodality was held in Rome for the month of October. Our Archbishop, Archbishop Fisher OP was present. He has written some reflections on the Synod. You may wish to collect his reflections at the entrance of our Churches.

Also you may wish to collect the Advent Reflection Booklet at the entrances of our churches., to help you in your Advent season.

God Bless

Father John

[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](mailto: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 Marie Cullen (Martina Rotta's mother) Monday, 27th November, Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst, 10.30am. All welcome.