

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 2012. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and
come down — at your Presence the mountains
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but
you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, /shine forth
from your cherubim throne. /O Lord, rouse up
your might, /O Lord, come to our help. **R.**



2. 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.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, /the man you have given your strength. /
And we shall never forsake you again: /give us
life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces
you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank
him that you have been enriched in so many
ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong
among you so that you will not be without any
of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting
for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he
will keep you steady and without blame until
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,
because God by calling you has joined you to
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



6 Prince Edward Street, Malabar
Ph: 9311 2062
standrewmal@gmail.com
www.standrewsmalabar.org.au
Office hours: Tues & Wed 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
& Fri 8.30 am - 2.30 pm
Secretarial Staff

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright
Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 am
Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am

RECONCILIATION:
Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment
Principal: Mr Phil Tax

St Andrew's Primary School Malabar: 9311 1203

War Memorial Church
509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville
Office located at 6 Prince Edward St, Malabar
Office hours: See Opposite Box
Ph: 9311 2062

stagnesmatra@bigpond.com
www.stagnesmatraville.org.au

Syro-Malabar Rite: 1st Sunday; 5pm
Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am
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.



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Allan Hart, Paul Blackmore, 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, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



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

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in purgatory

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.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 9 December 2023 - 5.30pm St Agnes'
Sunday - 10 December 2023 9.00am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



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

Happy New Year to one and all as we begin our new Church's year 2023/24 with the Season of Advent. This Season reminds us of all that we are Advent people of the Second Coming. Christ has already come amongst us in the person of Jesus and redeemed us by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We now prayerfully remain vigilant for his second coming amongst as we continue his work of charity and love. This coming will usher in the end, and all will be revealed. Jesus tells us to worry about time or place but go about living good and holy lives.

This Week we have our Graduation Masses for Year 6 of St Andrew's, Malabar, and Sacred Heart, Matraville. We congratulate them in this important milestone and wish them every success in the future. As I will explain to them that while they are moving into another stage of their life, their being part of St Andrew's or St Agnes' worshipping community is still vital. I believe many have decided that parish worship on Sunday is only an optional extra and not needed. As believing Catholics this practice is so needed for our spiritual beings, this was given to us at Baptism, the Holy Spirit and will need to be return to God, hopefully nourished not dead.

Please place you giving towards the Vinnies Hampers at Andrew's under the Jesse Tree, it is much appreciated. At St Agnes', please use the Poor Boxes for your cash donations.. There will be a Christmas Vinnies Appeal on the Weekend 9/10 December.

The Annual Christmas Cathedral lights will take place in the forecourt of St Mary's, Cathedral from 15—25 December. Live entertainment commences at 6.30pm and Christmas Projection at 8.30pm. Flyers display in our churches and on our websites. All welcome!

God Bless

Fr John

I would like to thank St Andrew's and St Agnes' Parish communities for their generosity and prayers for my mother, Marie Cullen. Both parishes have journeyed with her while she was sick and in her recent death. The support of Fr John and both Parish families has been truly humbling for my family and we are very grateful to each and everyone one of you . Martina Rotta



We welcome into our Parish Community **Gracie Marie Fullen** who received the sacrament of Baptism on Saturday at St. Andrew's Malabar. **Congratulations.**

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 Paul Blackmore, Thursday 7 December, St Andrew's
1.00pm.**