

## MASS DURING THE DAY

**FIRST READING** Isa 52:7-10

**A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah**

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3  
**R.** All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of

music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Heb 1:1-6  
**A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia.

**GOSPEL** Jn 1:1-18

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.**

**MAY THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR**

**BRING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES**

**HOPE, PEACE AND JOY.**



# THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B

25 DECEMBER 2023

**MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**FIRST READING** Isa 9:1-7

**A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah**

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESP PS** 95:1-3, 11-13 R. v. Lk 2:11  
**R.** Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

**SECOND READING** Tit 2:11-14

**A reading from the letter of  
St Paul to Titus**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Lk 2:10-11  
Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world! /

today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. / Alleluia.

**GOSPEL** Lk 2:1-14  
**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

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



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Jeanne Mirabitor, Doris Bonanno, Ian Vernon, Steven Fehir, Evaristo Pinto, Allan Hart, Paul Blackmore, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Anniversary: Maureen O'Brien, Malcolm Calum MacDonald, Dolores Blackmore, Annamaria Chovan, Joan O'Grady, Sylvia Fontanilla, Mary Cauchi, John Debono, John Donovan, Robert Franke, Anthony Rotta, Peter & Winnie Blyth, Joseph Panetta, and Carolina Sounios,

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory

The Sick: 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 - 30 December 2023 - 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)  
Sunday - 31 December 2023 10.00am St Agnes'



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

Happy and Holy Christmas to one and all.  
"Suppose I got a Christmas present for you, but I didn't tell you about it. I didn't tell you that I had something for you, and I didn't tell you where you could find it. Well, it could be the greatest Christmas present in the world, but if you never find out what it is or where you can find it, it won't do you any good. You need me to tell you about it.

Well, that's the way it is with Christmas. God has given us the present we could ever hope for, but if it had stayed hidden and we didn't know about it or where to find it, it wouldn't do us much good. But as it stands, God not only sends the gift, but he has an angel announce it, telling us what it is and where to find it. On the top of that, a whole choir of angels caps it off with a glorious hymn of praise. Their song, the Gloria in Excelsis, puts an exclamation mark on the proceedings.

The Christmas angels' song is our song too. The Gloria in Excelsis puts an exclamation mark on what God is doing here amongst us, giving us the gift of our Saviour, telling us that here we can find him, and letting us join in on the joy.

The gift, the announcement, and the exclamation mark: That's what happens at Christmas. And it happens all year round, every time, every service where Christ comes amongst us, where the Gospel is proclaimed, and where we get to join in the song of the angels."stmatthewbt.org

Many thanks to all those who have made our liturgies today and throughout the year so beautiful, together with all our wonderful parish staff who keep our parishes running so well. I am so glad to be the Parish Priest of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes, Malabar—Matraville. On the 28th January I will have completed 3 years as your Parish Priest and looking forward to ministering further in the years to come. I am very grateful for Father Paul O'Donoghue for his supply ministry that he gives so generously each week to our Twinned Catholic Parishes. Thank you, Father Paul.

I am remembering all your dear loved ones that you may have lost in this last year, may the peace of Christ be in your heart this Christmas.

Please don't forget to visit our crib at our parish churches. Wishing you a Happy, Holy and safe Christmas once again, may 2024 be filled with peace and joy.

**New Year Day Mass, Monday 1 January, 2024: 7am Matraville, 9am Malabar.**

**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.



Congratulations to Alan and Robyn Little who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Friday the 29th December 2023.

**Funeral for the late Jeanne Mirabitor, Thursday, 28 December, 10.30am, St Agnes', Matraville**