

Alleluia, alleluia! / A people in darkness have seen a great light: / a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mk 1: 21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.*

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

28 JANUARY 2024

## LISTEN

Listening is a central part of being a follower of Christ: listening to the Holy Spirit, to the Word, and to each other. Today we are called to listen and give undivided attention to the Lord, to a prophet like Moses, and to Jesus in the Gospel.

Moses reveals that "God will raise up a prophet like myself from among yourselves, from your own people ... to him you must listen" (Deut 18:15). He reminds the people that this is what they have asked for. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses the anxieties of the community as "the present form of the world is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). Paul expresses his wish that they be free from anxieties by giving attention to the Lord.

The Gospel continues the beginning of Jesus ministry in what I call "Jesus Central" – Capernaum (Kefar Nahum). It is where Jesus made his home during his Galilean ministry. We notice it is Shabbat, the sabbath, and Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. "They" (those in the synagogue) are astounded by his teaching. "They" are listening as he teaches with authority. Juxtaposed with this is the exorcism of an unclean spirit which brings both amazement and the question: "what is this? A new teaching with authority" (v. 27). We hear that his fame spreads, but are they truly listening, and do they recognise who he is? Jesus proclaims the good news in word and deed and expects a change of heart. How are we listening today?

## FIRST READING

Deut 18: 15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

*I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.*

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

■ The word of the Lord

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9. R. v. 9

**R.** If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 7: 32-35

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

*The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.*

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES  
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**  
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Sunday 10 am  
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**Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes Malabar-Matraville.** Where has January 2024 gone, I am sure you will be saying that with all our months this year especially as Easter is so early this year (31 March). In talking about Easter, I would really appreciate if you would bring back your old palms from last Palm Sunday not old palms from your backyard. Ash Wednesday is 14 February, and we need to collect our old holy Palm Sunday palms ASAP, there will be collection points in both Churches for you to drop off the old palms.

This week we welcome back one and all to our 2024 Academic year! I hope all students and teachers are refreshed for another year of education. I believe in both our schools there has been some renovations and building taking place, how exciting. At St Andrew's new carpeting in many classrooms and the Library renovated, while at Sacred Heart Stage 2 is progressing along quite well. Last Wednesday 24 January concrete was poured to form our new Church stairs that will link the School with our Church. In concern with our Tuesday 9.00am Mass this week at St Andrew's it will also be our Teacher, Support Staff Mass for our St Andrew's & Sacred Heart Schools.

Parents of Year 3 of Malabar and Matraville Schools, State and Catholic are asked to place in their diaries **Tuesday 6 February** as it is the Sacrament of Penance Parent/Carer Information evening. This meeting will take place in St Andrew's Catholic Church, Malabar at 7pm

**God Bless Fr John**

**Congratulations to Fr John who will celebrate his 3rd anniversary – as Parish Priest, of our Twinned parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes.  
On Sunday 28th January.**



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



**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently Deceased:** Gerry Burns, Mary Messina, Irudaya Doss (Fr Daney's father), Ellen Viollet, Ernie Ross, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



**Anniversary:** Patricia Nicol, Marko Bukusic, Ivan Zic, Lydia & Joseph Buyjeya, Josephine Micallef, Carolyn McMahon, Brian Kennedy, Robert Jennings, Spjepan (Steve) Cavlovic, and Horace Grazio Mifsud.

**Deceased:** Joyce Gander, Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

**The Sick:** Mauro Soriano, Margaret Gately, Fr Pat Hurley, Maureen Maron, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephine Regan, Mary Vella, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, and Santa Viselli. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and pray for World Peace, and those suffering from Covid.

**Prayers for:** Care of the World Environment.

**Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?**

Saturday - 3 February 2024 - 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)  
Sunday - 4 February 2024 - 10.00am St Agnes'

Funeral for the late Gerry Burns, Wed, 31 January, 10am 5th Chapel, Eastern Suburbs, Crematorium.



**RECEVEUR MASS AT LA PEROUSE—SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 11am**

This Mass is celebrated annually near the grave of Fr Receveur who died at Botany Bay on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1788. He was a priest and scientist with the La Perouse expedition.

He may have been the first Catholic priest in Australia.

**Everyone is invited to this outdoor Mass**

Marquee, transport and sound system provided courtesy of Randwick City Council, and Sausage sizzle by Seaside Lions & refreshments by Friends of La Perouse Museum.



We welcome into our Parish Community **Max Eysmont, Kasper & Lucas Clewley-Eysmont, and Francesco Nastasi** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at St. Andrew's Malabar. **Congratulations.**

**Parish Outing:** By Coach, Wednesday 21 February, 2024—Thirlmere NSW Rail Museum, lunch at Picton Pub. Cost \$50 p.p. includes coach fare, museum entry, morning tea and Lunch at Picton Pub. Contact Kathy Sullivan: 9311-1749 or Marie Jennings : 9661-7186. **Full payment required by Sunday, 4th February 2024**



**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.