

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark.

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

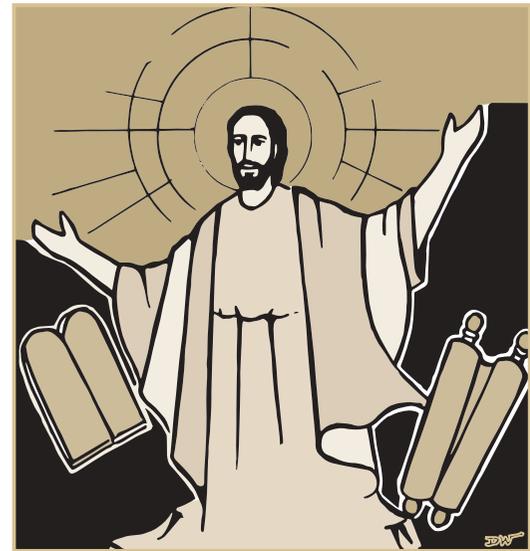
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ The word of the Lord.



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am

RECONCILIATION:
Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment
Principal: Mr Phil Tax

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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.



2nd Sunday of Lent



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

Please pray for the:

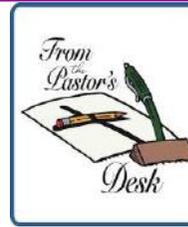
Recently Deceased: June (Noonie)Power, Christime Lawes, Simon Pedisich and Frank McGill, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Anniversary: Rev Fr Simari, Robert & Yolande Aquilina, Barbara O'Brien, Gaetanna Torris, Zora Mauric, Vito Visperas, Silly Wiersmith, and Abe Lardo Biala.

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

The Sick: Stephany Hiew, Mauro Soriano, Margaret Gately, 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.



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

We welcome our Kindy and Year 6 Buddy Mass from St Andrew's Catholic Primary School, Malabar at our 9.00am Mass this Sunday. It is always a great day to welcome our new Kindergarten class each year. A morning tea will follow this Mass in our Parish/School hall, all invited.

How is our 2024 Lenten journey going? Have you tried to attend a weekday Mass or attend the Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent, 7.00pm at both St Andrew's and St Agnes' Churches. How are the Project Compassion envelopes going? We can bring one envelope along each week and place it on the plate together with your giving.

As you may have read in last week's bulletin information regarding the merging of St Andrew's and St Agnes' Parishes as one. As you may already know that we have really been functioning as one parish for many years. Both churches will retain their names of St Andrew & St Agnes but will be function under one umbrella. If you have any questions, please send an email to the Parish Office standrewmal@gmail.com

There are several projects that are in play. St Andrew's Catholic Primary School is developing the old 'Stella Maris' Convent, this Convent was opened by Archbishop Kelly on 1 March 1931. It was used to house Mercy Sisters from Gunnedah who staffed our St Andrew's school for many decades. Many may know this building as St Andrew's House and now is part of the St Andrew's School. The upstairs of the convent is quite dilapidated and, in some parts, dangerous. Sydney Catholic Schools are developing it into office spaces and staff rooms. To accomplish such an operation, demountables have been placed in the car park as was mentioned a few weeks ago so that the works can be finished. We will be able to park around the demountable and on the other parking area of the school. These building will be there for a number of months. The St Agnes' church steps and forecourt are progressing well and should be completed very shortly.

Don't forget Stations of the Cross and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday of Lent at St Andrew's and St Agnes' Churches commencing at 7.00pm. I will be away next weekend for family matters, Father Peter Guy MSC will be assisting.

God bless.

Fr John



We welcome into our Parish Community **Lachlan Robert Browne, Rowan Thomas Browne, Grace Michele Flett, Henry Anthony Landini, Leonora Ann Landini and Lillian Frances Landini** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at St. Andrew's Malabar. **Congratulations.**

Catechist Meeting (Both Parishes) - Monday 26 February 2024 at 10.00 am in St. Andrew's Meeting Room.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?
Saturday - 2 March 2024 - 5.00pm St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 3 March 2024 - 10.00am St Agnes Matraville

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