

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

4 FEBRUARY 2024

## CELEBRATING THE WORD OF GOD

Today the Church in Australia celebrates 'Word of God Sunday'. In establishing this day, Pope Francis invited us "to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred scriptures" (*Aperuit Illis*. 30 Sep 2019). This celebration brings our attention to how we engage with the Word in the liturgy, and how we take the Word with us and proclaim it in our daily lives. Today let's focus on the Gospel.

Mark portrays Jesus discerning his ministry. We accompany Jesus on his journey: having left the synagogue, where he had been teaching and healing, he enters the house of Simon and Andrew, along with James and John, where he finds and heals Simon's mother-in-law. By evening as the sun is setting, the word is already out, and people are bringing the sick and possessed to him. Indeed, "the whole city was gathered at the door" (v. 33), and Jesus ministers to them. In the morning, while it is still dark, Jesus goes to pray. Simon leads a search, and when they find him, Jesus declares, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is why I came" (v. 38). What we see in this Gospel passage is the word and deed in action in Jesus, and his discernment through prayer to take his mission out further. Nourished by the Word of God let us pray and discern our mission in our daily lives sharing the Good News beyond our doors.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,  
his time no better than hired drudgery?  
Like the slave, sighing for the shade,  
or the workman with no thought but his wages,  
months of delusion I have assigned to me,  
nothing for my own but nights of grief.  
Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'  
Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'  
Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.  
Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days  
have passed,  
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.  
Remember that my life is but a breath,  
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 146: 1-6. R. v. 3

**R. Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted. or Alleluia!**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; / sing to our God for he is loving: / to him our praise is due. **R.**
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem / and brings back Israel's exiles, / he heals the broken-hearted, / he binds up all their wounds. / He fixes the number of the stars; / he calls each one by its name. **R.**
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; / his wisdom can never be measured. / The Lord raises the lowly; / he humbles the wicked to the dust. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23

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

*Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.*

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessing.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 8: 17

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**He bore our sickness,**  
**and endured our suffering.**  
**Alleluia!**



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



**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

Please pray for the:

**Recently Deceased:** Charlie Callaja, John Daley, Antonia Torchia, Kerry Delaney, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Kevin Bates SM, John Thomas, Gerry Burns and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



**Anniversary:** Jacintha Mary, Jeanne Mirabatur, Joseph Mirabatur, Michael Garry, Maureen Tritchler, Patricia Nicol, Marko Bukusic, Ivan Zic, Lydia & Joseph Buyjeya, Josephine Micallef, and Carolyn McMahan,.

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

**The Sick:** 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, Heraclio & 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.

**Other:** Melvyn & Rona Romit (1st Wedding Anniversary), Andrew Romit (60th Birthday).

**Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?**  
Saturday - 10 February 2024 - 5.30pm St Agnes Matraville  
Sunday - 11 February 2024 - 9.00am St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)



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

Our 2024 Academic year has now commenced, and all systems a go! Welcome back everyone and hope that all our teachers, staff and students have had a very restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming the 2024 Kindergarten classes from St Andrew's and Sacred Heart Schools. Next Friday 9 February at our 9.00am Mass, we have

St Andrew's Catholic Primary School, Malabar Opening School Mass.

This Tuesday 7.00pm at St Andrew's Church, Malabar is our Parent/Carer Information evening for the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation, Confession) for those students in Year 3 (this includes all schools, State or Catholic in our parishes) and above who are already baptised. **This meeting is essential to attend to be part of this Sacramental Program.**

Please bring back your old palms from last Palm Sunday. There are baskets at the entrances of our Churches, we need them to be returned to the church by next weekend.

In 1300AD Pope Boniface VII proclaimed the first Jubilee Year and since then the Church has adopted the practice of celebrating Jubilee or Holy Years as time of repentance, special blessings, prayer, and pilgrimage. The tradition in calling a holy year is generally every 25 years or other time when the Pope deems necessary as for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015. The Jubilee Year 2025 begins with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, Rome 24 December 2024 and concludes when the Holy Door is sealed on the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January 2026). I have together with the Parish of Sydney City South and our Parishes of Malabar & Matraville to enter into a pilgrimage to visit holy spaces in Italy and Rome. This pilgrimage will be roughly 14 days and depart late April early May 2025. The pilgrimage will commence in Milan and working all the way to Rome, visiting such places as Milan (The Last Supper), Turin (Holy Shroud), Vencie (St Mark), Padua (St Anthony), Ravenna (capital of the Byzantine Empire), Sienna, Florence (David), Assisi Day Trip. The pilgrimage will combine in Rome (7 nights) for the Jubilee celebrations. The costs are being sorted at present and I will get back to you ASAP. This I believe will be an experience not to be missed with many graces and blessing for each pilgrim. I would encourage as many to participate in this most wonderful experience. Pope Francis is calling all the world to Rome to celebrate as Pilgrims of Hope. Let us join him in prayer and journeying in faith.

**God Bless Fr John**

*We wish a Happy Chinese New Year to our parishioners of Chinese ancestry.—Year of the Dragon*



We welcome into our Parish Community **Grace Elizabeth Forster, Cooper Edward Pera-Peters and Talia Rebecca Turek** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at St. Agnes Matraville. **Congratulations.**



**PERE 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.

**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 Antonia Torchia, Wednesday 7 February, 10.00am - St Andrew's**  
**Funeral for the Late Charlie Calleja, Friday 9 February, 2pm - Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park**