

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4: 4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Mk 1: 12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 FEBRUARY 2024

LENT: SPRINGTIME FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION

In the southern hemisphere we miss the signs of nature linked in the northern hemisphere to Lent, namely the coming of spring. The word "Lent," is derived from the Old English "lenctern" meaning spring. This poses a challenge for us in Australia's autumn, as we seek to unfold the springtime in our soul. In our scriptural journey into Lent, we are greeted with the sign of God's covenant with Noah: a rainbow. This covenant is not just with Noah and all descendants but with every living creature, everything that lives on the earth. A rainbow may well grace our southern skies in autumn, enabling us to experience ourselves in the embrace of God's covenant with the whole ecological world in which we live.

In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days along with the wild beasts. Satan the tempter, and the angels who minister to Jesus. These ministering angels, like the rainbow, are a sign of God's ever-presence. As Jesus emerges from his forty days, we hear him begin his ministry in Galilee with "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near." Evocatively we have entered our forty days of Lent in a wilderness of ecological crisis. Unseasonal extremes of temperature, floods, fires and all manner of tempests call for us to take heed of the earth in which we dwell. In this time, we can reflect, ecologically and spiritually, to change our hearts and believe the Good News, knowing well God's promise through the rainbow and through the gift of his son.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 9: 8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

I will recall the covenant between myself and you ... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24: 4-9. R. cf. v. 10

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**



3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3: 18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

■ The word of the Lord.



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



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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am
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Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm
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Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 10 am
RECONCILIATION:
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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 Lent



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

Please pray for the:

Recently Deceased: Frank McGill, Piera Scfaro, Doris Bonanno, Mauro Soriano, Rose Galea, Alvaro Manuel Da Cruz, Isabel Luz, Renato Lobo, Manuel Moniz De Jesus, Charlie Callaja, John Daley, Antonia Torchia, Kerry Delaney, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Kevin Bates SM, John Thomas, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Anniversary: Barbara O'Brien, Gaetanna Torris, Zora Mauric, Vito Visperas, Silly Wiersmith, Abe Lardo Biala, Ellen Cussen, Carmel Donovan, Alex Lawes, Patrick Sargent, Jacintha Mary, Jeanne Mirabitur, Joseph Mirabitur, Michael Garry, Maureen Tritchler, Patricia Nicol, Marko Bukusic, Ivan Zic, Lydia & Joseph Buyjeya, Josephine Micallef and Carolyn McMahon.

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.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?
Saturday - 24 February 2024 - 5.30pm St Agnes'
Sunday - 25 February 2024 - 9.00am (Livestreamed)



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes Malabar-Matraville. Welcome to our Lent 2024 pilgrimage. These 40 days can run very quickly and before we know it is Easter. The Church gives us this time of Lent in preparing Easter, when Jesus overcomes sin and death in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Jesus has vanquished that old foe sin by his live giving action of love on

the Cross, and brought about the fullness of our humanity through baptism which incorporates us into Christ with that Original Sin wiped away and the Holy Spirit living deep within us. So let us use all we can to enter into this Lenten Pilgrimage 2024. How might we enter into Lenten period?

- Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving.
- Attending a Weekday Mass.
- Attending Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration each Friday 7pm at Malabar & Matraville Churches.
- Through our fasting (Giving up) we use the Project Compassion boxes and envelopes.
- We might not have meat on Fridays of Lent.
- When we come to Mass we might consider coming early to have extra time for prayer.
- We might meditate using the Lenten Companion 2024 Booklet
- (Find at the church entrances)

Coming together as a family for a meal and that we pray a prayer of blessing before our meal. These are a few ways we might like to consider as we journey through Lent 2024.

I think it is some seven years that St Andrews & St Agnes have been Twinned Catholic Parishes. It has been the desire of the Archdiocese that our parishes would form together as one parish with all its very distinct characteristics of St Andrew's and St Agnes', but under one umbrella. We already in a way do so many things together, our Mass schedules, with me as your Parish Priest, Baptism and other Sacraments, our Schools of Malabar and Matraville share those common values. It is not that we would be losing but we would be gaining together with all the riches of coming together as one. Let us pray in this time of discernment to the Holy Spirit to breathe on us to come together as one in Christ that was given at Pentecost as we move as Disciples on a Journey of Love here in this Southeastern Catholic Parish of St Andrew and St Agnes.

Kindy/Buddy Mass will take place next Sunday 9am Mass, St Andrew's.
God Bless

Fr John

Catechist Meeting (Both Parishes) - Monday 26 February, 10am—Meeting Room St Andrew's.



PERE RECEVEUR MASS AT LA PEROUSE—SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY at 11am

This Mass is celebrated annually near the grave of Fr Receveur who died at Botany Bay on 17th 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, chairs 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