

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / B

3 MARCH 2024

## CHRIST, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

The image of a limp, distorted body on the cross, which we know as the crucifix, has a long history of development. While its central place with the altar in our churches and its focus for personal devotion may seem normal to us, it is an anathema to others. How is this the focus of our belief and worship? A reminder of the sacrifice, its very presence points to the resurrection, salvation and the hope of everlasting life with God who loves us.

Today's readings grapple with this dilemma. Paul's words to the Corinthians capture something of the complexity of those early days of preaching the Good News: "preaching a crucified Christ." Who would believe in a dead Messiah? Yet Paul insists "but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles, a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). Paul's tussle with this is juxtaposed with John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple where Jesus says, "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). This imagery made no sense to the Judeans for this Temple, the Holy of the Holies and dwelling place of God took 46 years to build. The narrator adds that the temple Jesus spoke of was his own body. The narrator also recounts that the disciples had heard Jesus' words but it made no sense to them either until the event of the resurrection. Let us contemplate Christ as the power and wisdom of God.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

*The Law was given through Moses.*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

### ■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form, 20: 1-17.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6: 68

**R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**
4. They are more to be desired than gold, / than the purest of gold / and sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 22-25

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

*We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

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

**God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,**

**that all who believe in him might have eternal life.**

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



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES  
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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.



**3rd Sunday of Lent**

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



**Please pray for the:**

**Recently Deceased:** Ronald Camenzuli, Mauro Soriano, Val Brooks, June (Noonie) Power, Christine Lawes, Simon Pedisich and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Anniversary:** Connie Silvio, Mary Lawes, Kerop Amirian, Fr Adrien Meaney, Mary Deans, Paul McDonald, May Sommerville, Patrick & Kathleen Aleer, Betty Sullivan, Wally Benington, Maria Ostroman, Daniel Pieskzo, Gwen Kendall, Carmen Grima, Rev Fr Simari, Lorenzo Montresor and kRobert & Yolande Aquilina.

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

**The Sick:** Stephany Hiew, 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 - 9 March 2024 - 5.30pm St Agnes, Matraville  
Sunday - 10 March 2024 - 9.00am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Memorial Mass for the late Ronald Camenzuli, Friday, 8 March, 11am—St Andrew's Malabar

*From the Pastor's Desk*



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

We are now nearly at the halfway point of our 2024 Lenten journey. Next Sunday is the 4th Sunday of Lent, "Laetare Sunday", Rejoice Sunday, "Rejoice, O Jerusalem". The preferred colour in the Churches calendar is Rose. You may wish to wear a rose garment in celebration of our halfway point of our Lenten journey.

This is a significant week for our Sacrament of Penance Class 2024, as they conclude this important Sacrament of healing and peace given to them and all of us. It's wonderful that we have this sacrament as we repent for our sins, we have been given such a grace by Jesus, the Crucified and Risen one, the first gift of his resurrection was Peace be with you. My hope and prayers for all receiving this Sacrament of Reconciliation is that they and we all would use the sacrament often through our lives.

There will be Lenten 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation for all parishioners of St Andrew and St Agnes Parishes on Wednesday, 13 March at St Andrew's Church commencing at 7.00pm. There will be Lenten 1<sup>st</sup> Rite of Reconciliation at St Agnes' Matraville on Wednesday, 20 March 5.30pm—6.00pm.

With the merging of our Parishes, it is the intent of our Archbishop as part of the 'Go Make Disciples' Program to merge where necessary to bring about a more fruitful situation that will assist pastoral needs of the area. In some way to make good parishes even better as one. There will be a formal instrument of consultation as part of the whole process.

Open days next week: St Andrew's Catholic Primary School, Malabar, Thurs 7 March, 9:00 – 11:00am, and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Matraville, Tues 5 March, 9:00am – 10:30am and 4:30pm – 6:00pm, Thurs 7 March, 9:00 – 10:30am and 4:30pm – 6:00pm .

I have recently spoken to Harvest Pilgrimages who will be leading our Jubilee Journey to Italy and Rome 2025. Harvest is awaiting more information that will be available. We expect to depart Australia on 23 April and arrive back to Australia on 8 May, 13 Nights/ 16 Days. Our parishes will be joined with the Parish of Sydney City South. I am sure it will be a graced filled experience and ask you to consider coming along and being part of Holy Year pilgrims of 2025.

Don't prune your palm trees yet, more details next week.

Please see Scholarship at the Cathedral Flyer on Church Entrance Doors.

**God Bless**

**Fr John**



We welcome into our Parish community **Billie Ella Daly, Luca Daniel Fullen** and **Grace Ellen Nell Loader** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at St. Agnes' Matraville. **Congratulations.**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Pamela & Frank Eastwell who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 29 February 2024.

**Thank you** to all that donated to the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Matraville Conference raised \$2,778.70 and Malabar Conference raised \$6,044.00. Also a BIG thank you to **Helen Fatouros** who so kindly assists with the running of the Malabar Conference Piety Stall.

**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.