

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the vinedresser.  
Every branch in me that bears no fruit  
he cuts away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit he  
prunes  
to make it bear even more.  
You are pruned already,  
by means of the word that I have spoken to  
you.  
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.  
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,  
but must remain part of the vine,  
neither can you unless you remain in me.  
I am the vine,  
you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty;  
for cut off from me you can do nothing.  
Anyone who does not remain in me  
is like a branch that has been thrown away  
– he withers;  
these branches are collected and thrown on  
the fire,  
and they are burnt.  
If you remain in me  
and my words remain in you,  
you may ask what you will  
and you shall get it.  
It is to the glory of my Father that you  
should bear much fruit,  
and then you will be my disciples.'

### ■ 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 OF EASTER / B

28 APRIL 2024

### 'MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME'

The juxtaposition of the story of Saul (Paul) in the first reading from Acts with the image of Jesus as the vine in the Gospel speaks to the formation of disciples of Jesus. In Acts we have a glimpse into the beginnings of Saul's (not yet called Paul) ministry who, with all the zeal of his experience of the risen Christ, joins the believers. Barnabas takes him under his wing. Trouble erupts with the Hellenists and Paul is whisked away from Jerusalem to his hometown to where he contemplates his call.

When we then hear the Gospel's beautifully elegant description of the vine and the branches we can connect with the formation of the disciples and discern our own call. The clear instruction is 'to make your home in me', to make our home in Jesus. It is a symbiotic relationship just like the vine and its branches. We need to remain/abide in Jesus to bear fruit. No matter our zeal, our life of faith and ministry grows and flows from Jesus. This is further enriched by the words of the second reading from the First Letter of John where we hear that 'our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active'. We are to live the life God wants, to love one another and live in God.

Vines and their fruit are no stranger to us here in Australia, so we take time to reflect on this image to see how closely we abide in Jesus the vine.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

### FIRST READING

Acts 9: 26-31

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

*He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.*

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### RESP PSALM

Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

**R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)**

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. / The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. / They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. / May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R.**

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, / all families of the nations worship before him. / They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R.**

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. / They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, / declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: / 'These things the Lord has done.' **R.**



### SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 18-24

**A reading from the first letter of St John.**

*His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.*

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!**



## TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF ANDREW & AGNES

Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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Secretarial Staff

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 am

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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War Memorial Church

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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.



## 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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



Please pray for the:

**Recently Deceased:** Randolph Fitzgerald, Ryan Straney, Stephen Drabik, Betty Stuart, George Atrash, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Anniversary:** Letizia Aramini, Ben Bishenden, G.M Joseph, Joe Smith, Joseph & Josephine Xavier, Angelo D'Souza, Louise Micallef, Claire Pekin, Robert Garcia, Manuel Alvaro Da Cruz, Dulce Da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Juanto De Sousa, D Basilio Do Nascimento, Angelina Da Cruz and Alfred & Helena Gainge.

**Deceased:** Grace Abela, Francis Abela, Sime Pedisich, Joyce Gander, Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

**The Sick:** Esperance Mankarios, Helen Facione, Stephany Hiew, Margaret Gately, Maureen Maron, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, 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:** Peace in the World, Thanksgiving Andrew & Judy and Care of the World Environment.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 4 May 2024 - 5.00pm St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)

Sunday - 5 May 2024 - 10.00am St Agnes' Matraville

Please see Parish websites for further notices.

## Greetings dear parishioners and visitors to our Twinned Catholic Parishes of the Holy Martyrs of Andrew & Agnes.

I am always amazed of the architectural advancements we have made in beautifying our world and there together with this is creativity. We look at the colonial, Victorian, Art Deco buildings that adorn our Australian cities, together with the more modern style buildings especially our UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Sydney Opera House. We are much in awe and inspired with the Gothic style churches and in particular with our own St Mary's Cathedral. With all of these buildings there is much maintenance and restoration that is required over time. The Church, Parish Offices and Presbytery were opened and blessed in 1977. You may not know that the Randwick Council many many years ago classified our buildings as a significant building of importance within this our local area and placed an historical note upon it. Our issue that many of you will note that our Church, Office, and Presbytery as a unit was clad with Terracotta tiles. This is very good, but not in a severe-wind area as Malabar with such a high-pitched structure as our Church. The issue is that the Terracotta tiles are crumbling away to sand and the sarking has disintegrated. The top lantern at the top of the Church leaks and is in need of repair. The Finance Committee of St Andrew's have met to begin a program of replacement of the roofs of the Church, Offices, and Presbytery. We have sought permission to change the fabric of the roof to a Zinc/Aluminum roof that will last for some 100 years. Sadly, the Terracotta Tiles were not the correct roof from the beginning. It has been decided that the Offices and Presbytery roof will be attacked first (to begin this year) and then the major roof of the Church. The Finance Committee is very aware that this project is not cheap and this is essential to protect our assets of our Church, Offices and Presbytery in doing so, with generous giving we honour our forebears who sacrifice their treasure to make our St Andrew's building a reality in 1977. If you can assist with this important Capital Works project that would be appreciated, envelopes are available throughout the church and your generous giving will be noted in our Donors Book.

You may have noticed that we have new **tap and go machines** at the entrance of our Churches. You now have the ability to enter what ever you amount you wish to donate.

Flyers for the Jubilee Year 2025 Journey to Italy and Rome are being prepared, 16 days, 13 nights, 23 April 2025—8 May 2025, Twin Shared AUD \$8,490.00 Air & Land. Not including Prepaid Tips AUD \$225.00 per person. Single Room supplement AUD \$1,200.00. Come along and be part of this graced filled experience of the Holy Year 2025. We will be calling a meeting to see who will be wishing to place their name down as attending.

God bless you all in this Season of Easter.

Fr John



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND  
Your local charity

## CWF MAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND 4 & 5 MAY 2024

Help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place. Please give generously. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.



We welcome into our Parish community **Indi Cecilia Butcher, Ruby Isabella Lee** and **Austin Kai Rooke** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism on Sunday at St Andrew's Malabar. **Congratulations.**

**REMINDER Parish Outing:** By Coach, Tues 14 May, 2024 — Central Coast, Saddles Mount White Café, Gosford. Departs: Car Park (Club Matto) 1 Norfolk Pde Matraville 8.30am, Malabar Library at 8.45am, Maroubra 8.50am

