

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*You are the Christ . . . The Son of Man was destined to suffer much.*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word

## PATHWAY TO LIFE

In Caesarea Philippi as Jesus prepared to take the dark road to Calvary he asked his disciples whether they really understood his mission and the fearful fate that awaited him in Jerusalem. Not surprisingly, their understanding was limited and their vision clouded by hopes and dreams of an earthly kingdom and release from foreign oppression and domination. Peter was correct in identifying Jesus as the Christ, the anointed king, but completely misguided in thinking that Jesus could avoid the passion. It was precisely by this means that he would open a pathway to the glory of the resurrection. After the resurrection the early disciples came to understand that the mystery of the identity of the suffering servant of Isaiah was now revealed. Jesus was the one who was able to endure the shame and suffering of the cross with confidence and courage because he knew that the love of God would always be there to sustain him.

Jesus was clear that those who want to follow him must be prepared to courageously set out on the same path. The mystery of the paradox of losing our lives in order to find them is one that each disciple must embrace. The letter of James reflects on how this can be lived out at the most practical level by giving of oneself and what we have for the good of those less fortunate than ourselves. Acknowledging that Jesus is the Christ is one thing, putting it into practice is another. Our actions will speak louder than our words.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

12 SEPTEMBER 2021

## FIRST READING

Isa 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*I gave my body to those who struck me.*

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone  
start proceedings against me?

Then let us go to court together.

Who thinks he has a case against me?

Let him approach me.

The Lord is coming to my help,  
who dare condemn me?

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 114:1-6, 8-9. R. v. 9

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living. (or Alleluia!)**

1. I love the Lord for he has heard / the cry of  
my appeal; / for he turned his ear to me / in  
the day when I called him. **R.**

2. They surrounded me, the snares of  
death, / with the anguish of the tomb; / they  
caught me, sorrow and distress. / I called on  
the Lord's name. / O Lord my God, deliver  
me! **R.**

3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; / our  
God has compassion. / The Lord protects the  
simple hearts; / I was helpless so he saved  
me. **R.**



4. He has kept my soul from death, / my eyes  
from tears / and my feet from stumbling. /  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord / in the  
land of the living. **R.**

## SECOND READING

James 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James.

*Faith without good works is dead.*

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who  
has never done a single good act but claims that  
he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of  
the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of  
clothes and has not enough food to live on, and  
one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep  
yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving  
them these bare necessities of life, then what  
good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do  
not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind:  
'You say you have faith and I have good deeds;  
I will prove to you that I have faith by showing  
you my good deeds – now you prove to me  
that you have faith without any good deeds to  
show.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gal 6:14

**Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies  
the world to me and me to the world.  
Alleluia!**

**St. Andrew & St. Agnes  
Twinned Catholic Parishes**  
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**LIVESTREAMED MASSES**

Sunday 9am

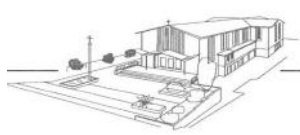
Tuesday – Friday 9am

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment.

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**LIVESTREAMED MASSES**

Sunday 9am

Tuesday – Friday 9am

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment

Principal: Rose Andre

School: 9311 1995

**24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY**

*Go Make Disciples,*

**The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney**



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Tom Fitzpatrick, Victor Ballard, Arthur Tidswell, Anthony Gruber, Fr Anthony Simari, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Anniversary:** Teofila Depczynski, Giovanni Spano, Ivan Curotta, Reg Foster, Victor Bonifacio, Bill Halcro, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, and Lydia & Joe Bujeya

**The Sick:** Yvonne Plummer

**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 [afeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:afeguardingenquiries@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.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If anyone in the parish has a love of high-tech equipment and is interested in learning the running of our new livestreaming equipment, we would appreciate your help. We are hoping to get enough parishioners involved, to make up a roster system for weekend masses. Anyone who is interested, please contact our offices on 9311 2062 or emailing [standrewmal@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmal@gmail.com) or [stagnesmatra@bigpond.com](mailto:stagnesmatra@bigpond.com).

**Where will Fr John be??**

Every Sunday 9.00am Mass Livestreamed

Tuesday – Friday 9am

Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME

**From my desk**

Greetings to one and all. I do hope you are all well and are OK, after our RUOK day last Thursday? It is OK to say that you are not OK, but if that is the case, please speak to someone about the difficulties that you may be experiencing. I know in this COVID lockdown restricted time, many are feeling very lonely and hemmed in due to the pandemic. I am particularly thinking at this time about families, and the stresses with home schooling, and if you are an HSC student it is indeed not a pleasant time. So, I wish to reach out to you all who wish to hug your grandchildren, or children wishing to hug their grandparents and students wishing to hang out with their friends, hopefully we have a road map out of this situation soon. Please can I encourage all who have not vaccinated please do so. In vaccinating yourself you are helping our community to becoming healthy. Please encourage your family and friends to be vaccinated.

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday, formerly Child Protection Sunday which falls each year on the second Sunday in September. At the conclusion of National Child Protection Week. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults of risk, including priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practice and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. If you so desire to access information on the Church's response to child sexual abuse go to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website. It includes information about reporting allegations, the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, and the various national organisations with the responsibility for safeguarding and child protection.

We wish to thank our Parish Safeguarding Support Officers (PSSO) at St. Agnes' – Chris Maron and St. Andrew's – Julie Wright.

I was going to talk about the Plenary Council which will begin in some three weeks, but more next week.

God bless you all and keep safe.

**Fr John**

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the fifth year in a row, and today, the week culminates with the celebration of Safeguarding Sunday. The celebration of this past week, leading up to Safeguarding Sunday, has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can improve the ways we care for, protect and listen to the Children and Young People in our communities.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed two new resources; the *Children's Activity Book* and *A Guide for Young People to Better Understand their Wellbeing*. Additionally, the Safeguarding Offices of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Diocese of Broken Bay, have collaborated on the development of a resource. Entitled



*Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities*, this guide promotes community awareness to support, engage, listen to and communicate with Children and Young People.

These resources can be accessed on the Safeguarding website:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>. I encourage you all to take the time to reflect on how we can all participate in the shared responsibility of caring for and protecting our Children and Young People.