

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## TRUST IN GOD'S HELP

As we prepare for the Lord's return, today's readings encourage us to continue the journey we have started but challenge us as well. Baruch gave heart to the generation of the exile by speaking about the highway that God was building for their return. At the dawn of the time of the Messiah, John the Baptist makes use of the same image but reminds us that the highway that is being built in the desert is not only God's work but ours. Our co-operation is needed as the rough places of our hearts are smoothed, the mountains we force God to cross are made level, and the valleys filled in.

Paul calls the Christians of Philippi to take heart as they wait for the Lord's return. Paul was devoted to all Christian communities he had founded and ministered to, but the Philippians had a special place in his heart, and he called them his jewel and crown (cf. Philippians 4:1). They were a Macedonian community that had suffered much (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:1-3) and yet supported him greatly in his ministry emotionally, financially, and spiritually (Philippians 4: 14-16).

We see the encouragement that Paul gives them as they prepare for the Lord's return. He knows that it is not always easy to discern what is good and necessary but he reassures the Philippians by reminding them that the Lord who started the good work in them will bring it to completion.



Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

05 DECEMBER 2021

## FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights  
and turn your eyes to the east:

see your sons reassembled from west and east  
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant  
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you  
like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening  
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the  
glory of God.

And the forests and every fragrant tree will  
provide shade

for Israel at the command of God;

for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of  
his glory

with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from  
bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was  
our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips  
there were songs. **R.**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What  
marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What  
marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we  
were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as  
streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in  
tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears /  
carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back,  
they come back, full of song, / carrying their  
sheaves. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians.

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the  
day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,  
remembering how you have helped to spread  
the Good News from the day you first heard  
it right up to the present. I am quite certain  
that the One who began this good work in  
you will see that it is finished when the Day  
of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much  
I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves  
you. My prayer is that your love for each other  
may increase more and more and never stop  
improving your knowledge and deepening your  
perception so that you can always recognise  
what is best. This will help you to become  
pure and blameless, and prepare you for the  
Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect  
goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for  
the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

# St. Andrew & St. Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes

Parish Priest: Fr. John M. Knight KCHS



6 Prince Edward Street, Malabar  
Ph: 9311 2062

standrewmal@gmail.com

[www.standrewsmalabar.org.au](http://www.standrewsmalabar.org.au)

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 2.30pm

## Secretarial Staff

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat : 9am

Vigil Sat 5pm

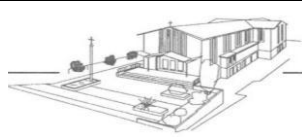
Sun 9am

## RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

Principal: Leonie Burfield

School: 9311 1203



War Memorial Church  
509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville

Ph: 9311 2062

stagnesmatra@bigpond.com

[www.stagnesmatraville.org.au](http://www.stagnesmatraville.org.au)

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7am Thurs: 9am

Vigil Sat 5:30pm

Sun 10am

## RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 1995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as the original custodians of this land

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Go Make Disciples,*

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

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Carmen Noche, May Deguzman Perez, Timothy Stephen Solo, Bishop Bill Wright, Allison Lawes, Valerie Micallef, Maria Phi, Juliata, Teresita, Magallan, Mervie, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane.

**Anniversary:** Cec Knight, Hemelda Kandur, and Candice Basheer

**The Sick:** Pray for the sick, the dying, poor and homeless in our parishes



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.

## In our Piety Stall this Christmas

Columban Calendars - \$10, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards - \$6 a pack (both parishes)

Christmas Colouring Books - \$3.50 (St. Andrew's). All proceeds go to the SVdP Society.

## Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend

Sat, 5.30pm St Agnes

Sun 9am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Please scan the QR Code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME

## From my desk

Greetings to one and all. What a wonderful week as a Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes Malabar-Matraville with the conferring of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations to 31 of Year 6 who were confirmed at St Andrew's last Tuesday evening, together with 16 of Year 6 who were confirmed at St Agnes' last Wednesday. I would also like to thank their parents for bringing them to this moment of Grace, their teachers and catechists, A special thank you to the musicians and scholar who provided our beautiful liturgies. We are grateful for Bishop Richard Umbers auxiliary Bishop and our regional Bishop here in Sydney. I was privileged and honored to have facilities to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Andrew's, due to Covid and the unavailability of the Bishop.

Next Wednesday will be a special day as we close the Year of St Joseph on the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All are invited from our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Agnes and St Andrew to come together for our 9am Mass this Wednesday 8 December at St Andrew's. At the conclusion of the Mass a permanent Shrine of St Joseph will be dedicated and blessed in St Andrew's Church. Also, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary will also be dedicated and bless at the entrance of St Andrew's, all welcome.

Please note our Christmas Mass Schedule in the bulletin. I am wanting to have a Children's Christmas Vigil 24 December Masses; St Andrew's at 5pm and St Agnes' at 6.30pm. It is hoped that our children can dress up in nativity characters. Other Vigil and Christmas Masses will take place; St Andrew's 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Christmas Day 9am. St Agnes' Midnight Mass and 10am on Christmas Day. Please see full schedule below.

Next Sunday is Gaudete (Rose) Sunday, which means Rejoice in Latin, you might like to wear a rose garment to mass in celebration of Rose Sunday.

SVDP Christmas appeal envelopes available this weekend with full Christmas appeal next weekend.

Please keep Bishop-elect Danny Meagher in your prayers as he is Ordained a Bishop this Wednesday in St Mary's Cathedral.

God bless and keep you all,

**Fr John.**

## OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

We would be very grateful for donations of non-perishable food items and brand-new children's toys for our annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Please place them under the tree. (See notices near the doors of the church for suggestions. The appeal is next weekend, donations are 100% tax deductible. Envelopes are available, donations can be made using the tap machine or online. [StAndrewsMalabarConferenceChristmasAppeal-Fundraiseyourway\(vinniesnsw.org.au\)](http://StAndrewsMalabarConferenceChristmasAppeal-Fundraiseyourway(vinniesnsw.org.au))

or [St Agnes Matraville Conference Christmas Appeal - Fundraise your way \(vinniesnsw.org.au\)](http://StAgnesMatravilleConferenceChristmasAppeal-Fundraiseyourway(vinniesnsw.org.au)) **Let's share with those less fortunate.**



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**ST Andrews' Malabar**

Christmas Eve (Fri) 5pm (children) & 7pm

Christmas Day (Sat) 9am

**ST Agnes Matraville**

Christmas Eve 6.30pm (children & Midnight)

Christmas Day 10am

## CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

**St Andrew's Malabar**

Sat 18 Dec. 3.30-4.30pm

**St Agnes' Matraville**

Tue 21 Dec. 5pm-6pm