

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

12 DECEMBER 2021

PREPARE WELL

All of us have been involved at one time or another with preparing to meet a special guest. It is often a time of mixed emotions as excitement and joy vie with some measure of anxiety about the quality of our preparations.

As Paul's Christians at Philippi waited for the return of the Lord, he knew that it could be for many a time of anxiety; would they find acceptance on his return? Would they find a place in his kingdom? It was a time of trepidation because it was feared that he would return unexpectedly, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and find them unprepared. In the face of such anxiety, Paul encourages them to put their trust in the Lord who loves them. Even now they are called to experience the Lord's peace and joy as they wait for his return. Especially, they are called to pray with confidence and trust.

John the Baptist knew that the Messiah was soon to be among us, and we see how he calls those who listen to his message to prepare by taking a hard look at themselves and how they live. In order to be ready when the Messiah comes he calls for a concern for others that expresses itself in generosity, fairness, and compassion.

As we prepare for the Lord's coming among us, today's readings call us to make ready with the confidence of Zephaniah, the peacefulness of Paul, and the justice and compassion of John the Baptist.

FIRST READING

Zeph 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.

He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Isa 12:2-6. R. v. 6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, / I trust,
I shall not fear. / For the Lord is my strength,
my song, / he became my saviour. / With
joy you will draw water / from the wells of
salvation. **R.**

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to
his name! / Make his mighty deeds known
to the peoples! / Declare the greatness of his
name. **R.**



3. Sing a psalm to the Lord / for he has done
glorious deeds, / make them known to all the
earth! / People of Zion, sing and shout for
joy / for great in your midst is the Holy One of
Israel. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:4-7

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

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the
Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the
Lord is very near. There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater
than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**St. Andrew & St. Agnes
Twinned Catholic Parishes
Parish Priest: Fr. John M. Knight KCHS**



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Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat : 9am

Vigil Sat 5pm

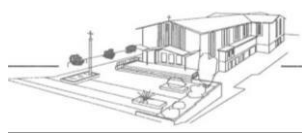
Sun 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

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

Vigil Sat 5:30pm

Sun 10am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 1995

From my desk

Greetings to one and all. As, I pen 'from my desk', I have just arrived back from St Mary's Cathedral, Minor Basilica, Sydney following the Ordination of Bishop Danny Meagher as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Sydney. What a beautiful and prayerful ceremony. The parishioners of St Agnes will know that the Meagher family owned the Matraville Hotel several years ago. We congratulate our newly ordained Bishop Danny, and asked God's continued blessings upon him as a co-working bishop with our Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP. For those at St Agnes. there is a book of congratulations, if you wish to sign and/or give a little note to Bishop Danny to congratulate him, it will be there for several weeks. May the Holy Spirit enliven Bishop Danny as a sharer in apostolic ministry of humble service love and joy, in assisting in building up the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Our Year of St Joseph has now concluded. This does not mean we stop praying to St Joseph, Patron Saint of the Universal Church. To assist at Malabar, a permanent shrine has been erected to St Joseph in the Church. Many thanks to Joe Pompor for restoring this most beautiful Shrine of St Joseph at the rear of the church. Go to Joseph to Jesus.

This Sunday we celebrate 'Gaudete' Sunday, Rejoice Sunday, it is the unofficial halfway point of the Season of Advent. To mark this point the liturgical colour of this Sunday, together with the fourth Sunday in Lent is Rose. As of the 18 December, the Season of Advent moves from the Second coming of Christ to remember the nativity of the Lord.

This weekend Vinnies Christmas Appeal will take place at both our Churches. Many thanks for your generosity in assisting in helping many people in celebrating Christmas joy who would not be able to do otherwise.

I hope all your preparations are going well, as we come closer to Christmas Day which begins not ends our Christmas Season.

God bless and keep you, all safe and well.

Fr John.



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

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Georgette Ghosn Carmen Noche, May Deguzman Perez, Timothy Stephen Solo, Bishop Bill Wright, Allison Lawes, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Anne Martin, Bryan McDonald, Joseph Strawbridge, Julie Laporte, 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. 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, 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Sun 9.30 am St Agnes

Please scan the QR Code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME

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. [St Andrews Malabar Conference Christmas Appeal - Fundraise your way \(vinniesnsw.org.au\)](#) or [St Agnes Matraville Conference Christmas Appeal - Fundraise your way \(vinniesnsw.org.au\)](#) *Let's share with those less fortunate.*



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

ST Andrews' Malabar

Christmas Eve (Fri) **5pm-children/family & 7pm**

Christmas Day (Sat) **9am**

ST Agnes Matraville

Christmas Eve **6.30pm-children/family & Midnight**

Christmas Day **10am**

There will be no Vigil Masses on this weekend

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Sat 18 Dec. 3.30-4.30pm

St Agnes' Matraville

Tue 21 Dec. 5pm-6pm

Parish Outing: Wednesday, 2nd February 2022 – Outing by coach to the Alison Homestead Museum Wyong/Gosford RSL). \$50 p/p includes Coach Fare, Museum Entry, Devonshire Morning Tea at the Alison Homestead and Lunch at the Gosford RSL.
Full payment by Sunday, 9th January 2022.

Please contact Kathy Sullivan (9311-1749) or Marie Jennings (9311-7186) if you are interested.

**CONGRATULATIONS to St Agnes and St Andrew's
Year 6 Class on their Graduation.**

