

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

19 DECEMBER 2021

GOD IN OUR LIVES

Judah was not one of the more powerful tribes of Israel. It must have come as a surprise to many when Micah prophesied that it was from Bethlehem, one of the least clans of Judah, that a future king would come. The future king that Micah promised was one who would feed the flock of God's people using his power to protect them. The passage from the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that as king Jesus more than fulfilled that promise when he offered his very life as a sacrifice.

In the Gospel, the new age promised by Micah dawns as Mary visits her kinswoman Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. Elizabeth wonders at the visit of Mary, the mother of the Lord, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit by whose power she recognises that the promises God made long ago are now coming to their fulfilment. Perhaps her wonder at John's birth, against all expectations when hope had been lost, has sharpened her perception of the mysterious ways of God.

Often it is those who have experienced God's unexpected intervention in their own lives who are the most adept at perceiving how God is working in the lives of others. Advent can be the same for us, a moment of blessing that invites us to recognise how God is working in our lives and world, most of all, in the birth of Jesus our Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Mic 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah.

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon
them

till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers will come
back

to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock

with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he
will extend his power to the ends of the
land.

He himself will be peace.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v. 4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine
forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord,
rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our
help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look
down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine
and protect it, / the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**



3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen, / the man you have given your
strength. / And we shall never forsake you
again: / give us life that we may call upon your
name. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

I am coming to do your will.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the
world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or
sacrifices for sin;

then I said,

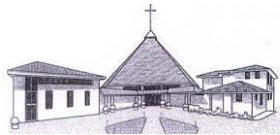
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the
book,

'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your
will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want
what the Law lays down as the things to be
offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the
holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you
took no pleasure in them; and then he says:
Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He
is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the
second. And this will was for us to be made
holy by the offering of his body made once and
for all by Jesus Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

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



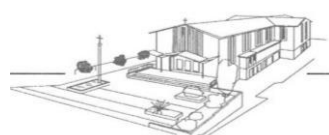
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Secretarial Staff

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**Masses Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat: 9 am
Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am**

**RECONCILIATION:
Available by appointment.
Principal: Leonie Burfield
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**Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am
Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 10 am**

**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.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Amanda Jane McCarthy, 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: Dolores Blackmore, Ada Blackmore,, Carolina Sounios, 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 at St Andrew's

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 St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend?

Livestreaming will be at 9am St Andrew's
Sunday, 10 am at St Agnes'

Please scan the QR Code to watch on YouTube



SCAN ME

From my desk

Greetings one and all on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is the last in our Advent Season and we are asked to be part of the Jesus story. The direction of our Advent pilgrimage/holy journey moves to the extraordinary moment in time when God two thousand years ago sent the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ to dwell amongst us as our redeemer. This Child and his birth will change the world forever and it is rightly so, to celebrate with lights, singing and with festival. Please remember that the Christmas Season begins on Christmas Day and concludes on the 9 January, with the Baptism of the Lord. So, it is time to bring out the decorations of celebration of this great feast!

The Covid 19 restrictions have been somewhat changed. We are strongly recommending that people wear face masks when attending Masses. We can sing, but still need to use the QR code on entry for Masses. Can I encourage you to book in for Booster shots against Covid 19. Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI said that for the love of our neighbour, we might consider to vaccinate oneself and receive a booster.

You might encourage people to attend our Christmas Masses, especially if they have been away for a while. Please take note of the Christmas Vigil Mass times on Saturday 24th December as they have changed. The Midnight will be at Midnight at St Agnes'. Sunday 26th December, St Andrew's 9am and St Agnes' 10am.

Hoping all your preparations are going well.

God bless and keep you all safe and well.

Fr John.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated to the St Vincent De Paul Appeal, and for the many hamper items and toys. also to the elves for wrapping and packing the hampers.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Christmas Eve (Fri) **5pm-children/family & 7pm**
Christmas Day (Sat) **9 am**

St Agnes Matraville

Christmas Eve **6.30pm-children/family & Midnight**
Christmas Day **10 am**

There will be no Vigil Masses on this weekend

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Sat 18 Dec. 3.30 - 4.30 pm

St Agnes' Matraville

Tue 21 Dec. 5 pm – 6 pm

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.

Volunteers Needed St Andrew's: Christmas Eve Mass 5 pm – 1 Commentator

Christmas Eve Mass 7 pm – 1 Commentator, 2 Readers and 4 Collectors

St Agnes': Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm – Acolyte

Midnight Mass – 1 Acolyte, 1 Reader, 1 Commentator

Saturday 25 December 10am – 1 Reader, 1 Commentator

Sunday 26 December 10am – 1 Acolyte, 1 Musician, 1 Reader, 1 Commentator