

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 2:41-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE!

Have you ever felt a yearning to visit some special place? Perhaps the place of your childhood that you have not seen for many years. Or perhaps some country that has always fascinated you. Imagine how excited you would feel if you were about to set out on a journey to this place. Or perhaps you have been longing to meet some special person, and the opportunity will soon happen. What joy you would feel.

These are the kinds of emotions the Jewish pilgrims experienced as they journeyed to Jerusalem to visit the great temple. As they made their pilgrimage to Jerusalem filled with longing and joy they sang hymns to God including today's responsorial psalm.

The temple was very special for the people because it signified that God was dwelling in their midst, that God was among them. Our churches and cathedrals have a similar role: they are signs that God is with us in our towns, communities and countryside.

God does not dwell in sacred buildings only. The boy Jesus did not remain in his Father's house in Jerusalem but returned with Mary and Joseph to their humble home in Nazareth, and Jesus continues to dwell with us in our homes. With all their struggles and imperfections our homes are indeed dwelling places of God.

We can sometimes search everywhere for Jesus only to find that he has been with us, in our homes and communities, all the time.

Fr Michael Goonan SSP

THE SAVING WORD

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH / C

26 DECEMBER 2021

FIRST READING

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my Lord. As you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10. R. v. 5

R. How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1. How lovely is your dwelling place, / Lord, God of hosts. / My soul is longing and yearning, / is yearning for the courts of the Lord. / My heart and my soul ring out their joy / to God, the living God. **R.**

2. They are happy, who dwell in your house, / for ever singing your praise. / They are happy, whose strength is in you; / they walk with ever growing strength. **R.**



3. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, / give ear, O God of Jacob. / Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, / look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

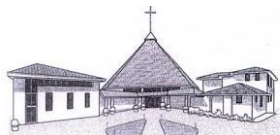
He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own 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.

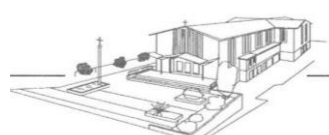
■ The word of the Lord.

St. Andrew & St. Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes

Parish Priest: Fr. John M. Knight KCHS



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Office hours: Tues & Wed 8.30 am – 4.30 pm
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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:
Available by appointment.
Principal: Leonie Burfield
School: 9311 1203



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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 traditional custodians of this land.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: John Watts, Mary Carauna, Bernadette Taylor Giuseppina, Amanda Jane McCarthy, Bishop Bill Wright, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Maureen O'Brien, Ethel Donohue, Robert Franke, Anna-Maria Chovan, Mary Cauchi, Dolores Blackmore, Ada Blackmore, and Carolina Sounios,

The Sick: Ernie Ross. Please 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.

Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend?

Saturday 1 January, 9am - St Andrew's, Livestreamed. Saturday, 1 January, 5.30pm St Agnes
Sunday 2 January, 9am - St Andrew's Livestreamed

Please scan the QR Code to watch on YouTube



SCAN ME

Points to Ponder

How important it is that every child coming into the world be welcomed by the warmth of a family! External comforts do not matter: Jesus was born in a stable, and had a manger as his first cradle, but the love of Mary and of Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved. Children need this, the love of their father and mother. It is this that gives them security and, as they grow enables them to discover the meaning of life.

When he was 12 years old, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple, and it took his parents all of three days to find him. With this act he made them understand that he "had to see his father's affairs", in other words, to the mission that God had entrusted to him. This reveals the most authentic and profound vocation of the family: to accompany each of its members on the path of the discovery of God and of the plan that he has prepared for him or her. Mary and Joseph taught Jesus primarily by their example: in his parents, he came to know the full beauty of faith, of love for God and for his Law, as well as the demands of justice, which is totally fulfilled in love.

Pope Benedict XVI

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.

NEW YEARS DAY MASS TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

New Year's Day: Saturday 1 January, 9am

St Agnes Matraville

New Year's Day: Saturday 1 January, 9am.

As of Saturday, January 1, 2022, there will be no Saturday morning masses, unless the feast of Assumption or New Years Day falls on a Saturday.

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.

WHAT ARE THOSE CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES FOR?

The money from those envelopes goes to a Central Fund that attends to the needs of the priests of the Archdiocese. These include: sick priests, priests in special works, migrant chaplains and priests undertaking further studies. Some of these priests are often "out of sight, out of mind" but they do need to be supported.

Please give them some thought especially at this time.

Funeral for the late Mary Carauna, Thursday, 30 December, 2021-10:00am, St Andrew's Malabar.