



THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / C

25 DECEMBER 2021

You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

DAY MASS

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM 97:1-6.R.v.3

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. **R.**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. **R.**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. **R.**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might

believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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MIDNIGHT MASS

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

95:1-3.11-13 R.v. Lk 2:11

R. Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **R.**

2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**



3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. **R.**

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. **R.**

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself

for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

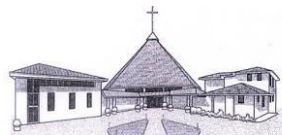
GOSPEL

Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you:

**St. Andrew & St. Agnes
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm

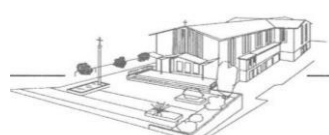
Sunday 9 am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

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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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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

From my desk

Greetings one and all as we celebrate Christmas 2021. As many will know that this is my first Christmas that I celebrate with you in our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes, Malabar and Matraville. I have been blessed to be your Pastor/Parish Priest of two fantastic parishes. Thank you for your welcome and I hope that we can continue our journey in growing as we 'Go Make Disciples', in missioning in God's love here at St Agnes' & St Andrew's.

As we contemplate once again this Christmas, the Word Made Flesh, Jesus Christ God's only son given to us as one of us. His Divinity becoming our humanity, so as giving us the fulfillment of the prophecies and gaining for us our salvation. This year with all its swings and, merry go rounds, though it seemed like snakes and ladders, we have had challenges. I am particularly thinking of all the parishioners, that I have not met due to Covid and look forward to meeting you all eventually. I am grateful for our new communication systems at St Andrew's with includes the ability to live stream each week. This was indeed very helpful during lockdown. (I am particularly grateful for Joseph Medcalf Funerals for assisting in a large way in funding the communication system). I do hope in the future to install such features at St Agnes'. I am thinking of the parents of school children who Home Schooled their children during lockdown-You did a amazing job and many worked from home as well-Congratulations!

I wish to thank Fr Paul for his assistance through the year in supplying Masses at St Andrew's and St Agnes' it is much appreciated.

I wish to thank all those who have keep our parishes running so efficiently. Our Julie Lippmann & Julie Wright in our Offices, Lee Leo and Chris Maron at St Andrew's and St Agnes' who keep the Churches running and coordinating smoothly, and the many others who assist in many other ministries. Yvonne Larssen after many years decided to retire during the year and we thank her for her work.

For those going on breaks, please enjoy and return safe, sound and well.

I wish to extend to each and every one a very Happy, Holy Christmas 2021 and may 2022 be filled with peace, joy and God's choicest blessing.

Fr John.



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.

There will be no Saturday Vigil Mass tomorrow night the 25th December.

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.

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.

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