

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from **the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD / C

9 JANUARY 2022

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the midst of the terror, loss, and grief of the exile, Isaiah spoke words of hope, consolation, and healing. The inhabitants of Jerusalem wondered whether God had abandoned them. Would their suffering extend into a dark and hopeless future? When all seemed lost a word of hope was proclaimed – a word that went to the heart of Jerusalem. They could now look forward to the return of the exiles, the rebuilding of the city, and a future in which they could rest assured that God was among them.

Late in the first century, the letter to Titus reflected on the ways that God had been true to that promise of presence and gentle care through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Cleansed by baptism, and renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit Christians were now called to respond appropriately by the manner of their own lives. God had been gracious to them and now they were called to respond by living good and religious lives as they waited for his return.

The Gospel passage today informs us that the people looked at John the Baptist with the eyes of hope, filled with longing for religious reform and liberation from the power of Rome. Isaiah proclaimed to the people of Jerusalem: 'Here is your God.' When Jesus comes for baptism this word is now radically enfleshed in the person of Jesus himself. He will gather the weak and the wounded, the blind and the lame revealing God's compassionate and gracious love.

FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v. 1

R. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, / clothed in majesty and glory, / wrapped in light as in a robe! / You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R.**



2. Above the rains you build your dwelling. / You make the clouds your chariot, / you walk on the wings of the wind, / you make the winds your messengers / and flashing fire your servants. **R.**
3. How many are your works, O Lord! / In wisdom you have made them all. / The earth is full of your riches. / There is the sea, vast and wide, / with its moving swarms past counting, / living things great and small. **R.**
4. All of these look to you / to give them their food in due season. / You give it, they gather it up: / you open your hand, they have their fill. **R.**
5. You take back your spirit, they die, / returning to the dust from which they came. / You send forth your spirit, they are created; / and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

SECOND READING

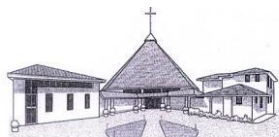
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

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.

Sts. Andrew & Agnes
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm

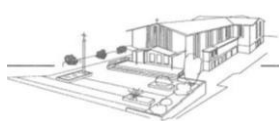
Sunday 9 am

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Available by appointment.

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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 traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: Paul Calleja, Maria Cassar, Bishop Bill Wright, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Angelina & Joseh Portelli, Marie Hurthworth, Lucia Spano, Sister Damien,

John De Bono, Jim Smith and Rosemary Smith

The Sick: Fr Paul, Ernie Ross. 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, 15 January 5.30pm, – St Agnes

Sunday, 16 January, 9am St Andrew's - Livestreaming

Sunday, 16, January 10am at St Agnes'

Please scan the QR Code to watch on YouTube



SCAN ME

Points to Ponder

The Lord was Baptised, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism.

St Ambrose (340-397)

Neither John nor Jesus invented baptism. It had been practiced for centuries among the Jews as a ritual equivalent to our Confession. Until the fall of the Temple in 70A.D., it was common for the Jewish people to use a special pool called a Mikveh – literally a 'collection of water' – as a means of spiritual cleansing, to remove spiritual impurity and sin. Men took this bath weekly on the eve of the Sabbath, women, monthly. Converts were also expected to take this bath before entering Judaism. The Orthodox Jews still retain the rite. John preached that such a bath was a necessary preparation for the cataclysm that would be wrought by the coming Messiah. Jesus transformed this continuing ritual into the one single, definitive act by which we begin our life of Faith. In effect, He fused His Divine Essence with the water and the ceremony.

Fr Antony Kadavil www.vaticannews



Fr Paul's Progress – Thank you all for your prayers for Fr Paul, He has been discharged from hospital and is recuperating privately. Please keep up your prayers for Fr Paul, as he recovers.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Saturday morning masses at St Andrew's commencing from the January 1, 2022.

COVID SAFETY: Please ensure you sign in, observe signage on pews on where to sit, sit 1.5m from those not from the same household, do not touch statues, and take bulletins with you instead of returning bulletins to the receptacle.

St. Agnes' Feast Day is on Friday, 21st January

There will be **Mass 9am at Matraville** on that day.

All welcome to come and celebrate.

(7am mass will be on will be on Thursday instead of Friday for this week)

No weekday 9am Mass at Malabar on Friday, 21st January due to St Agnes Feast Day.

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.

Funeral for the late Paul Calleja, St Agnes, Matraville, 10am, Wednesday 12th January 2022.