

persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL

Jn 10:27-30

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

*I give my sheep eternal life.*

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C

8 MAY 2022

## HOPE IN FACE OF TRIAL

The lives of each of us are touched by the realities of death and suffering in our world. As Christians, we are challenged to dig deep and explain the basis for our Christian hope. Why should Christians be hopeful? Why should we not give in to despair and disillusion? What is the basis for our belief that God's love is more powerful than the forces in our world which oppress and cause suffering?

Like ourselves, the first Christians had to deal with these problems. Opposition and persecution were realities for the earliest Christians and today's readings show something of the early Church's response to such difficulties. Paul and Barnabas faced the opposition of Jewish communities as they preached the good news of Jesus to Jews and Gentiles. They had come to see that the good news was meant for all nations and, by preaching the message of Jesus, the call to be a light for the nations would be fulfilled.

Some years later the Christian communities in Asia Minor were persecuted by Diocletian. It was a brutal and fearful time as Christians saw their brothers and sisters put to death. The book of the Apocalypse was written to encourage these Christians not to lose heart since Jesus had overcome death and he would shepherd them amidst their suffering.

The Johannine community had to deal with the distress and anguish that accompanied the expulsion of Christians from the synagogue. It is in the midst of such turmoil that they are reminded that with Jesus as their shepherd they need only listen to his voice to be assured of eternal life.

## FIRST READING

Acts 13:14,43-52

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*We are now turning to the gentiles.*

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99:1-3.5

**R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. (or Alleluia!)**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. / Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

2. Know that he, the Lord, is God. / He made us, we belong to him, / we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord, / eternal his merciful love. / He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Apoc 7:9,14-17

**A reading from the book of the Apocalypse**

*The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.*

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great



**St ANDREW & St AGNES  
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Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 am  
Vigil Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 9 am  
RECONCILIATION:  
Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm  
Also available by appointment  
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Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am  
Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 10 am  
RECONCILIATION:  
Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm  
Also available by appointment  
Principal: Rose André  
School: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Go Make Disciples,  
The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney**



### Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

**Recently deceased :** Jela (Jean) Bakusic, Heather Elizabeth Matchet, Rita Timbery-Curtain, and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane.

**Anniversary:** Andy Couch, Peter Mills, Lilian Hinks, Carmel Donovan, Jack Davis, Manuel Alvaro Da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Jose Bento, Paula Quintao, Ben Bishenden, and Antoni Depczynski

**The Sick:** Ellie Carter, Mary Lau, Lilly Weekes, Brian and Colleen Maguire, Max Fenech, Marc Bakusic, Metilda and Jacintha Mary, Fran Evans and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, poor and homeless in our parishes and those suffering from Covid.



### Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend?

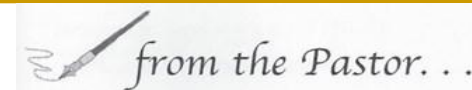
Saturday, 14 May, 5.00pm - St Andrew's (Livestreamed)  
Sunday, 15 May 10.00 - St Agnes'



Please scan the QR code to watch on Youtube.

SCAN ME

### From my desk



Greetings to all Parishioners, Friends and Visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes, Malabar—Matraville.

### Happy Mothers Day to all mothers and all women who are care for others!

Our St Agnes' Parishioners and Parents may remember in October 2020, a conversation was begun in concern with the amalgamation of Our Lady of the Annunciation Catholic Primary School, Pagewood and St Agnes' Catholic Primary School, Matraville on the Matraville site. The great news is that Stage 1 of this building project has been taking place since late 2021 and has developed very well. This Stage will be concluded by late this year. Last Wednesday evening at St Agnes' Matraville, the Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools (Mr Tony Farley), announced that this amalgamation would take place a year earlier, commencing Term 1 2023 and the new School will be named Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Matraville. The name reflects the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart FDNCS (OLSH Sisters) who educated children at both Pagewood and Matraville. What an endeavor in our Catholic history of both Pagewood and Matraville parishes, a brand new Catholic Primary School and a new name with the same Catholic Ethos to share between two parishes.

Many thanks to Matraville RSL Sub Branch for their generous giving towards the repointing of our sandstone facing of our St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville together with our two flag poles flanking the War Memorial and sandstone capping of the memorial garden. We continue to honour those men and women who have given service in war for the defence of our country and its values, May they rest in Peace. We also remember those who today give valent service in our Armed Forces.

At this week and next weekend Masses our children of our Parishes of Year 6 and above who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2022 will commit themselves to the program.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal will take place at all Masses this weekend, your generosity will be appreciated, last one for this financial year 2021/22. \$2 or over 100% tax deductible. Many thanks.

Note that the Confirmation Retreat Day for all candidates making their confirmation will take place on Wednesday 1 June 2022 commencing at 9am, St Agnes' Matraville. This is a compulsory part of the program.

God bless and keep you all. On the set of Significant others at St Andrew's. Can you spot the actor?  
Fr John



We welcome into our Parish Community Hunter Samuel Georgas and Christopher David Pinto who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this Sunday, 8 May 2022 at St Andrew's Malabar.

**Thank you to the RJC Group for the professional stonework completed at both 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

**Funeral for the late Jela (Jean) Bakusic—St Andrew's, Friday 20 May, 10.00am.**