

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for

what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the
cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 JANUARY 2023

WORKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

There is a consistency between the Old Testament reading and the Gospel of today in that they speak of the qualities that should mark the life of faith in the face of difficulty – integrity, humility, truthfulness, and steadfastness. There is a call to hope that despite the presence of obstacles, misunderstanding, and sometimes rejection, God still has the power to intervene in our world. For the people in exile, it was no easy matter to continue to believe that God would intervene to re-establish the faithful in their own land. Would it have been any easier for the people of Jesus' time to hear the words of the beatitudes that proclaimed comfort for mourners, or a sumptuous banquet for those who were starving? There is a fundamental challenge that underlies both these readings: do we really believe that God's kingdom can be established in our midst? Secondly, are we prepared to work to bring that kingdom into reality?

While the Christians of Corinth felt they were living in that reality Paul knew that while there was division the process of conversion still had a long way to go. Paul was convinced that there is no place for competition or envy. He had already used the example of Jesus' humble death to show them that jealousy is misplaced in the Christian community since Jesus displayed his power in humble service. He now goes one step further reminding the Corinthians that their own humble origin is a sign that God's call is best received with humble gratitude.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord

all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.

Seek integrity, seek humility:

you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,

and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;

and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.

But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad:

your reward will be great in heaven.

Alleluia!



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am
RECONCILIATION:
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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
Sacred Heart School Matraville: 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 IN ORDINARY TIME

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Horace Misfud, Bob Markworth, Fr John DeLuca, Marko Bukusic, Ivan Zic, Colin Clennar, Damien Maree, George Cardinal Pell AC. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and all the people of Ukraine and Russia, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Ellen Cussen, Carmel Donovan, Frances Azzopardi, Carolyn McMahon, Brian Kennedy, Robert Jennings, Byung ok-choi, Leonard Velu, Lucia Spano, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, Albert Absi and Bob Wallington

The Sick: Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Sylvester and Jacintha Mory, Santa Viselli, Ellie Carter and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.



Please see Parish websites for further notices.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 4 February— 5.00 St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 5 February, - 10.00am — St Agnes'

Funeral for the Late Marko Bakusic — Tuesday, 31 January, 10am—St Andrew's.

FROM MY DESK — Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes

Welcome back all our St Andrew & Sacred Heart schools to Term 1, 2023. I hope all teachers, support staff, students and families have had a wonderful break, and are all refreshed for this new year. 2023 is a significant year for St Agnes' Matraville Parish as our new Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Matraville commences this week. Just a note that our Patron Saint of the Parish—St Agnes will not change, the school's name has changed.

Saturday 28 January 2023, marks my second anniversary as Parish Priest of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar and Matraville. I wish to thank you all for your wonderful support of our parishes. We will strive to use further the Archdiocesan Mission Plan, 'Go Make Disciples'. Cardinal Pell's Pontifical Funeral Mass will take place this Thursday, 2 February, 11am St Mary's Cathedral Sydney, all are welcome to attend or watch on St Mary's Cathedral's YouTube. You may wish to visit our website for further details of other Masses for Cardinal Pell. May he Rest In Peace.

Father John De Luca former Parish Priest of St Mary's & St Joseph's Maroubra Bay—Beach has passed away. His funeral Mass will take place at St Mary's & St Joseph's this Tuesday 31 January 2.30pm, all welcome.

Next Sunday is the annual Catechist Mass, all Catechists are invited to attend one of our Malabar—Matraville Parish weekend Masses for a special blessing as they commence their new year of ministry to the students at State Schools of our parishes.

Friday is the feast of St Blaise, and it is customary to bless throats on this day. Following Mass all who wish their throats to be blessed for health and well being for 2023 are welcome to attend.

Matraville School Church Carpark will remain open until Stage 2 of School Works, commencing approximately late March.

God Bless you all and keep you in his love.

Fr John.



RECEVEUR MASS AT LA PEROUSE

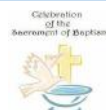
SUNDAY 19th FEBRUARY at 11am

This Mass is celebrated annually near the grave of Fr Receveur who died at Botany Bay on 17th February 1788. He was a priest and scientist with the La Perouse expedition.

He may have been the first Catholic priest in Australia

Everyone is invited to this outdoor Mass

Marquee, transport and sound system provided courtesy of Randwick City Council and Sausage sizzle provided by Seaside Lions & refreshments by Friends of La Perouse Museum.



We welcome **Emelia Patricia McKay, Jack and Jasmine Ord** and **Cai James and Chloe Sarah Queen**, into our Parish Community, who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Andrew's.

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 safeguarding.enquiries@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.

Funeral for the Late Horace Misfud—Friday, 3 February, 10.30pm—St Agnes'