

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God's judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God's part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul's time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2023. No 1970. Website: www.stpauls.com.au



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



6 Prince Edward Street, Malabar
Ph: 9311 2062
standrewmal@gmail.com
www.standrewsmalabar.org.au
Office hours: Tues & Wed 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
& Fri 8.30 am - 2.30 pm
Secretarial Staff
Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright
Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 9 am
Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am
RECONCILIATION:
Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm
Also available by appointment
Principal: Mr Phil Tax
St Andrew's Primary School Malabar: 9311 1203

War Memorial Church
509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville
Office located at 6 Prince Edward St, Malabar
Office hours: See Opposite Box
Ph: 9311 2062
stagnesmatra@bigpond.com
www.stagnesmatraville.org.au
Syro-Malabar Rite: 1st Sunday; 5pm
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.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Evelyn Garas Jacintha Mary, Victoriano Villacorta, Augustina Daquiz, Ana Previnsek, all the people of Syria and Turkey who have died as a result of the Earthquake, all the people of the Ukraine and Russia who have died as a result of War, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Maria Buttigieg, Patrick Sargent, Alex Lawes, Eliza Jacob, Winnie Blyth, Mary Deans, Pat Parker, Carmen Grima, Jason Leung, Silvia and Filippo Paoella, Patricia Nicol, Doug Nicol and John London.

The Sick: Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Sylvester and 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.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 18 February - 5.00 pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 19 February - 10.00 am - St Agnes'

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

I am sure that our thoughts and prayers go out to those people affected by the Turkey—Syria Earthquake. It was not only one earthquake but two with afterquakes, a catastrophe of unimaginably carnage. Thousands of lives have been lost and countless buildings and livelihoods have been destroyed. To add to the situation, it is in winter there, and the temperatures are hampering any survival and rescue of loved ones. There will be a third collection as you leave Masses this weekend to collect for the Caritas Australia towards the Turkey—Syrian Disaster. There are also posters at the entrances of the Church in which you can use the QR code and donate directly to the appeal, envelopes are also available if you require Tax Deductions. These Earthquake regions of Turkey & Syria need assistance ASAP, your donation is kindly accepted and appreciated.

This weekend and next weekend our Year 3 class will commit themselves to the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) Program. Please keep them and their Parents/Carers in your prayers.

His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney will celebrate the Foundation Opening School Mass of Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Matraville at out St Agnes' War Memorial Church, Matraville at 9.45am this Tuesday.

Please don't forget to bring back your old palm from last Palm Sunday. Next Sunday is the last Sunday of collection of palms.

God blessing to one and all **Father 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 **Hannah Joy Bowman, Alexander Paris Ellis and James Ellis Stuart Johnson**, 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 Evelyn Garas, Wednesday, 15 February, 9.30am—St Agnes'.