

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.*

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,  
and they will support you on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the  
test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

26 FEBRUARY 2023

## IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

At the dawn of human history, Adam and Eve were seduced into trying to grasp equality with God. In their quest to become like God they gained some knowledge, but it left them chastened and disillusioned. Created in God's image they now saw that dignity was distorted by sin and became aware of their nakedness, vulnerability and need for God.

Prior to commencing his public ministry, Jesus undergoes a time of testing and preparation. During this time Jesus shares in all the trials that Israel experienced in the desert. They lost their way in the desert but Jesus gives us hope as he reveals the qualities that mark God's children. He knows the source of his life is to be found in God so there is no need to make his own bread. He knows that God is with him, and does not need to put God to the test. He is certain that God is the source of his life and power, and rejects the call to worship Satan.

Paul looked at all of salvation history and saw that Adam and Jesus marked two vital moments in God's dealing with humanity. What had been lost by one had been more than regained by the other. Through the gracious gift of Jesus' death, we are able to begin anew as God's children. As we begin the season of Lent we are invited to reflect on our own story, to begin once again with thankful hearts, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

*Creation of our first parents, and sin.*

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

**R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone



have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open my lips / and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form 5:12-19*



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES  
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm  
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Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7 am Thurs: 9 am  
Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm  
Sunday 10 am  
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Also available by appointment  
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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT**

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



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently Deceased:** Wally Benington Maria Ostroman, Gwen Kendall, Horace Misfud 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:** Fr Adrian Meaney, May Sommerville, Betty Sullivan, Patrick & Kathleen McAleer, Agnes & Ivan Fero, Daniel Pieskzo, Stuart Jones, Barbara O'Brien, Maree Fenech, Patricia Ryan, Lorenzo Montresor, Mary Deans, Paul McDonald, and Carmen Grima

**The Sick:** Gina Buchan, 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 - 4 March - 5.00 pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)  
Sunday - 5 March - 10.00 am - St Agnes'



**Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Therese Bartolo who will turn 90, on 28 February.**

**FROM MY DESK — Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.** Last Wednesday we began our 2023 Lenten observance with Ash Wednesday. Many thanks to all those who came to our Parish Masses in great numbers at St Andrew's and St Agnes', a very beautiful experience. So, this begins our 40 days of preparatory journey towards Easter, as Jesus was in the desert for 40 days before beginning his public ministry, our Lenten journey is like a retreat. How can we journey in this time and make a spiritual difference in our lives? We can only respond in our own way. We could attend a Mass during the week, we could attend Stations of the Cross (Fridays of Lent 7.00pm at both St Andrew's & St Agnes'), we could pray the rosary, these are a few things, I am sure you can think of other things. It is in our hands how we respond and make Lent 2023, the best one we have done!

During Lent there has been for a number of years a practice of no Processional Hymn, but we will recite the Entrance Antiphon. At the conclusion of the Mass, there will be no Recessional Hymn. Please wait until the Priest and ministers have moved to the entrance of the Church before departing Mass.

In concern with the responsorial Psalm, we will now revert to what the general instruction of the Roman Missal 2007 says (No 61) that all parishes practice. This is that the reader after having read the first reading from the Ambo, then sings or says the verses of the Responsorial Psalm and the faithful respond with the Psalm response. Quite a number of people have asked for the restoration of this normal practice that has been in use since the decree on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium— 1963) was issued, and printed in the 1970 Lectionary.

Please keep our Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession) candidates in your prayers, as they are now in the midst of learning how God's merciful love and forgiveness is offered to them in the Sacrament of Penance at the conclusion of the program and offered many times to them in their entire life. It is important for us all to know that we all recognise from time to time we need God's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance (reconciliation/Confession).

God Bless you all

Fr John



We welcome **Hallie and Delilah Henriques and Bobby Whelan** into our Parish Community, who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Andrew's.

**RECONCILIATION CLASSES** for children not attending St Andrew's or Sacred Heart schools will resume on **Wed , 1 March**, 3.45pm-5.15pm in the annexe of the Church at St Andrew's.

“The St Vincent de Paul Society needs volunteers to work in the Kingsford Support Centre. People must be able to volunteer on a regular and permanent basis, i.e. at least half a day each week. To volunteer or seek further details please call Marlene, the Centre manager, on 0490 666 100.”

**THANK YOU** to those who donated towards the Caritas Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal. St Andrew's Parish collected **\$2038.95**, and St Agnes' **\$1352.45**.

[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

**Funeral for the late Maria Ostroman, Tuesday 28 February, 10am — St Andrew's**  
**Funeral for the late Wally Benington, Thursday, 2 March, 12pm — St Andrew's**