

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples; 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

## 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 © StPauls Publications, 2023. No 1971. Website: [www.stpauls.com.au](http://www.stpauls.com.au)

# Breaking Open the Word

## INCLUSIVE LOVE

How should we deal with the hurts that we receive? Should we respond by retaliating? Is there any future in the way of peace and forgiveness? These questions are as pressing today as they were in the ancient world. The people of Israel based their behaviour on the nature of the living God. As God is holy, so Israel was to express its holiness by forbearance and forgiveness among its members. Members of the people of Israel were called to love one another and forego the duty of vengeance when it came to other covenant members.

Jesus took this even further and extended it beyond Israel into our relationship with all people. Now even enemies are to be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that it is by forgiving that we can share in the nature of the living God and so become complete. It is by our preparedness to forgive that we share in the even-handed perfection of God whose love is poured out for all, deserving or not.

Perhaps Paul was mindful of Jesus' words that a house divided against itself cannot stand (cf. Mark 3:25) when he reminded the Corinthians that they were the Temple of God. Since each member shared in the gift of the Spirit there was no place for division or competition. Paul, Apollos and Cephas were united in their ministry as servants of the Gospel. If they were united, why was the community divided? It was now time to turn the other cheek and live in unity and peace.

Christopher Monaghan CP



# THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 FEBRUARY 2023

## FIRST READING

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*You must love your neighbour as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

**R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Cor 3:16-23

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

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

■ The word of the Lord.



**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.

**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Pere Receveur Sunday**



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



**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently Deceased:** Maria Ostroman, Gwen Kendall, Evelyn Garas Jacintha Mary, Victoriano Villacorta, Augustina Daquiz, Ana Previnsek, 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:** Barbara O'Brien, Maree Fenech, Patricia Ryan, Lorenzo Montresor, Mary Deans, Paul McDonald Carmen Grima, Maria Buttigieg, Patrick Sargent, Alex Lawes, Eliza Jacob, Winnie Blyth, Mary Deans, Pat Parker, Carmen Grima, Jason Leung, Silvia and Filippo Paoletta, 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 - 25 February - 5.30 pm St Agnes'  
Sunday - 26 February - 9.00 am - St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



**FROM MY DESK — Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.**  
This Wednesday, 22 February is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Season 2023. **Masses on Ash Wednesday: St Agnes' Matraville, 7.00am & 11.30am, St Andrew's Malabar, 9.00am &**

**7.00pm.** Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of abstaining from meat for all, and those between aged 18yrs—60yrs are bound to fast. Lent is a time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. You are asked to collect the Lenten Companion 2023 at the entrances of the Church to help you in your Lenten journey. How can we enter into the Lenten Season; Prayer: attending weekday Mass, praying the rosary, attending the Stations of the Cross as examples. Fasting: giving up sweets, limiting out time on smart phones with games or technologies as examples. Almsgiving: Using Project Compassion envelopes each week to help those who are struggling in life in developing countries. It is amazing when we enter into the Season of Lent with these Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, we can spiritually flower at our Easter Celebration and Season. Lent also is a time of conversion, so can I encourage you to take advantage of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) during Lent to prepare you for Easter Joy.

On the Fridays of Lent, at both our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes there will be Stations of the Cross and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament commencing at 7.00pm.

Our Sacrament of Penance Program First Stage, the enrolment period concludes this weekend. Those who are in the St Andrew's Program, you should receive the code to book in your session for Thursday 30, 5.00pm or 6.30pm sessions Bookings opens this Monday 20 February at 7pm.

We welcome our Year 6 and their Kindy Buddies to 9.00am Mass, St Andrew's next Sunday 26 February.

In concern with the St Andrew's School Parking area, I was just informed that it not able to be used for a number of weeks, as they are resurfacing the whole area. Sorry I was just informed.

**God Bless you all**

**Fr John**

**THANK YOU.** On this Pere Receveur Sunday we express sincere thanks to Randwick City council for providing the marquee, sound system and transportation of chairs and equipment, to the Seaside Lions for the sausage sizzle and to Friends of La Perouse Museum for refreshments.

**RECONCILIATION CLASSES** for children not attending St Andrew's or Sacred Heart schools will commence on **Wed , 22 February, 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.”

**REMINDER** Parish Outing Tuesday 21 February Departs St Agnes' in Matraville RSL Carpark at 8-30am. Departs St. Andrew's Anzac Pde near Library at 8-45am. Departs Anzac Pde Maroubra 8-50am. Please bring your ID.

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 Maria Ostroman, Tuesday 28 February, 10am—St Andrew's**