

light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.’ When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. ‘Stand up,’ he said ‘do not be afraid.’ And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. ‘Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS
OF ST PAUL THROUGH GREECE
AND TURKEY**

11-23 SEPTEMBER 2023

Chaplain:
Fr Michael Goonan SSP,
Editor of *God's Word* and
St Pauls Sunday Bulletins

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Breaking Open the Word



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

THE SAVING WORD

5 MARCH 2023

TRUSTING THE PROMISE

At the beginning of Lent, it is not uncommon for people to feel discouraged or dissatisfied. Another year has come and gone and there is still much to be done as we get our spiritual house in order. Today's readings converge as they give reasons not to lose heart in God or, perhaps more importantly, in ourselves because we are loved by God. Abraham and Sarah were prepared to set out on the greatest adventure of their lives in their old age. Such willingness to trust in God's promises, despite the difficulties that lie before us, is at the very heart of the life of faith.

Prior to setting out for his final journey to Jerusalem, Jesus instructed the disciples that a brutal death awaited him. They were discouraged and bewildered, fearful both for Jesus and themselves. In the midst of this Jesus takes some of them aside and goes up the mountain and is transfigured before them. Their fear is now replaced by terror, but Jesus comes and touches them, encouraging and empowering them for the road that lies ahead.

In a similar fashion, the second letter to Timothy invites him not to be disheartened by the challenges and difficulties that beset him. God's grace and power have already been poured freely into our hearts. Since this is the case there is no need to be disheartened or fearful. Jesus' death has already won the victory, all that is needed is for us to take heart and trust in the new life that has been promised to us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy**

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not
because of anything we ourselves have done
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of



our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life and immortality
through the Good News.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:**

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Mt 17:1-9

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

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his
brother John and led them up a high mountain
where they could be alone. There in their
presence he was transfigured; his face shone like
the sun and his clothes became as white as the



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Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm
Sunday 10 am
RECONCILIATION:
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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.



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Ana Amirian, 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: Connie Silvio, Kerop Amirian, Fr Adrian Meaney, May Sommerville, Betty Sullivan, Patrick & Kathleen McAleer, Agnes & Ivan Fero, Daniel Pieskzo, Stuart Jones, 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 - 11 March - 5.30 pm St Agnes' Supply Priest
Sunday - 12 March - 9.00 am - St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville. This week at our Catholic Primary Schools of Sacred Heart, Matraville & St Andrew's, Malabar Open Days were the flavour of 2023. This is where our Schools show off

the best of our Catholic education. We have a wonderful tradition of Catholic Education and many wish to be part of this tradition.

In this our Second Sunday of Lent, Jesus is placing before Peter, James, and John his transfigured body of glory. This is a foretaste in the fullness of time that they and we will become. So, for them and us, not to lose heart in our earthly journey to our true home in heaven of true peace and joy.

Our Sacrament of Penance program is moving along very well. Please keep all our candidates and their families in your prayers. This Thursday at St Andrew's we will be conducting a Penance Retreat Day for all our Catholic and State School students of the Program. The Retreat Day will commence with Mass at 9.00am in St Andrew's Church, Malabar. We will swap our Thursday and Friday Mass schedule for Malabar & Matraville. Thursday Masses 7am Matraville & 9am Malabar and Friday only one Mass 9am Matraville

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.

God Bless you all

Fr John

ATTENTION: St Andrew's Carpark is still not able to be used due to resurfacing



We welcome **Adriana Lucia** and **Xavier Ethan Bradshaw, Gabriella May, Lavinia Na'a and Malia Loto Fungani Ma'a Naufahu** into our Parish Community, who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Agnes'.

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