

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

12 MARCH 2023

LIVING WATER

Despite the floods of recent years, Australians more than many people appreciate just how precious a resource water is. There would be very few of us who would not be able to remember living through some period of drought or scarcity of water. Our experience places us in a good position to appreciate the problem faced by the people of Israel. Having been rescued from the oppression of the Egyptians the people of Israel felt betrayed – had they been saved from Egypt only to perish in the desert by thirst? Despite their lack of faith God reached out through Moses and provided them with water in the desert.

When the Samaritan woman came to the well searching for water she could barely have imagined where her encounter with Jesus would lead. She came seeking water but left having come to terms with her past, and having led others to Jesus, the source of living water. As is so often the case, personal experience is the best teacher and having heard Jesus for themselves her fellow Samaritans come to see Jesus as their saviour and source of living water.

When Paul reflected on salvation history he came to see that despite the hardness of the human heart God has always been as he was with the people in the desert. The life-giving love of God has been poured into our hearts to quench our thirst and bring us to life. This love has always been freely given and undeserved. The most powerful proof of this is that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have

entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; / give me living water, that I may never thirst again. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give

will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 4:5-42

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Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm

Also available by appointment
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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.



3RD 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: Graham Twitchings, Troy Perey, Brady North-Flannigan, Connie Silvio, Kerop Amirian.

The Sick: Patrick Sargent, 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 - 18 March - 5.00 pm St Andrew's Livestreamed
Sunday - 19 March - 10.00 am - St Agnes's



From the
Pastor's Desk

Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.

Last Thursday our Sacrament of Penance Program Candidates had a retreat day here at St Andrew's. Our Sacred Heart School, Matraville spearheaded the day, what a wonderful day it was in preparing our candidates towards the completion of this Unit of the Sacrament of Penance, with a celebration on Wednesday 29 March for St Andrew's and Thursday 30 March for St Agnes'. Many thanks to Mrs Deb Cusick (Religious Educator Coordinator-Matraville) & Mrs Frances Addabbo (Faith Educator Matraville--Malabar) for their leadership and all the team who worked so hard in making the day so successful. Special thanks to Cheryl Fernandez for Sydney Catholic Schools who assisted in the day.

Next Wednesday 22 March at St Andrew's there will be a 2nd Rite of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) commencing at 7pm. There will be more than one priest and I would encourage you to come to this Sacrament of healing and peace. It may be some time since you may have been to confession, let this Lent time be the time that you are reconciled with God and your brothers and sisters in the Lord with God's reconciling love.

Next Thursday 23 March at St Agnes' there will be 1st Rite of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) between 5.30—6.00pm.

Friday is the Solemnity of St Patrick the Apostle to Ireland, Masses this Friday, 7am Matraville and 9am at Malabar. You may wish to go to St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am Bishop Terry Brady will celebrate the Mass at the Cathedral.

Next Sunday is Laetare (rejoice) Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, or halfway point of our Lenten Season. The colour for next Sunday is Rose you might like to wear a rose garment.

God Bless you all

Fr John

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



We welcome **Raphael Le James, Jett Alejandro & Lara Maria Jenkin and Amelia Luca & Charlize Jasmin Livermore** 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