GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

In 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

- 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
- I shall ask the Father,
- and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever,
- that Spirit of truth
- whom the world can never receive
- since it neither sees nor knows him:
- but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me:

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

14 May 2023

I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS

One of the most touching phrases in John's Gospel is Jesus' promise before his death that he would not leave his disciples orphans. The quality of his presence among them would change after the resurrection. In the future the Spirit would be the one instructing, strengthening, and protecting disciples. Jesus promises that whoever receives his commandments will be loved by the Father. This promise is fulfilled when the Samaritans become believers through Philip's ministry of preaching and healing. Samaritans were considered heretical Jews, but their positive reception of the word prompted the Jerusalem community to think again and to send Peter and John to welcome them into the larger community. The gift of the Spirit through the laying on of hands is the sign of God's blessing and of their full incorporation into the growing Christian family.

The first letter of Peter was written in a time of great trial and opposition. How were Christians going to respond to false charges against them? How were they able to give a credible account of their Christian faith? These early Christians were urged to remain steadfast and true to their values and belief. Like them, we are encouraged to find our source of strength in the example of Jesus who suffered and died for us even though he was innocent. It is not an easy path we are asked to tread but we are encouraged to see that our best defence is the quality of our lives and the depth of our hope.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles They laid hands on them, and they received the

Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

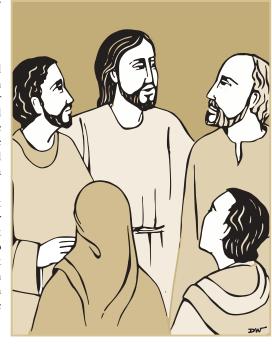
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (or Alleluia!)

- 1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, / O sing to the glory of his name. / O render him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! R.
- 2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds among men. R.
- 3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his might. R.
- 4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold his love for me. R.



SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

■ 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.



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Fabian LoSchiavo, George Rezcallah, Joe Tax, Antonia Schilt, Litizia (Letti) Aramini, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Brent Baker Antoni Depczynski, Thomas Gauci, Angelina da Cruz, Jesuina Sarmento, Jose Bento, Altino Araujo, Joseph Panetta, Tony Bujeya, Thomas Gauci, Andy Couch, Peter Mills, Jela (Jean) Bakuusic, Manuel Alvaro Da Cruz and Raymond Carmichael.

The Sick: Paul Blackmore, Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, Gina Buchan, Ethan Sharpley, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, 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 - 20 May 2023 - 5.30 pm St. Agnes' Sunday - 21 May 2023 - 9.00 am St. Andrew's (Livestreamed) - Supply Priest



We welcome into our Parish Community Astria Shyming Simpson-Jones and Autumn Marj Florence Wright who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this BAPTISM weekend at St. Agnes'. Congratulations.



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

This Sunday we celebrate Mother's Day all over the world! Our mothers living or passed on to the next world as we believe as Christians, have played a wonderful, essential and significant part of our lives as children. Yes, our fathers are important, but our mothers carry and develop us for nine months. Today is a day in which we

have the opportunity to say thank you to our mothers living, and praying for those deceased, together with all women who care for others.. Thank you, Mums, for your nurture and blessings that you have given us. I know that in this 21st Century and also the latter 20th Century families have been quite different from the 1950's. Many mothers now work, and many mothers are single with all the pressures in this modern world that besets them. Thank you, all mothers! Have a great day!

Next Sunday morning I will be attend St Mary's Cathedral 10.30am Solemn Mass as we honour our 2023. Dempsey Award recipients, from St Andrew's: David Strawbridge and Marie Jennings and from St Agnes': Sue Donovan and Joji Kandur, all of them worthy recipients. Congratulations and many thanks for your wonderful contribution to the life of our Parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar—Matraville

Please keep in your prayers Year 6 and above who will continue to commit to the Confirmation Program 2023.

Next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord into heaven. Between the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost, the following Sunday we traditionally pray for Christian Unity.

God bless you all in this Season of Easter Joy.

Fr John

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for children not attending St Andrew's or Sacred Heart schools will resume on Wed, 17 May, 3.45pm-5.15pm in the meeting room of the Church at St Andrew's.



Available at the Piety Stall (\$20) both parishes. Bob Cameron a parishioner of St Andrew's has published a book about his journey back to God—21 Days Back to God . You can also purchase online Coventry Press at: https://coventrypress.cm.au/index.php?route=common/home Just enter the title in the search box. Or order through Catholic bookshops such as: https://www.paulinebooks.com.au/ location/index.shtml and https://mustardseed.org.au/.



CWF MAY APPEAL LAST WEEKEND

Thank you to all those who donated. You are still able to donate this weekend to help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospi-CHARTABLE WORKS FUND talls, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world loving, caring and compassionate place.

Please give generously. Donations are 100% tax-deductible.

PARISH OUTING Tuesday, 30 May 2023 to Bowral/Berrima, Southern Highlands, Berrima Courthouse. Now full. Contact Kathy 9311-1749 or Marie 9661-7186



Funeral for the Late Antonia Schitt, Tues,16 May, 1.00pm--Eastern Suburns Crematorium. Funeral for the late Letizia (Letti) Aramini, Wed, 17 May, 10am—St Agnes' Matraville.