

to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OURS

One of the misconceptions that Christians often have about the Old Testament is that God is portrayed as harsh and unforgiving. We are all too used to contrasting the Old Testament view of God and the loving Father of Jesus that emerges in his teaching and ministry. It is important to remember that it was the Hebrew Scriptures that shaped Jesus' own understanding of God as a loving father.

The first reading from Isaiah clearly challenges misconceptions we might have that the God of Israel is not merciful. Isaiah encourages the wicked to change their ways precisely because God's ways are not ours. While we might tend to punish, God's mercy reveals a sovereignty that is often beyond our grasp and understanding. Jesus' parable of the owner of the vineyard who deals with all the workers in an even-handed and generous manner is, or can be, just as challenging for us to comprehend. Sinners who repent, and those who have always been devout, will all receive the same reward. Indeed, God's ways are far from those of our world.

Paul finds himself in a quandary. He knows that God is a loving God, and his ultimate desire is to be with God. On the other hand, he knows how his fledgling community in Philippi needs his presence and support. Caught between the good of caring for the Philippian community and that of wanting to finish his journey to be with the Lord, he wrestles and struggles with what is best. In the end, the problem is resolved because he knows his reward lies before him. In the meantime, there is still much work to be done.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in this
body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone
and be with Christ, which would be very much
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your
Son. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am
RECONCILIATION:
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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 Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Patrick Sargent, Cathy Slowey, Fe Perez, Rosario Raco (40 days anniversary), Metilda Vincent, Catalina Montecinos, Evelyn Mahoney, Rosa Goveia Leite, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Ross Ponder, John Hines, Dymrna Fownes, Victor Bonifacio, Reg Foster, Antonio Lopes, Angelina Da Cruz, Alexandre Corte-Real, Florinda Corte-Real, Archbishop Rush and Carla Quintão.

The Sick: Albert Mirza, Ange Portelli, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Santa Viselli and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.

Prayers for: Those who have lost their lives or have been injured in the Morocco Earthquake and for the care of the World Environment.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 30 September 2023 - 5.30pm St Agnes Matraville
Sunday - 1 October 2023 - 9.00am St Andrew's Malabar (Livestreamed)



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville. Last weekend 64 of our Parish Community of St Andrew's Parish, Malabar received for the first time Jesus' body and blood. Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants. I especially wish to thank their parents/carers in preparing them for this day, together with their teachers and catechists at our Catholic Primary and State Schools of the

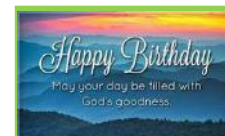
parish. A huge thank you to all the musicians, choirs and ministers of the Word and Altar. I know that many backed up for one or two extra Masses, these First Holy Communion Masses were very beautiful.

In October there will be in Rome a Synod on Synodality. This Synod, for the first time has lay men and women who will play an important role in the Synod together with Bishops of the World. Cardinal Mario Grech, General Secretary of the Synod, quoted "Without Prayer there will be no Synod". Please keep in your prayers this important Synod that through the workings of the Holy Spirit breathe new heart, soul and vigor into our Church.

At St Andrew's we are very happy and grateful to Randwick Council as it has now placed a new concrete walkway at the top of the church so people can safely traverse from Prince Edward St to Anzac Parade, top level.

God Bless you all,

Fr John



Wishing Fr John, a very Happy Birthday celebration for Saturday, 23rd of September. May God's grace and goodness continue to be with you today and always. May God Bless you,



We welcome into our Parish Community **Lucca Maree Le Bowen-Saville, Raffaele Billy Bowen-Saville, Sal Alexander Bowen-Saville, Jesse James Leo Neads and Luca Grace Colombo** who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this Sunday at St. Andrew's Malabar. **Congratulations.**

Please see Parish websites for further notices.

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 Patrick Sargent, 11.00am, Friday 29 September, St Andrew's