

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

### A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want to see Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

### FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.*

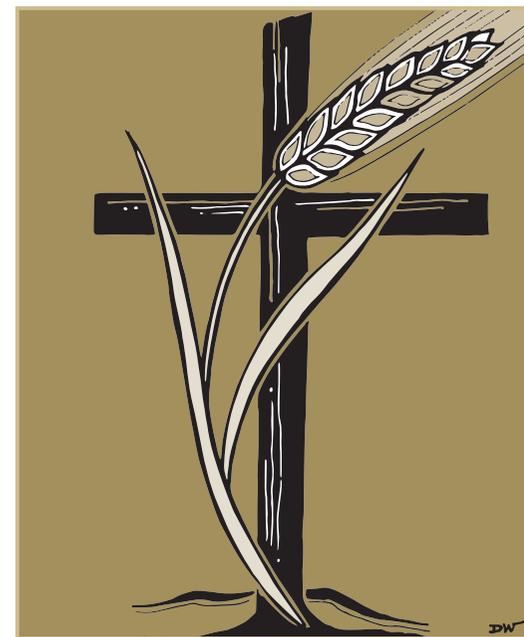
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

**R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.**

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**
3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



### SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



**TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES  
OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF ANDREW & AGNES**  
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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



**5th Sunday of Lent**

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



**Please pray for the:**

**Recently Deceased:** Keith Lawson, Ange Portelli, Jose Barreto Martins, Ronald Camenzuli, Mauro Soriano, Piera Scarfaro, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Anniversary:** Graeme Twitchings, Peter Heaney, Troy Perey, Brady North Flannigan, Ivan & Agnesa Fero, Antonia Torchia, Alda Ballaco, Marika Cubasci, Vlade Prtenjaca, Stjepan Cavlovic, Jesuina Sarmento, Florinda Courte-Real, Alexandro Corte-Real, Lorencia, and Carla dos Santos

**Deceased:** Sime Pedisich, Joyce Gander, Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

**The Sick:** Helen Facione Stephany Hiew, Margaret Gately, Maureen Maron, Sandra Russell, Bishop Peter Ingham, Ha Oi Lan, Mario Assini, Sam Strano, Josephine Regan, Mary Vella, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Angela Beveridge, Merley Nate Fien, John Sarniak Thomson, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, and Santa Viselli. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and pray for World Peace, and those suffering from Covid.

**Prayers for:** Care of the World Environment.



**Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?**

Saturday - 24 March 2024 - 5.30pm St Agnes'  
Sunday - 25 March 2024 - 9.00am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)



**Greetings dear parishioners and visitors of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes Malabar-Matraville.**

Today we celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent in the old church calendar prior to Vatican II, it was called Passion Sunday and the following week Palm Sunday. Following the reforms of Vatican II Passion/Palm Sunday were combined with next weekend.

Though there are some remnants of the old calendar, the covering of statues and images and the Passion I Preface. So why do we and other Catholic Churches cover their statues and ? It is because as we move towards Holy Week and the Triduum the church wishes us to center on the mystery of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. The covers will be removed for the Easter Vigil symbolising overcoming death and sin into the new life of light and love.

This Thursday or Friday you are asked to bring your freshly cut Palm fronds to be used at our Palm Sunday celebration to either St Andrew's or St Agnes'.

Last Wednesday 13 March was the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the election of Pope Francis as Bishop of Rome (Pope). Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide him.

Lenten 1<sup>st</sup> Rite of Reconciliation/Confession at St Agnes' this Thursday 21 March, 5.30—6.00pm. together with other times published in the bulletin.

God Bless

Fr John

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER TRIDUUM 2024**

**St Andrews/St Agnes'**

Palm Sunday 23/24 March: Normal Mass Times

Holy Thursday 28 March: 7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, washing of the feet. (Both Parishes)

Reservation of the Lord: St Andrew's until 8.30pm. **St Agnes' until Midnight.**

Good Friday 29 March: 10.am Stations of the Cross

3pm Passion of the Lord, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion **(Both Parishes)**

Holy Saturday 30 March: 9.00am Blessing of Easter Food/Eggs St Andrew's  
6pm Easter Vigil **(Both Parishes)**

Easter Sunday 31 March: 9am St Andrew's and 10am St Agnes'

**EASTER ROSTER** for the Easter Ceremonies, asking for volunteers, located at the back of the church at St Andrew's, and in the Sacristy at St Agnes.

**Catechist Meeting (Both Parishes)** - Monday 25 March 2024 at 10.00 am in St. Andrew's Meeting Room.