

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them: 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

14 APRIL 2024

YOU ARE WITNESSES

What was it like in the aftermath of Jesus' death and the joy of the good news of the resurrection? As we hear more accounts and reflections on the resurrection in today's readings, we also understand something of the dilemma of the early witnesses as to how to pass on this experience.

Luke is writing the Gospel and Acts at least 40-50 years after Jesus' resurrection. There are no photographs, no hard evidence, only the testimonies of those who were there.

Today's Gospel opens with the returnees from Emmaus telling their story and then Jesus appearing among them. The Gospel ends reminding the audience 'you are witnesses' (v. 48). It is not only to the first century audience that this is addressed. We too are witnesses. This is the term we find in Acts, the second volume of the Lukan narrative: the apostles, disciples, believers are witnesses. We are witnesses to the faith and belief of those gone before. We cannot touch and see Jesus for ourselves, but we can engage the scriptures. We can see in Luke's account Jesus' appearance among them, speaking to them, taking some food, inviting them to touch him. Luke's comment that Jesus 'opened their minds to understand the scriptures' (v. 45) repeats what was heard by those on the road to Emmaus. It is our reading and contemplation of the Word that deepens our faith and belief as witnesses and calls us forward in the transformation of our lives in the light of the resurrection.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

You killed the prince of life; God, however, raised him from the dead.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 4: 2, 4, 7, 9. R. v. 7

R. Lord, let your face shine on us.
(or Alleluia!)

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice; / from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **R.**
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; / the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **R.**
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say. / Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **R.**
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, / for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 2: 1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John.

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes away our sins and those of the whole world.

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes away our sins, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 24: 32

Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: / make our hearts burn with love when you speak. / Alleluia!



TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF ANDREW & AGNES

Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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Vigil Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 9 am
RECONCILIATION:
Sat 4.30 - 4.45pm
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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.



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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



Please pray for the:

Recently Deceased: Betty Stuart, George Atrash, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Anniversary: Robyn Deacon, Robert Garcia, Manuel Alvaro Da Cruz, Dulce Da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Juanto De Sousa, D Basilio Do Nascimento, Angelina Da Cruz, Donald Wright, Morgan Hill, Kenneth Phillips, Adam Towner, Karim, Betty Johnston, Daniel Soriano, Adelaida Soriano, Alfred & Helena Gaingue,

Deceased: Grace Abela, Francis Abela, Sime Pedisich, Joyce Gander, Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

The Sick: Esperance Mankarios, 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.



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?
Saturday - 20 April, 2024 - 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday 21 - April 2024—10.00am St Agnes'

Please see Parish websites for further notices.

Note
from the
pastor



Greetings dear parishioners and visitors to our Twinned Catholic Parishes of the Holy Maytrs of Andrew & Agnes.

Last week as you will know that I was part of a 4-day Archdiocesan Clergy Conference held at Novotel Wollongong. The theme of the conference 'Synodality Serving Renewal: Enabling the Holy Spirit to Guide our Missionary Response to Contemporary Challenges.' This process as Pope Francis has in the heart of his pontificate is the willingness to listen, dialogue and share so that all the faithful might assume co-responsibility for the Church's mission. Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB, Archbishop of Perth, President of the Australian Episcopal Conference, President, Synod of Bishops for the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2023—2024), member, Preparatory Commission for the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2023—2024). Archbishop Tim was the Plenary Speaker, 'Synodality Serving Renewal: Enabling the Holy Spirit to Inspire and Guide Our Missionary Response to Contemporary Challenges.' This model of Church is placed before us as a way with Sacred Scripture, Tradition of the Church and contemporary Society to be a more effective Mission of the Church as we journey with Christ the Head and we the members.

Our Eucharistic Communities of our Twinned Catholic Parishes of our Holy Martyrs, Andrew and Agnes are now in a structural renewal for the Mission of the Church here in the Archdiocese of Sydney. This new structure that has been is in keeping with the Archdiocesan 'Go Make Disciples, Mission Plan. Our gifts, our talents and our treasures bring to all a rich diverse community that will enhance. This amalgamation will not lessen the rich history that St Andrew and St Agnes parishes have had. I suggest that we see it as a blooming of a beautiful flowing of God's love and care, it is us who will be graced with the Holy Spirit as he has since from Pentecost. In following our consultative tools in amalgamation of the parishes, it is hoped that there will be meetings and these meetings will take place after Masses on a couple of weekends. These meetings will discuss the already instances that we are using our gifts already and the further advantages of amalgamation. I will give you plenty of notice of the meeting times so that you can be part of this consultative tool.

As many will know that the steps of St Agnes' Church have been restored and what a wonderful picture it is. The forecourt of St Agnes' is to be attended to very soon and together with the completion of Stage 2 of Sacred Heart, Primary School a weekly morning Tea area will be available after our 10am Mass. At St Andrew's tiles on the Presbytery and the Church are in need of replacement as they unfortunately were the wrong tiles that were place there in 1977. There is good news on our restoration front at St Andrew's is that the lovely silver chalice that I am using has been beautifully restored along with the Pascal Candle stand. You may wish to help in their restoration cost by using our Donation Envelopes and place your dear loved ones or yourself in the Parish Donation Book. Quotations are being sought about the rusted rails in front of St Andrew's as well. I, together with the Finance Committee thank you for your generosity.

Please find Itinerary to the 2025 Pilgrimage to Italy and Rome at the entrances of the Church.

The blessing of Easter Tide be with you all,

Fr John



Parish Outing: By Coach, Wed, 14 May, 2024—Central Coast, Saddles Mount White Café, Gosford. Cost \$50 p.p. includes Coach Fare, Morning Tea and Lunch at Railway Hotel Gosford. Contact Kathy Sullivan: 9311-1749 or Marie Jennings : 9661-7186.



Full payment required by Sunday, 21 April 2024

Funeral for the late Betty Stuart, Wednesday, 17 April, 10.30am St Andrew's