

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

03 OCTOBER 2021

CALLED TO RELATIONSHIP

Given the context in which we live where the breakdown of marriage is an ever increasing and painful reality, the readings for today call for us to examine anew the Christian foundations for marriage. The first reading in speaking of Adam's search for a helpmate and companion poignantly brings into relief the deep seated sense of incompleteness which is a part of the experience of each of us. The underlying truth is that it is by being in relationship with another, or others, that we can become most fully ourselves.

Jesus' authority as a teacher was being sorely tested by his opponents and they used the question of divorce as a means to discredit him. Without denying the authority of Moses Jesus takes his opponents back to the story of creation in order to show the dignity and purpose of marriage. There is no doubt that Jesus speaks powerfully regarding the value of marriage, but it is also critical to note that Jesus' reply does not pretend to cover all the situations that can befall a marriage, nor how to respond to them.

From now until the end of the year we will be following the letter to the Hebrews and paying particular attention to its reflection on the person of Jesus and his relationship to God and to us. Some of the images used in the letter are unfamiliar, and so it's important that the modern reader appreciate the belief that underpins them – that Jesus has shared in our experience, and so is able to be our leader and representative before God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

They were two in one flesh.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!

This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127, R. v. 5

R. May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord / and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your hands you shall eat. / You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine / in the heart of your house; / your children like shoots of the olive, / around your table. **R.**



3. Indeed thus shall be blessed / the man who fears the Lord. / May the Lord bless you from Zion / in a happy Jerusalem / all the days of your life! / May you see your children's children. / On Israel, peace! **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have the same origin.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

**St. Andrew & St. Agnes
Twinned Catholic Parishes**
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LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

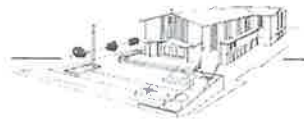
Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment.

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Parish Office: 9311 2062

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Sunday 9am

Tuesday - Friday 9am

RECONCILIATION:

Available by appointment

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 1995

From my desk

Greetings to one and all. We have been given a road map of Covid restrictions for Schools, Churches, and other places, but these seems to be changing each day, as we receive updates from the government. The Archbishop is asking us to wait two weeks after 11 October before opening for Mass, when it is estimated 80% are fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated and as yet unvaccinated, the 4 sqm rule will apply and masks must be worn indoors. We are not required to check a person's vaccinated status but continue to urge everyone to be vaccinated. This is a very serious illness, that can cause death. Our hope and desire that all are kept safe and do all reasonably possible for this to occur. I would ask of your patience, as I know you have been patient over these last months. I would encourage you to consider attending Mass when possible. The livestream Masses have been a wonderful addition to our Sunday and weekday Masses. We will continue it, but I must say that I have missed you all gathered around God's Altar and celebrating as community each weekend and on weekdays. Also, then we can receive Jesus' Body, Blood, Soul, and divinity by being at church, that we have not been able to receive during these lockdowns. There are risks in moving about at shopping centers, doctors' surgeries, public transport systems, but I believe if we take the right precautions all will be well. So please consider returning to Church and celebrating us when we have the opportunity. The Spanish Flu a 100 years ago, was eliminated by doing good health practices, so we can do the same, I am sure.

Dates for Sacraments of Baptism, 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation are being mapped out as I pen these words and will communicate dates ASAP.

This weekend Mass is a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit and will be celebrated for the success of the fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The first session begins this Sunday and concludes Monday 11 October. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the members of the Council. On my arrival here at our twinned Catholic parishes of St Andrew and St Agnes I did ask what progress there had been regarding the Plenary Council in the parish. I am grateful to Kinga Moses and Chris Maron, our Plenary Council ambassador members, for their input to this historic gathering of the whole Catholic Church of Australia, the first since 1937. Please keep the Council in your prayers.

I would urge you all to contact your local state member and to voice your opposition to the **Euthanasia Bill**. Please see parish websites for further information.

God bless and keep you safe and well,

Fr John

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign: People across the country are invited to participate in the "Fan the Flame" prayer campaign leading up to the first assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The assembly starts on October 3. Campaign materials include resources for personal and communal prayer, reflections, musical suggestions and multimedia content. Find the resources at: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as the original custodians of this land

VOTIVE MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INAUGURATING THE 5TH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

Go Make Disciples,

The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently deceased: John Hines, Yvonne Plumber, Sr Patricia Thame SGS, Tom Fitzpatrick, Victor Ballard, Fr Anthony Simari, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Maree Knight, Gail Lippmann, Dot Hall, Giovanni Andreatta, Jim Walshe, Molly Quinnell, David Blackmore, Peter John Skeffington, Frank Chessari, Alana Doyle, Dymna Fownes, Teofila Depczynski, Reg Foster, Victor Bonifacio, Yolande & Robert Aquilina, and Lydia & Joe Bujeya.

The Sick: Fares Tadros, Emilia Grace Kelly

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 afeguardingenquiries@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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If anyone in the parish has a love of high-tech equipment and is interested in learning the running of our new livestreaming equipment, we would appreciate your help. We are hoping to get enough parishioners involved, to make up a roster system for weekend masses. Anyone who is interested, please contact our offices on 9311 2062 or emailing standrewmal@gmail.com or stagnesmatra@bigpond.com.

Where will Fr John be??

Every Sunday 9.00am Mass Livestreamed

Tuesday - Friday 9am

Please scan QR code to watch on Youtube



SCAN ME