

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

28 NOVEMBER 2021

## FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE

The Portuguese have a proverb that 'God writes straight with crooked lines.' We know that it is not always easy to discern what God is writing. Our world, indeed our own lives, can be marked by so many contradictions and tensions. Can there be faith in the midst of disappointment? Can there be hope in the face of suffering? The readings for today agree in proclaiming that the answer is 'yes' for the person of faith.

Jeremiah writes words of hope and promise in the midst of the massive upheaval and loss of faith that accompanied the people of Israel going into exile in 587BC. To speak words of faith in the face of such horror and disappointment would have required a great deal of faith indeed.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was written only some twenty years after the death of Jesus at a time when the earliest Christians believed that the Lord Jesus would return at any moment. Paul advises them about how best to prepare and encourages them to keep their vision and commitment while they are waiting.

Some twenty years later Luke's Christians ran the risk of being discouraged due to the delay in the return of the Lord. They found themselves fearful of that day when the Lord Jesus would return and needed encouragement and consolation. Luke reminds them of Jesus' words, to give them hope so that when he returns, he will find them confident and hopeful, ready and waiting.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14, R, v. 1

**R.** To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways, / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

3. His ways are faithfulness and love / for those who keep his covenant and will. / The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; / to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the



whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

**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](http://www.standrewsmalabar.org.au)

Office hours: Tues, Wed & Fri 8.30am - 2.30pm

**Secretarial Staff**

Julie Lippmann and Julie Wright  
Masses Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat : 9am

Vigil Sat 5pm

Sun 9am

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment.

Principal: Leonie Burfield

School: 9311 1203



War Memorial Church  
509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville

Ph: 9311 2062

stagnesmatra@bigpond.com

[www.stagnesmatraville.org.au](http://www.stagnesmatraville.org.au)

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Tues & Wed 9.30am - 4.30pm

Masses Tues, Wed, Fri: 7am Thurs: 9am

Vigil Sat 5:30pm

Sun 10am

**RECONCILIATION:**

Available by appointment.

Principal: Rose André

School: 9311 1995



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

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Go Make Disciples,*

**The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney**

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

All our dear loved ones we are remembering in our November Masses

**Recently deceased:** Bishop Bill Wright, Allison Lawes, Valerie Micallef, Maria Phi, Juliata, Teresita, Magallan, Mervie, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane.

**Anniversary:** Cec Knight, Hemelda Kandur, Candice Basheer, James Lawes, Frances Lawes, Frank Patruno, Mario De Roit, Vincent Valencia.

**The Sick:** Pray for the sick, the dying, poor and homeless in our parishes



**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](mailto: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.

**Where will Fr John be celebrating Masses next weekend**

Sat, 5.00pm St Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Sun 10am St Agnes

**Please scan the QR Code to watch on Youtube**



SCAN ME

**From my desk**

Greetings one and all, and Happy New Year to you all! We have begun a new year of the church's year with this the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. We will once again in this new year remember our sacred and salvific journey, of how at the appointed moment of time, God sent His only Son born of a virgin, and suffered and died for our sins and rose from the dead and overcame sin and death. We who are baptised in the Holy Trinity, now can call God our Father and Jesus our brother and can enter eternal life, after living a life of love to God and Father. This Sunday is Year C, of our three-year Sunday cycle and we hear from the Gospel of Luke and our Year 2 in our weekday cycle.

With this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that we are advent people who await the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ. This moment will be the end of time, and all our lives of love and service will be judged and can journey to Heaven, and live-in peace and joy forever with God and the Angels and Saints. People who live in heaven we call them saints, so we hope to be Saints. Jesus overcame sin and death and will have the ability to, through our faith in him and good works, to be worthy of the life as a saint. We have a loving, compassionate, and forgiving God. Let us pray that we remain constant as God's ambassador of his love in this world and be able to stand ready when he returns at the end of time.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week at our Twinned Catholic Parishes St Andrew and St Agnes, our Year 6 class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Father John has been given delegation because of Covid, by the Bishop who has been busy, to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday evening 6.30pm at St Andrew's, while Bishop Umbers will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday evening 6.30pm, at St Agnes'. Please keep the candidates and their families in your prayers.

Congratulations once again to Fr Danny Meagher on being appointed by Pope Francis as Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Sydney. Bishop-elect Meagher will be ordained a Bishop on 8 December at St Mary's Cathedral. Our heartfelt greetings go out to him, especially from the parishioners of St Agnes,' as Bishop-elect Danny's parents, for many years owned and ran the Matraville Hotel. A congratulations book will be there at St Agnes' if people so wish to write in their message of congratulations.

The 8 December closes the Year of St Joseph, commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaiming St Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. At St Andrew's following our 9am Mass, there will be an unveiling dedicating of a permanent Shrine of St Joseph in the Church and a Statue of Mary outside the Church. I hope you will come to Mass on this day, 8 December at St Andrew's, to close the Year of St Joseph and be part of the dedications.

I will be away this weekend at the Cathedral with the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

God bless and keep you all.

**Fr John**

**Happy St. Andrew's Feast Day**

Let us all try to imitate St. Andrew and introduce someone to Jesus.

Come and celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint the 9.00 am Mass on this Tuesday, 30 November



**St. Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS APPEAL next weekend.** Donations to this appeal are **100% tax deductible.** You can donate online or by using the tap machine (Malabar)

Let us help those who are less fortunate.