

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

11 DECEMBER 2022

ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah that was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

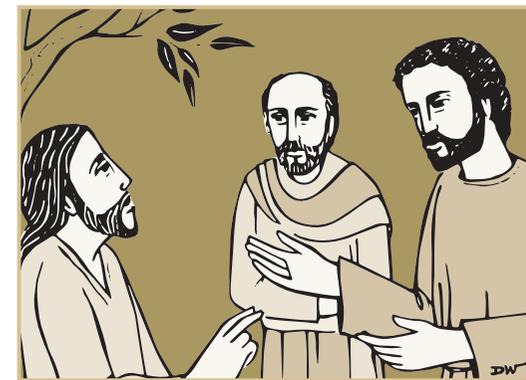
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**



**ST ANDREW & ST AGNES
TWINNED CATHOLIC PARISHES**
Parish Priest: Fr John M. Knight KCHS



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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
School: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadagal People of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Jenny Frost, Colin Fisher (Archbishop Fisher's Father), Fiona Crean, Alfred Sproson, and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, the people of Ukraine and Russia, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane.

Anniversary: Amanda Jane McCarthy, Robert & Yolande Aquilina, Jenny Moy, Joseph Strawbridge, and Bryan McDonald,

The Sick: Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Sylvester and Jacintha Mory, Santa Viselli, Horrie Mifsud, Billy Stitt, Roy Burton, Maria Reilly, Ellie Carter and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, all the souls in Purgatory, and those suffering from Covid.



Please see Parish websites for further notices.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Masses next weekend?

Saturday - 17 December—5.30pm St Agnes
Sunday - 18 December 9.00am St Andrew's (Livestreamed)

Please see Christmas Roster at the back of the church to volunteer

Funeral for the late Fiona Marie Crean—St Agnes' - Tuesday, 13 December at 10:00am



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes, Malabar — Matraville. This Sunday we celebrate 'Gaudete Sunday'—Rejoice Sunday. It is our halfway point of our Advent Season and we use the colour rose vestments symbolising rejoicing as we move to celebrating Christmas rejoicing of God with us. Both parishes have now Rose Vestments and I am grateful for Rosa Fricek & Maria Somerville for donating the rose vestments to St Agnes'.

There are many things to prepare for our Christmas celebration. How are you going with the 'Stay Awake!' Advent Companion? On this Third Sunday of Advent, we once again hear about John the Baptist as he seeks out whether this man Jesus, he pointed was the Messiah the one they had waited for.

Please note our Christmas Mass times are below, please pass this information to invite your neighbours and friends to our Christmas Masses. Don't forget our Catholic Weekly \$2, to read about our Catholic News.

In concern with the parking at St Agnes's, as of late January we will not be able to park in the School Grounds, as we commence Stages 2 & 3 it will become a construction zone. This is a necessary part of our building of our new Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, School Matraville. There are several council car-parks and Woolies carpark. When all is finished there will be a carpark under the school that we will be able to use, until that time, we will not be able to use the school playground as a carpark.

Both parishes will conduct the Annual SVDP Christmas Appeal, many thanks for your generosity.
God Bless
Fr John

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE (Malabar)

We would be very grateful for donations of non-perishable food items and brand-new children's toys for our annual St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Please place them under the tree. (See notices near the doors of the church for suggestions. The appeal is next weekend, and donations are 100% tax deductible. Envelopes are available, and donations can be made using the SVDP tap machine (St Andrew's) or



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Christmas Eve (Sat) **5pm (children) & 7pm**

Christmas Day (Sun) **9am**

CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES

St Andrew's Malabar

Sat 10 Dec. 4pm—4.45pm

St Agnes' Matraville

Christmas Eve **6.30pm (children) & Midnight**

Christmas Day **10am**

St Agnes' Matraville

Tue 20 Dec. 5pm—5.45pm



We welcome Misaka Au and Poppy Lilian Ryan into our Parish Community, who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at St Agnes' Matraville.

St. Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS APPEAL this weekend ,

10/11 December. Donations to this appeal are **100% tax deductible.** You can donate by envelope, by using the tap machine (Malabar) , or scanning the QR Code on the SVDP Poster.



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.