

**Catholic Parishes of**  
**St. Andrew's Malabar & St. Agnes' Matraville**  
 Parish Priest: Fr. Laurie Cauchi



6 Prince Edward St Malabar  
 Ph: 9311 2062  
 standrew@tig.com.au

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

Office hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9am- 2.30pm

Parish Secretary: Julie Lippmann

Secretarial Support: Julie Wright

**SUNDAY MASSES**

**Malabar**

**Vigil Sat. 5pm Sunday 9am**

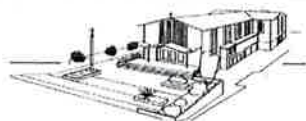
Weekday Masses: 9.10am Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

**RECONCILIATION:**

Sat 4pm - 4.30pm

Also available by appointment.

School: 9311 1203



509 Bunnerong Rd Matraville  
 Ph: 9311 1909  
 stagnesmatra@bigpond.com

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

Office located at 6 Prince Edward St Malabar

Office hours: Mon & Wed 9.30 - 4.30pm

Parish Secretary: Yvonne Larssen

**SUNDAY MASSES**

**Matraville**

**Vigil Sat. 5.30pm Sunday 10am**

Weekday Masses: 7 am Tues, Wed, Fri

9.10am Thurs

**RECONCILIATION:**

Sat. 4pm to 4.30pm at Malabar.

School: 9311 1995

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**The Symbolism of the Advent Wreath**

The candles and the light remind us of the light Jesus brought into the world.  
 The waiting for the four candles to be lit symbolizes the long years of waiting for the Saviour.  
 The greenery suggests life, growth and hope.



**THE JESSE TREE:** Jesse was a shepherd who lived near Bethlehem 1000 years before Jesus was born. Samuel, a prophet of God, chose one of Jesse's sons, David and anointed him as King of the Jewish nation. With our Jesse tree, we are remembering David and other members of Jesus' family; as well as, others who waited for the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Our Jesse Tree reminds us too that each one of us is important and that we each add something special to the coming of Jesus.

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Bryan McDonald (Mary Curotta's twin brother) .

**Anniversary:** Hemelda Kandur, Candyce Basheer, Alfred (Alf) Martin, Vince O'Grady, Kenneth Mak, Tony de Luca, Geraldine Leonard, Joseph Strawbridge, Beryl Stevenson, Colin O'Donnell, Joseph Attard and Joseph Avellino.

**Communion for the Sick or Elderly**

If someone would like to receive Communion, but is unable to come to Mass, please notify the priest.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Come and honour Mary on her Feast Day this Tuesday 8 Dec.

7am Mass at St Agnes and 9.10am Mass at St Andrew's

**St. Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS APPEAL** this weekend & 12/13 Dec.

Donations to this appeal are 100% tax deductible.

You can donate by envelope, online or by using the tap machine (Malabar)

Let us help those who are less fortunate.

**WELCOME TO FAMILIES**

May families who use our Catholic schools

always feel welcome to worship with us at our weekend masses.

Regular parishioners are very happy to see the young ones with their families.

**In our Piety Stall this Christmas**

Columban Calendars - \$9, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards - (both parishes)

Christmas Colouring Books - \$3.50 All proceeds go to the SVdeP Socie

**OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE (Malabar)**

We would be very grateful for donations of non-perishable food items

(nut free) 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. Thank You)



**Christmas Roster available, please volunteer readers and commentators**

**St Agnes's and St Andrew's are registered as COVID Safe**

*Let others know there's plenty of room.*

*Those who are unwell or at high risk are asked not attend.*

*Please observe signs on the pews.*

Please keep the physical distance of 1.5 metres (2 arms lengths) at all times.

When coming to Holy Communion or placing your donation,  
 please form **one line** & keep to the **centre** of the aisle and go back along the **side** aisles.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**ST ANDREW'S MALABAR**

Christmas Eve (Thur.) 7pm & 9pm

Christmas Day (Fri.) 9am

**ST AGNES MATRAVILLE**

Christmas Eve 6pm & Midnight

Christmas Day 10am

**CHRISTMAS RECONCILIATION TIMES**

**St Andrew's Malabar**

Sat 19 Dec. 4-4.30pm

Tues 22 Dec. 7pm-8pm

**St Agnes' Matraville**

Friday 18 Dec. 7pm-8pm

Sat 19 Dec. 9.30-10.30pm

**We strongly encourage you to wear a face mask while at church.**

be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 1: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

06 DECEMBER 2020

## BELIEF IN GOD'S PROMISES

The life of faith is one in which the believer is inevitably called to deal with the tension between God's promises and our present experience. When the people of Israel were dragged into exile their experience was that their God was powerless to save and that the ancient promises had been forgotten. It is at precisely this moment that Isaiah dares to proclaim a message of hope in the midst of desolation, pardon instead of punishment, and that the God who can subdue all things will again stoop to gather the weak and lead them home.

Peter's Christians were clearly worried by the fact that the Risen Lord had not come back in glory as they expected. How could this be interpreted other than as a sign that God's plans had somehow changed, or that God no longer cares? Peter's response is that, despite appearances to the contrary, God's delay should be seen as an opportunity for us to make ready for the Lord's return. It is a moment of grace rather than a sign of God's lack of fruitfulness.

When John the Baptist declared that the longed-for Messiah was near, his contemporaries must have wondered if it was possible. How could this come to pass when the province of Judah was powerless under the rule of the Roman empire?

Advent is always a reminder that the call to believe comes to us in the midst of the complexity of life. It meets us head-on with a challenge: are we prepared to take the risk of believing in God's promises?

## FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,

every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,

and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,

his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,

gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,/ a voice that speaks of peace,/ peace for his people./ His help is near for those who fear him/ and his glory will dwell in our land. R.



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/ justice and peace have embraced./ Faithfulness shall spring from the earth/ and justice look down from heaven. R.

3. The Lord will make us prosper/ and our earth shall yield its fruit./ Justice shall march before him/ and peace shall follow his steps. R.

## SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.  
*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will