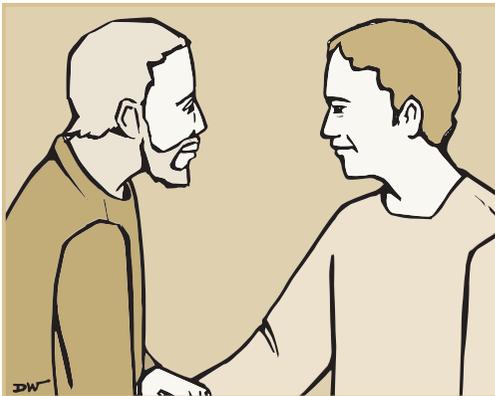


the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

27 FEBRUARY 2022

## VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST

We often hear it said that actions speak louder than words, and that talk is cheap. While these sayings may well be true, what we say provides others with a window into our hearts. Both the first reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect upon the quality of our speech and what it reveals about where our heart lies. As trees are judged on the quality of their fruit so our hearts are judged on the quality of our speech. Jesus' words forcefully remind us that before we judge others, we would do well to look to ourselves and the quality of the fruit we bear in our actions and in the words we speak.

As Paul concludes his argument about the bodily resurrection, he praises God for the victory that has been won over sin and death. Like other Jews of his time, he understood that sin and death had entered the world through the fall of Adam. When Paul states that sin gets its power from the law, he invites the Corinthians to reflect on the paradox posed by the Jewish law. While the law calls us to righteousness, its very existence is living proof of the power of sin, since the commands of the law would not be necessary if there was no sin. Paul sees the death and resurrection of Jesus as the first fruits of a crop that is yet to come. In the meantime, the community is called to continue to live their Christian lives in the hope that they are not working in vain.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## FIRST READING

Sir 27: 4-7

**A reading from the Book of Sirach.**

*Do not praise someone before they have spoken.*

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 91: 2-3, 13-16. R. cf. v. 2

**R. Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.**

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord / to make music to your name, O Most High, / to proclaim your love in the morning / and your truth in the watches of the night. **R.**
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree / and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**
3. Planted in the house of the Lord / they will flourish in the courts of our God, / still bearing sap when they are old, / still full sap, still green, / to proclaim that the Lord is just. / In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 15: 54-58

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.**

*Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.*

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is



sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2: 15-16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Lk 6: 39-45

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*A person speaks from what is in his heart.*

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciples will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice

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



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**Sunday 9 am**

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**Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm**

**Sunday 10 am**

**RECONCILIATION:**

Sat. 5pm - 5.15pm

Also available by appointment

**Principal: Rose André**

**School: 9311 1995**



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

**THE 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Go Make Disciples,*

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

**Please pray for the Faithful Departed:**

**Recently deceased:** Marie Niland, Paul Angelo Calleja, Maree Fenech (Fr Pauls sister), Paul McDonald (Mr Mc, former Deputy Principal of St Andrew's) David Hamilton, Katy Kramar, Rosalia Apolonio, Celestine Burns, Mary Deans, Pat Parker, Carmen Grima, Jason Leung, and all who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

**Deceased:** Agnes Brisbane.

**Anniversary:** May Sommerville, Julian Ciappara, Leonard Velu, Inez D'souza, Winnie Blyth, Barbara O'Brien, Patrick & Kathleen McAleer, Johnny Raper, Patricia Ryan, Humbat Grech.

**The Sick:** Metilda and Jacintha Mary, Fran Evans, Fr Paul, Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, poor and homeless in our parishes. and those suffering from Covid.

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

Saturday, 5, March 5.00pm - St Andrew's

Sunday, 6 March, 10am at St Agnes'



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



**From my desk**

Greetings to all parishioners, visitors, and friends of our Twinned catholic Parishes of St Andrew & St Agnes, Malabar-Matraville.

Kindy Buddy Mass takes place this weekend St Agnes, Saturday 5.30pm and St Andrew's, Sunday 9am, all welcome!

Many thanks to those who assisted with the Pere Receveur Mass last Sunday through sponsorship, choirs and attendance, especially Lee Leo who spearheaded the whole of the operations, a sterling job as usual—well done and thanks!

This Sunday the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time in 2022 is the last Sunday of Ordinary Time of the Church's year until 6 June, as this Wednesday we commence the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday Masses are as follows;

St Agnes' 7am & St Andrew's 9am & 7pm. I hope you are able to attend, to begin our 2022 Lenten Journey.

Lent it is a type of retreat a time, of reflection of our lives and what Jesus our Saviour did for us. by dying on Mount Calvary that Good Friday afternoon, and the God the Father, after three days raising him from the dead, overcoming sin and death forever.

Can I suggest some ways in which we might use this time of Lent spiritually productively;

- You could go to an extra Mass on a weekday
- You could go to reconciliation (Confession) which is on every Saturday
- You could give up meat on Friday or not have an alcoholic drink. We should remember just because we have given up eating meat on Fridays, it is still a day of Penance.
- You could go to Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent—St Agnes' & St Andrew's 7pm on Fridays of Lent.
- You could remain after the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays of Lent for a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament Exposed.
- Saying a rosary for peace and wellbeing of the world, yourself, and family.
- Remembering that by giving up things that we can place our donations to Project Compassion.
- A Lenten Program

These are a few things that might consider in this 'retreat' time.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and to abstain from eating meat. If you are 60 or over you don't have to fast, but we do abstain from eating meat.



This Thursday 3 March at 6pm in St Andrew's Hall, Malabar a Parent Information for those Parents wishing their child/ren to receive the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation/Confession). It is essential that at least one parent or carer attend. If you can't find a carer for your children, you are welcome to bring them along. I look forward to seeing at least one from each family.

God bless and keep you all safe and healthy.

**Fr John**

**THANK YOU**

*To all who helped with and attended the Pere Receveur Mass last Sunday.*

**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