

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Lk 2: 16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

*The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the  
infant lying in the crib . . . When the eighth day  
came, they gave him the name of Jesus.*

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

# THE SAVING WORD

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD / A

1 JANUARY 2023

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave of Christmas concludes by honouring Mary as the Mother of God continuing the long and rich tradition that goes back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. The formula that Levites and priests were instructed to use when blessing the people of Israel has a special resonance when applied to Mary. She could surely say that she had been blessed in the gift of Jesus, that God's face had shone upon her, and that God had been gracious to her in ways that she could never have anticipated or imagined. Her positive response to the words of the angel Gabriel opened a pathway for all humanity.

In the letter to the Galatians, we get a glimpse into Paul's wonder at the mysterious ways of God knowing that our ability to cry out in the Spirit 'Abba, Father' would not have come about if Jesus had not been born of Mary. He describes this birth as taking place in the fullness of God's time. Jesus was born as a member of the people of Israel, but this is only a part of his identity and role in God's saving plan that extends to all creation.

The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus in Luke's Gospel were the shepherds who were informed that a Saviour had been born in Bethlehem, the city of David whose own career as king started humbly as a shepherd. In a similar way, Jesus' humble beginnings in a manger will lead to blessings for all of us. Like Mary, we are called to treasure all this in our hearts.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Num 6: 22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers.

*They will call down my name on the children of  
Israel and I will bless them.*

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

## ■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66: 2-3, 5, 6, 8. R. v. 2

R. May God bless us in his mercy:

1. God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. R.

2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. R.

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. R.

## SECOND READING

Gal 4: 4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Galatians.

*When the appointed time came, God sent his son,  
born of a woman.*

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave anymore; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

## ■ The word of the Lord.





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[www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood](https://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood)



[www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic)

### MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

**Weekday Mass:** Monday at 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days)

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at 7:30am; Friday at 5pm

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil at 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday at 8am, 9:30am and 6pm

**CCC Mass:** Sunday at 11:30am (English/Cantonese)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 4pm-5pm

**First Friday Devotion:** Monthly at 4pm

**First Saturday Mass and Devotion:** Monthly at 9am

**Exposition and Benediction:** First weekend of the month at all Masses

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

1<sup>st</sup> January 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Recently Deceased:** Jackie Duncan, Dyan Kristina Lee Po, Bruno Mazzocato

**Our Deceased:** Roy Landon, Eric Michael, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Connie Allman, Alan & Molly McNamara, Bill, Eileen & John Taylor, Amy Murry, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Fr John Haseler, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, Fr John Lyne, James Bertoldo, Mike Crestani, Marija Zubak, Stjepan Zubak, Sapienza & Nicola Tedesco, Sammuel Laguzza, Margarete Raff, Francis Murray; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Jan Brayan; all souls in purgatory.

**Our Sick:** Peter McNamara, Graham Rumble, Ben Isaacs, Harriet D'Souza, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw, Ceferino Ramirez

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS:

Saint Basil and Gregory 2nd January, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 8th January

### PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

### 2022 AT A GLANCE: In 2022, St Kevin's had

30	Baptisms
2	Weddings
13	Funerals
42	Received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
46	Received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion
50	Received the Sacrament of Confirmation



### PARISH NEWS:

- Happy New Year to everyone! January 1 also marks the 56th World Day of Peace.
- Our condolences to the family of former parishioner Jackie Duncan who passed away on Christmas Eve. Funeral will be on Tues 10 Jan at 10am at St Mary's North Sydney.
- Thank you for your generosity. So far, we raised \$1,811 for the Archbishop's Flood Appeal.
- We would like to thank all the parishioners for their financial contribution over the Christmas & New Year period. Your ongoing support to our parish is much appreciated.
- **MYSTERY OF ST MICHAEL and SECRETS OF ST FAUSTINA: A Series of Liturgical Gatherings in Australia, 6-13 January 2023:** Parishioners are invited to join Fr Peter Prusakiewicz CSMA, in a series of liturgical gatherings from Jan 6-13. **Don't miss this opportunity to join Fr Peter on Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, here at St Kevin's for Holy Mass, Eucharistic Healing Service, Devotion and Blessing of our Divine Mercy Portrait.** See poster for details and locations.
- **Michaelite 100 Year Jubilee Mass & Dinner, Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023:** Michaelite priests and its parishes all over Sydney, including St Kevin's Eastwood, will gather at Holy Spirit North Ryde to celebrate 100 Years of the Michaelite Congregation. It will begin with a special Mass at 5pm, followed by catered dinner in the parish hall. All welcome. Cost: \$45pp (includes 3course meal), Children up to 16yo \$20. BYO drinks. Tickets will be on sale after Mass this weekend. For info contact the parish office.
- **To all liturgical volunteers:** To view rosters, see noticeboard or visit <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/rosters/> Thank you.



### NEW YEAR 2023 MESSAGE FROM FR PAWEL:

My dear Parishioners and friends of St Kevin's Catholic Church, Eastwood  
In my Christmas Day homily, I quoted the American writer, Agnes Pharo:  
**"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future... It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace."**



As I reflect on the year that was, my mind is constantly troubled by lack of peace in our world due to the unrelenting waves of Covid-19, various natural disasters, and by the war in Ukraine, where people still suffer because of Russia's unjustified invasion of a free nation. However, today we begin the New Year - 2023, with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and the World Day of Peace. I pray that God's PEACE will be given to everyone without exception.

May we realise that we are responsible for each other, and we need to be in solidarity with those who suffer in many different ways. May God's LOVE and FORGIVENESS help us to overcome all obstacles in our lives that prevent us from being generous to others. May you and your family be BLESSED in this New Year 2023.

With prayers, Fr. Pawel

### 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, contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

