

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

*Longer form 5:17-37*

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

## CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God's judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God's part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul's time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

## FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1

**R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!**

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!



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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 - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

**Weekend Mass:** Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 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

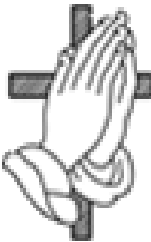
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## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

12th February 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Recently Deceased:** Peter McNamara

**Deceased:** Selwyn Jackson, Granny Prapean Tranchaoren, Mavis Field, Keith Colley, Arch Stewart, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Francis Murray; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Jan Brayan; and all souls in purgatory.

**Sick:** Ron Brayan, Burkardt Foertsch, 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:

Saints Cyril and Methodius 14th Feb

### SEASON OF LENT 2023:

- **Ash Wednesday: February 22.** This marks the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday Masses will be at: 7:30am, 9:30am and 6pm.
- **Stations of the Cross** will be held every Friday right after the 5pm Mass during Lent.
- To help us prepare and reflect on the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney has developed a **Lenten Companion—'SPIRIT AND TRUTH: The Power of Christ Revealed.'** This free booklet contains Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent until Easter Sunday, and Gospel reflections by Sister Joanna Marie Collins OP, Daniel Ang, Fr Lewi Barakat, Mat De Sousa, Bishop Richard Umbers, etc. **All parishioners are invited to join our Parish Lenten Group led by Fr Pawel on Thu, 23rd Feb at 6pm in the Church using this beautiful Lenten Companion.** Limited copies available in the church foyer or download at: <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/resources/>. Parishioners welcome to form their own groups.
- **Please take home a Project Compassion box** or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season & help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. See posters on how you can help.



### PARISH NEWS:

- **Family Mass next weekend, Sunday 19th Feb at 9:30am. All welcome.**
- **World Day of Prayer 2023** will be held here at St Kevin's on Friday, 3rd March at 10am. All are invited to gather and pray as a community together with the Baptist, Anglican and Uniting Church. For more info on how you can help, contact Sandra 0412 990 718.
- **Do you like gardening? We are reaching out to all green thumbs out there!** Fr Pawel needs your help to look after our church garden. If you are interested in volunteering an hour or 2 or perhaps form a 'parish garden group' together with your friends, please speak to Fr Pawel or contact the parish office.
- **Volunteer Church Projector Operator Needed!** Please contact the parish office.
- **If you wish to offer a Holy Mass for the sick, deceased or other occasions,** please collect an envelope in the church foyer. Include the date when you want the Mass to be said & drop them in the weekend collection bag or in the parish letterbox next to the church sacristy.



### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

• **Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal:** Turkey and Syria have been struck by a devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which has caused thousands of deaths. Your support is needed now. To donate, visit: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/> or scan the QR code.



- **Aid to the Church in Need is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine** in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of material and economic war. The main cities where we send immediate help are Kyiv, Zaporizhyya, Odessa and the region of Donetsk. ACN needs your help to continue this mission. For more information visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine>.
- **'COME & SEE' - SEMINARY OPEN DAY:** Thinking about Priesthood? Want to know more about Seminary Life and Formation? Join us on Sun 19th Feb at Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 52-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. RSVP essential. For info visit <https://www.vocationcentre.org.au> or email: [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org) or Ph 02 9307 8424

### 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.

### SAFEGUARDING:

To all Catechists, Children's Liturgy Volunteers, Senior Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and other volunteers whose WWCC will be expiring this year: Visit: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/renew-working-children-check-wwcc> for details on how to renew. **Volunteers who just turned 18yo can now apply for WWCC.**

### 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 Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office (02) 9390 5810 or E: [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 police.