

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Jn 15: 26-27

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Do not fear those who can kill the body.*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JUNE 2023

**FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING**

St Anselm defined theology as faith seeking understanding. As people of faith, we seek to understand and respond to how God's plan is unfolding in our own lives. One of the most difficult hurdles for a person of faith to overcome is coming to terms with the fact that proclaiming the will of God can lead to persecution and suffering. The first reading and the Gospel address this challenge calling us to be steadfast and faithful in times of persecution and rejection. Jeremiah's natural response to persecution was calling on God to intervene and avenge him in the present. When Jesus commissioned the disciples, they were invited to respond in a different way. Disciples of every age are called to trust that our present faithfulness in times of persecution will not be forgotten or go unrewarded.

One of the tasks that faced Paul was teasing out and explaining to his contemporaries how Jesus' suffering and rejection fitted into God's saving plan. What looked like disaster and failure he had come to see as the dawn of a new age. Comparing Jesus to Adam provided Paul with the means to share his understanding that what had been lost by Adam's sin had now finally been regained, and more than regained, through the death of Jesus. God did not avenge Jesus' death but transformed a moment of violence into the most extraordinary moment of grace. Disciples are called to not only understand this mystery but let it penetrate our lives in times of suffering and rejection.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

**FIRST READING**

Jer 20: 10-13

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.**

*He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.*

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,  
' "Terror from every side!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!  
All those who used to be my friends  
watched for my downfall,  
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.  
Then we will master him  
and take our revenge!'

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;  
my opponents will stumble, mastered,  
confounded by their failure;  
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be  
theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with  
justice,  
who scrutinise the loins and heart,  
let me see the vengeance you will take on  
them,  
for I have committed my cause to you.  
Sing to the Lord,  
praise the Lord,  
for he has delivered the soul of the needy  
from the hands of evil men.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

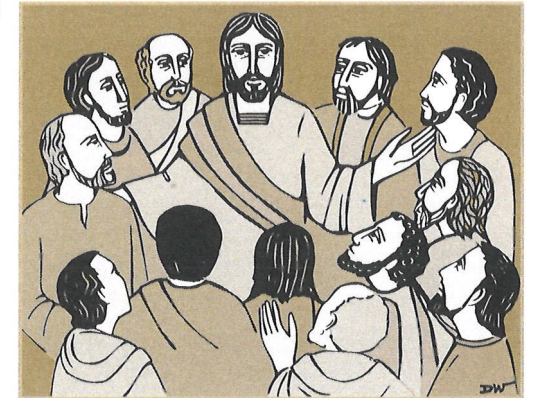
**RESP PSALM**

Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that  
shame covers my face, / that I have become  
a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my  
own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your  
house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for  
your favour. / In your great love, answer me,  
O God, / with your help that never fails: /  
Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your  
compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and  
God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord  
listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his  
servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and  
the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its  
living creatures. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 5: 12-15

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.**

*God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and  
through sin death, and thus death has spread  
through the whole human race because everyone  
has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before  
the Law was given. There was no law and so no  
one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking',  
yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,  
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was  
not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the  
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it  
is certain that through one man's fall so many  
died, it is even more certain that divine grace,  
coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came  
to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

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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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## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

25th June 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Recently Deceased:** Rosemary Parks, Patricia Kline

**Death Anniversary:** Patrick Lander, Ellen Williams, Francis Murray

**Deceased:** Selwyn Jackson, Don Raffin, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Marie Cummins, Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Ron and Jan Brayon

**Sick:** Irene De Silva, Dennis Ho, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Burkhart Foertsch, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

St Irenaeus June 28, SAINTS PETER AND PAUL June 29

### PARISH NEWS:

- **Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Friday.** Thank you to the families, friends and teachers who joined the celebration. We thank Bishop Danny Meagher, Fr Pawel and Fr Tomasz, and all those involved in the preparations, including altar servers, musicians, flower arrangers & the sacramental team.
- **Next weekend, Fr Bogdan Swierczewski CSMA**, who is the Regional Superior of the Congregation in Papua New Guinea, and the Deputy Superior of the Vice-Province of Australia and PNG, will be visiting our parish. *Fr Bogdan will say a few words at all our Masses next weekend, about the Michaelite ministry in PNG and involvement of St Michael Mission Society - a ministry that has long been supported so generously by so many good people.* Door collection will be taken to support missions in PNG. To find out more, **a brief history of St Michael Mission Society can be found on our parish website.** Please help us welcome Fr Bogdan to our parish community.
- **On July 1, first Saturday of the month, we will have Mass and devotion at 9am.**
- **Congratulations to Ashley Tam for receiving the sacrament of baptism this weekend!**

- **Next Baptism Info Evening: Tuesday July 4 at 8pm** in the parish office meeting room.
- **Next weekend, Catholic parishes around the world will hold the Holy Father's Appeal.** Help Pope Francis bring hope, faith, and the spirit of Christ to the less fortunate. Donate online: [www.ourfaithhourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal](http://www.ourfaithhourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal), or phone 1800 753 959. Donation envelopes will be available next weekend.
- **FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's)** will be serving morning tea outside the Church on Sun 2nd July. Please join us after the 9:30am Mass. The FOSK team is also looking for new members. If you are interested to join, email the parish office or speak to one of the ladies. Thank you!
- **Funeral service for the late Rosemary Parks will be at Macquarie Park Cemetery & Crematorium on Mon, 26 June, 2pm.** Please include Rosemary & her family in your prayers.
- **New rosters now available for collection at the back of the church.**
- **THIS WEEKEND will be the last weekend for receipted Planned Giving Donation for 2022-2023 FY.** New set of planned giving envelopes now available for collection near the sacristy.

**SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 20 - ST KEVIN'S PICNIC**, 12pm, George Kendall Riverside Park, Ermington: Join our parish and school community for a sausage sizzle in the park. Sausage sizzle provided. BYO picnic blankets and drinks. For catering and group notification purposes (in case of wet weather), RSVP to Belinda on 0421 669 752 by Aug 10. See you there!



**MONTHLY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:** Gentlemen, you are warmly invited to attend the next monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast to be held in the Haseler Centre (Parish Hall) on Sat 1st July, 7am-8:30am. For info: Lou 0400303733.

**Men's Retreat: Sep 29 - Oct 1st - Interested?** Contact Lou 0400303733.

**Weekly Men's Prayer Hour:** 7pm Every Tuesday in the Church.

**UPCOMING TRAININGS** to be conducted by the Archdiocese of Sydney Liturgy Office, Venue: St Kevin's Parish Hall. Copy of Baptism Certificate required. COST: FREE. For details on how to register go to: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/>

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMOHC), Wednesdays, July 19, 26 and Aug 2, 6pm-9pm. This course is a pre-requisite to all Senior Altar Servers who wish to take the Acolytes course.
- Acolytes/Senior Altar Servers: Saturdays August 5, 12 and 19, 9am-12pm
- Readers: Saturdays October 7 and 14, 9am-12pm

### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

Next Sunday, July 2, is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. 2023 marks the 50year anniversary of First National Aboriginal Liturgy in Australia.

### 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.

### 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: [safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding-enquiries@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.