



You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see,
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,
many prophets and holy men longed to see
what you see, and never saw it; to hear what
you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of
the sower. When anyone hears the word of the
kingdom without understanding, the evil one
comes and carries off what was sown in his
heart: this is the man who received the seed
on patches of rock is the man who hears the
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he
has no root in him, he does not last; let some
trial come, or some persecution on account of
the word, and he falls away at once. The one
who received the seed in thorns is the man who
hears the word, but the worries of this world
and the lure of riches choke the word and so he
produces nothing. And the one who received the
seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word
and understands it; he is the one who yields a
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now
sixty, now thirty.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today's readings converge in their concern that we take time to wonder and reflect on the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth in the world, and in our own lives.

Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is a powerful statement of hope in the ability of God's word to foster life and bring about growth. As the people of Israel struggled to rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his conviction in the power of God's word.

As Christians, how do we maintain our hope when the world is in confusion? How can we speak of the power of God's word when it is often challenged by our experience of the world desperate for healing and peace? After nearly 2000 years these questions may even be more critical for us than they were in Paul's time. For Paul the key lies in the image of the world and ourselves being involved in the painful process of giving birth. Christians have already received the gift of the Spirit as a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus' timeless parable of the sower invites us to take heart that despite opposition the seed of God's kingdom has been planted in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and misunderstanding are surely present, but the growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the most pressing question of all is whether we have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that the kingdom will take root and grow in our world and hearts.



Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory

as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:



Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

Parish Administrator: Fr Pawel Kopczynski CSMA

Email: pawel.kopczynski@sydneycatholic.org

Assistant Priest: Fr Tomasz Lepek CSMA

Email: tomasz.lepek@sydneycatholic.org

Deacon: Eddie Ho

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

36 Hillview Rd Eastwood NSW 2122

PO Box 437 West Ryde NSW 1685

Ph: (02) 9874 2533

Email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au

Website: www.stkevinseastwood.org.au

www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood

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 12noon (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

SCAN OUR
PARISH
QR CODE TO
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ONLINE



- Thank you for your generosity, **we raised over \$5,700 for the Vinnies Winter Appeal.** For those who requested donation receipts, please collect them at the back of the church.
- **Kevinwood Sunday Concert, July 16, 2:30pm, Haseler Centre** - Come along for a great musical afternoon. ALL WELCOME. Admission by donation. Info: kevinwoodorchestra.org.
- **Brothers in Christ - Men's Ministry:** New members welcomed. For info contact 0400303733.
- **Weekly Men's Prayer Hour & Gospel Reflection,** Tuesdays at 7pm in the Holy Family Chapel.
- **At the end of 2022-2023 financial year, parishioners donating through the Planned Giving Program can request a tax receipt.** To lodge your request, visit our parish website or fill-out a form in the church foyer. **New set of planned giving envelopes now ready for collection.**
- **SAFEGUARDING:** To all 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.

On Wed, July 26, is the Feast Day of St Anne and St Joachim and it's Grandparent's Day here at St Kevin's! Join us for Mass at 9.30am followed by Open Classrooms and Morning Tea in the Parish Hall. Grandparents, Grand-friends (even if they don't have grandchildren at the school) & Parents are all welcome! For catering purposes please scan the QR code and RSVP by Friday 21st July.



RCIA PROGRAM STARTING SOON! The Catholic Church has a special way of initiating adults into the Catholic faith. This is called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. RCIA is a process of Christian formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. If you know anyone who is interested to participate in this program, please encourage them to attend a meeting on **Saturday 12th Aug at 3pm, Haseler Centre (parish hall)**. Families and support person welcome to join. There is no pressure or obligation to those enquiring to become Catholic. For more information: Ph 9874 2533 or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au

SAVE THE DATE: PARISHES FOR MISSION DAY! - Sat 2nd September, 10am-4pm, Haseler Centre (parish hall). Do you want to share your faith with others, but find something holds you back? Do you hope for more out of your parish community? Do you feel called to serve, but you're not sure how your gifts can be used? If you said 'yes' to any of these questions, then you are invited to join us for **Parishes for Mission Day!**

Together we will receive spiritual, theological and practical formation about the mission of Jesus Christ, and consider how our parish can be strengthened as a dynamic centre of evangelisation which calls and forms missionary disciples.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided. For catering purposes, please register by Wed 23rd August at: <https://www.trybooking.com/1081807>. Each participant will need to show their ticket on the day. Cost: FREE. Donations welcome. See poster for more details.

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. 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.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

16 July 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently Deceased: Burkhart Foertsch, Sam Mesiti

Death Anniversary: Patrick Whalan, Robert Paul Cassidy

Deceased: Coral Whalan, Wayne Whalan, Joan McMullen, Selwyn Jackson, Don Raffin, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins, Casey,

Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff & Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Braylan

Sick: Noelene Wilkinson, Barbara Hall, Dennis Ho, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

Saint Mary Magdalene July 22

PARISH NEWS:

- This weekend, **CATHOLIC MISSION** will offer you the opportunity to partner with Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where you can be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care. Donate using appeal envelopes or drop cash in donation boxes at church doors. Visit: catholicmission.org.au/timor or scan the QR code to donate online.
- **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Program Information Evening** will be on Tuesday 18th July at 7pm in the church. Parents/carers are invited to attend. Candidate must be in Year 3 or above and has received the Sacrament of Baptism. For more info visit our parish website or Email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au.
- **Congratulations to Tony & Catherine Jonas on their 30th Wedding Anniversary!**
- **July 23 is World Day for Grandparents & Elderly.** Pope Francis has provided an exhortation on the invaluable presence that our grandparents and elderly provide in the life of the Church. Limited copies available in the church foyer or download from the parish website.
- Our thanks go to all who donated towards the **Holy Father's Appeal, we raised \$1,265.**