

a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 JULY 2023

THE SPIRIT COMES TO US IN OUR WEAKNESS

It has been said that nothing is as strong as gentleness and that nothing is as gentle as real strength. Oftentimes gentleness is interpreted as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. If God is all powerful, how is it that God does not judge our world? The book of Wisdom gives a glimpse into how the people of Israel reflected on this question in the centuries immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. What the surrounding people saw as God's weakness they had come to see as God's gracious strength which provides a model for our own lives.

The parable of the darnel addresses a similar question for the community of Matthew. In a time of opposition, they may have impatiently wondered why God had not forcefully intervened to establish the kingdom on earth. Jesus' parable of the darnel calls them to understand that the time of judgement will come when each person receives what their actions deserve. In the meantime, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast are timely reminders that while the kingdom's beginnings may be humble and hidden the final outcome is assured.

Like Matthew, Paul saw that the period between the resurrection of the Lord and his return at the end of time was a time of struggle between good and evil. This struggle continues, and Paul reminds Christians of every age that we are not alone in this struggle since the Spirit is the one who carries our prayers and pleas to our gracious and loving God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts



knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind 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!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which



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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
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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

23 July 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: Patty Hayman, Burkhart Foertsch, Sam Mesiti

Death Anniversary: Joseph Wehbe, Paul Houston, Patrick Whalan

Deceased: Sandra Wehbe; Alexander, Mary & Kevin McDonell; Eric & Lois Malone; Coral Whalan, Wayne Whalan, 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 Brayan

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:

St James July 25, Saints Joachim and Anne July 26, Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus July 29

BLESSING FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES:

Almighty Father, bless these children and make them eager to reconcile with you. Let the Holy Spirit guide them as they prepare to receive you in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. Amen.



PARISH NEWS:

- **July 23 is World Day for Grandparents & Elderly.** Thank you to all grand-friends and grandparents, for their invaluable presence in the life of the Church.
- **We welcome all First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Program Candidates** in our parish. Please pray for all these children as they prepare to receive the sacraments. For more info on how to enrol visit: <https://stkevinseastwood.org.au/reconciliation/>
- **Our condolences to the family of the late Burkhart Foertsch.** Requiem Mass will be on Wed, 26th July, at 11:30am in our parish. Please include him & his family in your prayers.
- **Next Baptism Info Evening: Tues Aug 1 at 8pm** in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Email the parish office if you wish to attend: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au

- **RCIA PROGRAM STARTING SOON!** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 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. To register your attendance: Ph 9874 2533 or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au for more info.
- The Archdiocese of Sydney Liturgy Office will run the **Acolyte/Senior Altar Server Course** on Aug 5, 12 & 19, 9am-12pm in the Haseler Centre. Registration form w/ endorsement by the parish priest essential. Visit: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/>.
- Join our parish & school community for a **ST KEVIN'S PICNIC on 20th Aug, 12pm** at George Kendall Riverside Park, Ermington. FREE Sausage Sizzle! BYO drinks and picnic blankets. For catering and group notification purposes, RSVP to Belinda on 0421 669 752 by Aug 10.
- **Parishioners donating through the Planned Giving Program can request a tax receipt.** Visit our website to lodge your request. New set of planned giving envelopes now available.
- **Sydney Catholic Schools seeks experienced music tutors and teachers.** See poster for details!

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.



Brothers in Christ - Men's Ministry: For info contact 0400303733. New members welcomed.

Weekly Men's Prayer Hour & Gospel Reflection: Tuesdays 7pm in the Holy Family Chapel

NEXT MONTHLY MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: Sat 5th Aug, 7am-8:30am in the Haseler Centre (Parish Hall) followed by First Saturday Mass and Benediction at 9:00am.

St Kevin's Men's Choir: New Members Welcomed. For info contact 0400303733.



SAVE THE DATE: PARISHES FOR MISSION DAY! - Sat 2nd September, 10am-4pm, Haseler Centre. 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 & practical formation about the mission of Jesus Christ, and consider how our parish can be strengthened as a dynamic centre of evangelisation which calls & 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.