

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 JULY 2023

FINDING OUR TREASURE

As a young king, Solomon knew that he had much to learn to be the ruler the people of Israel needed him to be. When God invited him to ask for whatever he needed he asked for the gift of discernment between good and evil. Wealth might come and go, but the treasure he needed most of all was the gift of wisdom.

Matthew concludes the parabolic discourse with four parables that emphasise the wisdom that is required to not only recognise what is of lasting value but to hold on to it when we find it. It can be that what is of value is often hidden like the treasure in the field, or needs to be discovered like the pearl, or sorted like the catch that the dragnet brings in. While Jesus spoke of the treasure of the kingdom of God, Matthew has come to see that the pearl of great price is Jesus himself who is the source of our hope and the wisdom we need to live life to the full.

Throughout the eighth chapter of the letter to the Romans, Paul encourages his readers to take heart during the struggles and difficulties that they face as Christians. Our faith itself is a pearl of great price, a gift and treasure that gives us the strength to deal with the struggles and complexities of our lives. God can transform even the darkest moments and our faith helps us to live with hope in the future glory God has prepared for us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. **R.**
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. **R.**
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. **R.**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ 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

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
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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

30 July 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: Phyllis Macedo, Patty Hayman, Burkhart Foertsch, Sam Mesiti
Death Anniversary: Anne Lander, Frederick Landon, Joseph Wehbe, Paul Houston
Deceased: Antonio Del Rosario, Sandra Wehbe; Alexander, Mary & Kevin McDonnell; Eric & Lois Malone; 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 Brayon

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 Ignatius of Loyola July 31; St Alphonsus Liguori Aug 1; St Dominic Aug 3; St John Vianney Aug 4; **THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD** Aug 6; St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Aug 8

PARISH NEWS:

- The **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) August 2023 Appeal** will be happening on Aug 5 and 6. Please keep alive the vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Scan the QR code or donate using the CWF envelopes. Visit: www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf/ for more info.
- First Friday Devotion on Aug 4 at 4pm followed by Mass at 5pm.
- First Saturday Mass and Devotion on Aug 5 at 9am.
- Exposition and Benediction every first weekend of the Month at all Masses.
- FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's)** will be serving morning tea outside the Church on Sun 6th Aug. Please join us after the 9:30am Mass. The FOSK team is also looking for new members. Interested? Email the parish office or speak to one of the ladies. Thank you!
- Thank you for your generosity, **we raised \$3027.60 towards the Catholic Mission Appeal.** Your generosity & prayers are supporting life-changing mission programs worldwide.



- 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.
- 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.
- SAVE THE DATE:** The St Kevin's Brothers in Christ Choir, have been invited, once again this year, to participate in the **CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL** celebration. Our choir will be singing on the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday December 19th at 6:30pm!
- 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.
- If you wish to offer a Mass for the sick, deceased or other occasions, please collect a 'Mass Offering' envelope in the church foyer.** Please include the date, time (any of our usual parish Mass times), and the name of the person who you wish to pray for. You may tick the box 'For Publication' if you wish for the name to be printed in the parish bulletin for 2 weekends.

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 Brother's in Christ Choir: New Members Welcomed. 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.