

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 AUGUST 2023

THE LORD WITH US IN OUR STRUGGLES

Elijah comes to Mt Horeb because his life is at risk, and he is terrified and discouraged. Having lost hope, he fled into the wilderness to die, and yet it is here that he rediscovers his mission and vocation as prophet. In the turmoil that surrounds him he recognises the Lord's voice, and the promise of a new beginning, not in earthquakes or fire, but in a gentle breeze.

When Jesus' walks on the water towards the disciples his presence was first greeted with terror as their boat struggled with heavy seas and winds. His encouraging words calm their fears and lead Peter to take up his invitation to come to him across the water. His newly found courage is short-lived, but he has sufficient faith to call on Jesus to save him. Immediately, Jesus reaches out and brings him into the boat and calms the storm that threatened to engulf them all. In the life of faith there are moments when events and circumstances threaten to overpower us. In these moments we too need to hear the words: 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

The next three weeks' readings from Paul's letter to the Romans reveal how he wrestled with a theological storm caused by Gentile acceptance of Jesus as their saviour while many people in Israel had rejected him. How could it be that a people who had received so many blessings had missed such an opportunity? Paul comes to appreciate how God's saving plan comes to fulfillment in ways we do not expect.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

I Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / 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
QR CODE TO
DONATE
ONLINE



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

13 Aug 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Simon Heng, James (Jimmy) Radburn, Clara Bridgewater

Deceased: Helen Khoury and deceased members of Khoury Family, Alan Olmes and Ken How, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, 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: Terence Cahill, 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:

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Aug 15

PARISH NEWS:

• **To celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday 15th Aug, you are all welcome to attend any of the following Masses:**

* Parish Mass at 7:30am (school grounds open for parking from 7am-8:15am only)

* St Kevin's school Mass at 9:30am

* Parish Mass at 7pm (school grounds open for parking)

• Welcome into the family of God, Maximus & Theodore. Congratulations on your baptism!

• **On Sunday 20th Aug, we will have a Family Mass at 9:30am.** All Families are invited to join and celebrate the Eucharist as a community.

• **We congratulate Derek & Suzanne on their upcoming 60th Wedding Anniversary!** May God continue to bless you and your family on this momentous occasion! We thank you for your ongoing support to our parish. Congratulations!



• **If you know a parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion at home** because they are sick and/or unable to go to Church, please contact the parish office: Ph 9874 2533.

• **New set of planned giving envelopes** still available for collection at the back of the church.

• **RCIA PROGRAM:** 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 contact the parish office: Ph 9874 2533 or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au for more info. There is no pressure or obligation to those enquiring to become Catholic. Now accepting registrations for 2023-2024 program.

• **UPCOMING READERS TRAINING** by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Liturgy Office on *Sat Oct 7 and 14, 9am-12pm at the Haseler Centre (Parish Hall)*. To register go to: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/>. For info contact the parish office.

THE ANGELS - Messengers from a loving God: A Catholic quarterly magazine on the knight-hood of St Michael, Holy Angels, and Divine Mercy. **Vol 14 Issue 3 2023, now available in the church foyer for only \$5.** For more info visit: <http://stmichaelthearchangel.info/index.shtml>

Be a Catechist or help a Catechist spread the Good News about Jesus to Catholic children in our local public schools. Now recruiting volunteers for 2024! All resources & training provided. For info Ph: 9874 2533 or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au. Flyers available in the foyer.

PARISHES FOR MISSION DAY! - Sat 2nd Sep, 10am-4pm, Haseler Centre. Join us for **Parishes for Mission Day** and together we'll 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. Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea provided. **Thank you to those who have already registered!** Attendees need to show their ticket on the day. Cost: FREE. Register by Wed Aug 23: <https://www.trybooking.com/1081807>. Donations welcome.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

• This Sun 13th Aug, the Church of Australia will conclude **National Vocations Awareness Week** - an annual celebration dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer & education, and to renewing our prayers & support for those who are considering one of these vocations. You are invited to pray about how God is calling you to live your own vocation more deeply.

• Join us for the **RAISING FATHER'S Evening: Tuesday, 29 August - Marist College Eastwood - 44 Hillview Rd.**, as we unpack practical advice and share powerful, impactful, informative and instructional stories for fathering in today's world. A partnership with Robert Falzon & MenAlive. Scan the QR code to register.



• **Oremus: Online Prayer Series** - Strengthen your faith in Christ, your prayer life, and your confidence to pray with others. Join us online for a 3-week series on the Foundations of Prayer, Wed 6, 13 & 20 Sept, 7:30-8:45pm. Cost: Free. Optional in-person retreat to follow on Sat 28 Oct, at St Martha's Leichhardt, 10am-4pm, \$28.50 (+booking fees). Register for either or both opportunities at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events. All welcome.

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.