

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church / the gates of hell will not hold out against it. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 AUGUST 2023

GOD CAN WORK THROUGH FRAILTY

Some years ago, a group of scholars from various Christian traditions examined the role of Peter that emerges from the New Testament. Despite the diversity in the texts and the traditions represented by the scholars themselves, there was general agreement that Peter played a critical role in the birth of early Christianity. While the New Testament writers stress his importance, they never avoid facing the complex reality of the man himself. Peter was the rock that crumbled and cracked under pressure when confronted after Jesus' arrest. Nonetheless, after the resurrection his faith did not waver, and he would justify Jesus' belief and trust in him.

In the concluding section of Romans 11, Paul is led to praise God for the unexpected ways in which God's saving plan for all humanity had come to fruition. While some in Israel had not come to believe in Jesus this had opened the way for the Gentiles. Gentile Christians had become the unforeseen means by which some of the people of Israel would be prompted to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Paul invites the Christians of Rome to join with him in wonder at the ingenious ways in which God always opens a new possibility for us, often despite ourselves.

That God can work through the frailty of Peter and the hardness of heart of some of the people of Israel can serve as a source of encouragement for us all. Rather than leave us disheartened God's word provides us with a firm basis for hope.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

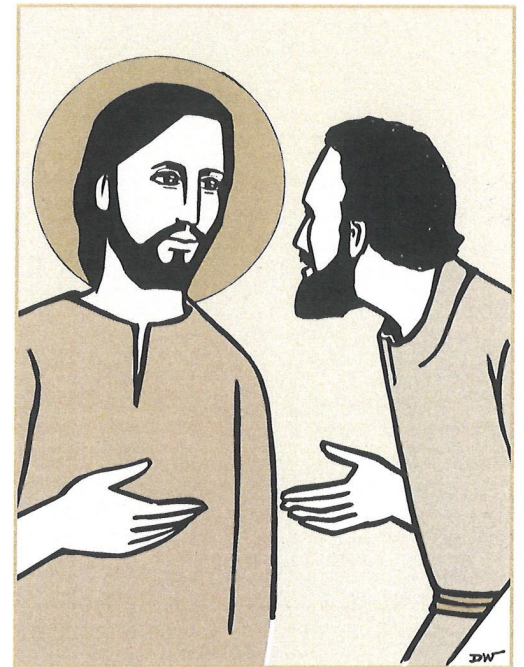
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you have heard the words of my mouth. / Before the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love / which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the day I called, you answered; / you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly / and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



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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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Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

27 Aug 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Judith Anne Siely, Cecelia Youssef, Antonio Youssef

Deceased: Alexander, Mary & Kevin McDonell; Eric & Lois Malone, Soo Sohn, Sr Zita Barron, Selwyn Jackson, Don Raffin, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayon

Sick: Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, 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 Monica Aug 27, St Augustine Aug 28, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist Aug 29

PARISH NEWS:

- **We thank all the parish and school families who joined our St Kevin's Picnic last Sunday.** We had a good turnout!! So many families came and enjoyed the beautiful weather! Special thanks to Fr Pawel, Belinda and all those involved with the preparations!
- **We joyfully receive Harrison & Heston Ho into the Catholic Church! Congratulations!**
- **First Friday Devotion** on September 1 at 4pm followed by Mass at 5pm.
- **First Saturday Mass and Devotion** on September 2 at 9am.
- **Exposition and Benediction** every first weekend of the month at all Masses.
- **Next Baptism Info Evening:** Tuesday 5th Sep at 8pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room.
- **Next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday 2nd Sept at 7am** in the Haseler Centre, followed by Mass and benediction at 9am in the church.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** St Kevin's Men's Choir has been invited to participate in the Christmas at the Cathedral celebration at St Mary's forecourt on **Tues 19th Dec at 6:30pm!**
- **Parishes for Mission Day is almost here! Next Saturday, 2nd Sep, 10am-4pm, Haseler Centre.** It's not too late! Register by Aug 27 at: <https://www.trybooking.com/1081807>. Each participant will need to show their ticket on the day. Cost: FREE. See you there!

- **FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's)** will be serving morning tea outside the Church on Sun 3rd Sept. 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!
- **Each year our Archdiocese hosts the annual Father's Day Appeal to support retired priests and thank our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. On Sept 2 & 3, we will have the Priests' Retirement Foundation appeal.** Your tax-deductible gift is a 'thank you' to our priests who've contributed in many ways in your life. Please take home an envelope and bring them back next weekend or donate online at www.ourfaithourworks/prf.
- **UPCOMING READERS TRAINING** led 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.
- **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 in the parish bulletin for 2 weekends.

BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS: Every Saturday & Sunday morning, St Patrick's Church Hill opens its doors to the homeless community, providing them with breakfast that has been labelled as a "King's breakfast". To know more of what's involved, watch this video: <https://youtu.be/kX4MbNusbC4?feature=shared>. To help St Patrick's with their mission, we will have a grocery drive— non-perishable items only! Such as:

- long life milk/juice
- Cereal
- Coffee/tea
- Milo
- Cordial
- Rice
- Pancake mix
- Tinned beans/corn/tomatoes
- Cooking oil
- Oyster sauce
- tomato/BBQ sauce
- Biscuits

Kindly place donated items in the plastic tub in the church foyer. Thank you for your support!

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **As the social services agency of the Archdiocese of Sydney, CatholicCare is committed to strengthening families and connecting communities.** To find out more about their services call 131819 or visit: <https://www.catholiccare.org/>. Collect a 'Pathways' magazine from the church foyer to read their stories. Limited copies available.
- **PARISHIONERS IN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS** are invited to attend the First National Catholic Medical Association Conference to be held at St. Joseph's Conference and Retreat Centre, Baulkham Hills, from Nov 10-12. Bishop Umbers will be the principal celebrant for the White Mass (Red Mass for lawyers, White Mass for doctors) during the Conference. See flyer on the parish noticeboard for programme 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.