



to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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## GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OURS

One of the misconceptions that Christians often have about the Old Testament is that God is portrayed as harsh and unforgiving. We are all too used to contrasting the Old Testament view of God and the loving Father of Jesus that emerges in his teaching and ministry. It is important to remember that it was the Hebrew Scriptures that shaped Jesus' own understanding of God as a loving father.

The first reading from Isaiah clearly challenges misconceptions we might have that the God of Israel is not merciful. Isaiah encourages the wicked to change their ways precisely because God's ways are not ours. While we might tend to punish, God's mercy reveals a sovereignty that is often beyond our grasp and understanding. Jesus' parable of the owner of the vineyard who deals with all the workers in an even-handed and generous manner is, or can be, just as challenging for us to comprehend. Sinners who repent, and those who have always been devout, will all receive the same reward. Indeed, God's ways are far from those of our world.

Paul finds himself in a quandary. He knows that God is a loving God, and his ultimate desire is to be with God. On the other hand, he knows how his fledgling community in Philippi needs his presence and support. Caught between the good of caring for the Philippian community and that of wanting to finish his journey to be with the Lord, he wrestles and struggles with what is best. In the end, the problem is resolved because he knows his reward lies before him. In the meantime, there is still much work to be done.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*My thoughts are not your thoughts.*

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,  
call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked man abandon his way,  
the evil man his thoughts.  
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take  
pity on him,  
to our God who is rich in forgiving;  
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who  
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

**R. The Lord is near to all who call him.**

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise  
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,  
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be  
measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /  
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good  
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his  
creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving  
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call  
him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Philippians

*For me to live is Christ.*

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by  
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,  
is Christ, but then death would bring me  
something more; but then again, if living in this  
body means doing work which is having good  
results – I do not know what I should choose.



I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone  
and be with Christ, which would be very much  
the better, but for me to stay alive in this body  
is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that  
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! / Open our hearts,  
O Lord, / to listen to the words of your  
Son. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

*Why are you jealous because I am generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of  
heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak





# Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

Parish Administrator: Fr Pawel Kopczynski CSMA

Email: [pawel.kopczynski@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:pawel.kopczynski@sydneycatholic.org)

Assistant Priest: Fr Tomasz Lepek CSMA

Email: [tomasz.lepek@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au)

Website: [www.stkevinseastwood.org.au](http://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au)

[www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood](https://www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood)

[www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic](https://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

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## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

24 Sept 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Recently Deceased:** Patricia Stanis, Juliet Licalalde, Doreen Heywood

**Death Anniversary:** Ben Isaacs, Mary & Joseph Maher, Joe Merhi, James 'Jim' Lander, Emmanuel Velasco, Lee Kokwa, Godofredo Catubig, Percy Furlong, David Landon, Constance Allman, Jean Lee

**Deceased:** Jan Kierdal, 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 Braynan

**Sick:** Dave Isaacs, 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, SOLEMNITIES AND MEMORIALS:

St Vincent de Paul Sept 27, **Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Sept 29**, St Jerome Sept 30

### PARISH NEWS:

- **Friday 29th Sept, is the Feast Day of St Michael the Archangel.** Devotion to St Michael will be included in the benediction prayers. We would like to thank the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel (CSMA) for their support, and for providing pastoral care to our parish community. Happy Feast Day to all Michaelite Fathers!
- **LITURGICAL ROSTERS WILL BE UPDATED SOON.** Any changes in availability please email the parish office by September 29.
- Exposition and Benediction every first weekend of the Month at all Masses next weekend.
- On Sun 1st Oct, FOSK (Friends of St Kevin) will be hosting a morning tea outside the Church after the 9:30am Mass. If you can, please bring a plate to share. Thank you! ALL WELCOME.
- **NEXT BAPTISM INFORMATION EVENING WILL BE HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM on Tues 3rd Oct at 8pm.** Please register your attendance by email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au).
- On Oct 6, first Friday of the month, we will have Mass and devotion starting at 4pm.
- On Oct 7, first Saturday of the month, we will have Mass and devotion at 9am.

- **Volunteer AV Operators needed for Sunday 6pm Mass.** Training provided. If interested, contact the parish office by Email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au)
- **Next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday 7th Oct at 7am** in the Haseler Centre.
- **Liturgical Readers Training:** Sat Oct 7 & 14, 9am-12pm, Haseler Centre. Contact the parish office or register at: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/>
- **St KEVIN'S PLAYGROUP** meets every Wednesdays from 9:15am to 11:15am in the parish hall during school terms. For more info Email: [olivia.cullen@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olivia.cullen@syd.catholic.edu.au) ALL WELCOME!

**OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:** Parishioners are invited to join the St Kevin's school community to pray the Rosary every Tues at 2.20pm in the church starting Oct 10. This would be wonderful time to learn how to pray the rosary and be guided along. We also have a parish group that prays the Rosary after the weekday morning Masses at 7:30am.

**LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SUNDAY: WE INVITE MARRIED COUPLES ON ANY OF THE WEEKEND MASSES ON OCT 21 & 22 TO RECEIVE A BLESSING IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE. ALL WELCOME!**



**Didaskō Adult Faith Formation:** The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Parish Renewal Team, together with the University of Notre Dame Australia will deliver a **series of 5 online short courses**, each consisting of three evening sessions. **Our parish has registered for these online courses as a group. Parishioners who are keen and interested in their faith formation, are welcome to join us in the parish hall for an IN-PERSON GATHERING.** Contact the parish office at 98742533 or by email: [parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au) if you wish to attend.

The monthly topics include:

- \* 2023 **THU OCT 5, 12 & 19, 7:30PM-8:45PM: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**
- \* 2023 Thu Nov 2, 9 & 16, 7:30pm-8:45pm: The Scriptures
- \* 2024 Mon Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Foundations of Theology
- \* 2024 Mon Apr 15, 22 & 29, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Introduction to Christology
- \* 2024 Thu May 9, 16 & 23, 7:30pm-8:45pm: Moral Theology

**Cost (per short course):** \$35 per person (plus booking fees);

\$100 per Parish Group for an in-person gathering (plus booking fees) See poster for details.

**BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS:** To help St Patrick's with their mission of feeding the homeless, we are collecting non-perishable items such as long life milk, juice boxes, cereal, coffee, tea, etc. Kindly place donated items in the plastic tub in the church foyer. Thank you!

### AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

**Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya.** Thousands of people have died, and others injured. Support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au). Thank you!



### 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](mailto:safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may speak to your Parish Priest who'll be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.