

GOSPEL

Mt 16:21-27

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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

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CHALLENGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we listen to Jeremiah pouring his heart out to the Lord, it is not unusual for us to be somewhat embarrassed by his candour. It is as though we are eavesdropping on a very personal and private conversation between the suffering prophet and the God who has commissioned him. There is an enormous battle in the heart of Jeremiah as he wrestles with the message he must proclaim and the impact his preaching has on his own life.

Last week Peter was praised because he had come to understand that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Now he must learn what the consequences mean for Jesus and then for those who follow in his footsteps as disciples. His well-meaning attempt to protect Jesus is misguided and like Jeremiah, he must struggle to accept the paradoxical and costly ways of God.

The Christians of Rome are encouraged by Paul to continue with the struggle to live a life of faith in a world that did not share their values and vision. In a world where there were many temples, gods and sacrificial banquets, Paul goes to the heart of the matter when he calls for an offering of one's life as a living sacrifice to God.

All the readings for today converge in laying the challenge before us of not losing heart, even though at times the difficulties might seem beyond our strength. Making our own the mind of Christ is not easy, but then again, it never was.

Christopher Monaghan CP**FIRST READING**

Jer 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.'

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

■ The word of the Lord.**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2

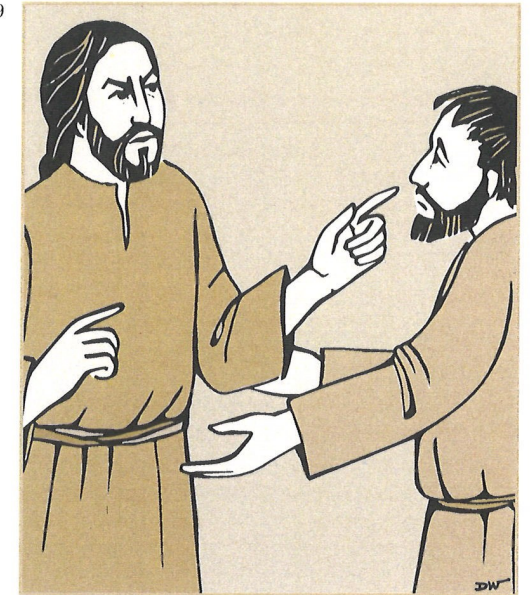
R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; / for you my soul is thirsting. / My body pines for you / like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary / to see your strength and your glory. / For your love is better than life, / my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So I will bless you all my life, / in your name I will lift up my hands. / My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, / my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

4. For you have been my help; / in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. / My soul clings to you; / your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

■ The word of the Lord.**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / 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

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PRIESTS'
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FATHER'S DAY APPEAL, SEPT 2 & 3: Each year our Archdiocese hosts this appeal to support retired priests and thank our Fathers for their wonderful service to our community. Your gift is a 'thank you' to our priests who have contributed in many ways in your life. Your tax-deductible gift will make a big difference to our retired Fathers who need our care. The Archdiocese will match every donation two-for-one. For example, if you give \$100, the Archdiocese will add another \$200, making your contribution worth \$300. Scan the QR code or donate at www.ourfaithhourworks/prf. Appeal envelopes also available. Thank you.

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 boxes, cereal, coffee, tea, milo, cordial, rice, pancake mix, biscuits, cooking oil, tinned beans/corn/tomatoes etc. Kindly place donated items in the plastic tub in the church foyer. Thank you for your support!

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

3 Sept 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Sandra Wehbe, Terry Magill, Anthony Wilson, Reginald Broderick, Judith Anne Siely, Cecelia Youssef, Antonio Youssef

Deceased: Ben Isaacs, Joseph Wehbe, Margaret Jaji, Alexander, Mary & Kevin McDonnell; Eric & Lois Malone, Soo Sohn, 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 Braylan

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:

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8

PARISH NEWS:

• **WISHING ALL FATHERS, AND FATHER-FIGURES IN OUR LIVES, A HAPPY FATHERS DAY!** May God's blessings fall upon you as we celebrate you today! We also pray, remember and honour those fathers who have died, welcome them into your kingdom and grant them eternal rest.

And to all our spiritual fathers, Fr Pawel, Fr Tomasz and all other priests, may God continue to give you wisdom, courage and strength to continue in this vocation. To support the mission of our Michaelite priests, we have envelopes at the back if you wish to contribute.

• We welcome into the family of God, Yousef Xavier! Congratulations on your baptism!

• Next Baptism Info Evening: Tuesday 5th Sep at 8pm in the Parish Office Meeting Room.

• **Next Friday, 8th September at 5:30pm** we will have the First Reconciliation of our parish and public school children. Let us pray together as a community, that they may discover the greatness of God's love and forgiveness on this special day!

• **We congratulate Charbel Mourani**, parishioner and volunteer, for his ordination to the Order



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- *The Archdiocese will be celebrating Child Protection Week beginning Mon, 4th Sept to Sun, 10th Sept which the ACBC has declared as Safeguarding Sunday. The Safeguarding Office will be launching new resources for Children & Adults at Risk within our community next week.*
- **The Inaugural 'Catholic Men's Conference' – BE NOT AFRAID** is a one day conference for men (18+) happening on Sat 16th Sep, 8am-4:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral Hall. The conference will include breakfast, coffee/tea, talks by guest speakers, adoration, confession, mass, lunch and an exclusive invitation and announcement to the men on the day. Cost: \$55, Concession \$45. CLERGY and SEMINARIANS are FREE. To book, visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/CKKFQ> More details on the parish website.

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.