

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to 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

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

22 OCTOBER 2023

FAITH IN ACTION

Jesus was certainly caught on the horns of a dilemma as he faced the hostile demands of his opponents in Jerusalem. The Pharisees as religious authorities had combined with the Herodians (those who supported the Roman-backed Herod) to trap him on the question of payment of taxes. Jesus' response not only unmasks their hypocrisy but demonstrates his adroitness in dealing with a particularly pointed question: 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' Stated like this it all seems clear; the problem arises when we must determine what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. What is the proper response for a Christian?

Today's readings warn us that false dichotomies are to be avoided between faith and the world. Isaiah reflects on the way Cyrus, the great ruler of Persia, is an unwitting instrument of God's will. In other words, God is at work in the world in ways that are unseen and often unnoticed. Consequently, if God is at work in the world the person of faith is called not to withdraw from the work but to transform it.

As far as Paul is concerned, the community of Thessalonica is a living example of what it means to be Christian in the world. Their faith has been expressed in actions seen in their working together in love, and persevering through hope. Living in the Roman empire they are praised for their ability to give both to Caesar and to God.

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

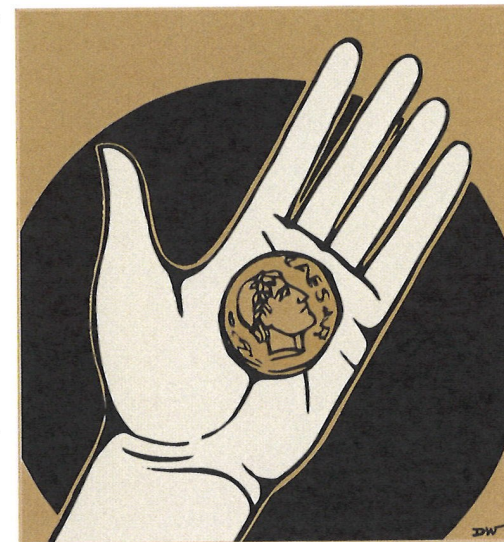
R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ 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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A 22nd Oct 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Fr John Lyne, Gabrielle Maina, Zakia Merhi, Jack Field, Joseph Shek, Fr John Haseler, Maureen Hendry

Deceased: Agnes Kim, 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: Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, 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:

Saints Simon and Jude Oct 28; **ALL SAINTS DAY Nov 1; ALL SOULS DAY Nov 2**

PARISH NEWS:

- **This weekend we celebrate Life, Marriage & Family Sunday.** May God bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instil in each member, the spirit of understanding and affection for each other.
- **October 22 is World Mission Day.** This day reminds all Catholics of their commitment & support to the missionary work of the Church through prayer and sacrifice. Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday 2023, invites all of us to "...set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation..."
- **Nov 1 is All Saints Day. Mass Times are at 7:30am, 9:30am (St Kevin's School Mass), 6:30pm**
- **Nov 2 is All Souls Day. Mass Times are at 7:30am and 6:30pm.** All welcome.
- **All Masses during the month of November will be offered for the repose of the souls of our dearly departed.** November Mass envelopes now available. Names of your departed loved ones will be displayed in front of the altar & prayed for, during November Masses.
- **The next Charitable Works Fund appeal will be in Nov 4 & 5.** CWF is your charity, the charity of the Sydney Catholic community and our parish. Help keep alive vital ministries of the

Church in service to those who need it most. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Thank you!

- **Liturgical Rosters are now available for collection.** Please use your contact list to arrange someone to replace you if you cannot make your rostered time. Thank you.
- **October is the Month of the Holy Rosary:** Parishioners are invited to join the St Kevin's community to pray the Rosary after the weekday morning Masses at 7:30am.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Parish Christmas Dinner on Sat, 2nd December! Details to follow.**
- **50th FESTIVAL of ST CECILIA at ST KEVINS - Nov 26:** Contact Suzanne Maslen on 9874 2809 if you: a) would like to join a group, b) know a group who would like to be part of the programme, c) would like to suggest an innovation for this year's Festival. For info visit: facebook.com/kevinwoodeastwood or at www.kevinwoodorchestra.org

ARE YOU KEEN TO EXPLORE MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH, THE SCRIPTURES AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH?

Join us for the **Didaskō Adult Faith Formation** courses organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Parish Renewal Team, together with the University of Notre Dame Australia. **Our parish has registered for these online courses and we encourage parishioners and young adults (18yo and up) to join us in the parish hall for an in-person gathering. Cost: FREE! Coffee, tea & biscuits provided. TO REGISTER, Ph: 9874 2533 or email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au.**

* **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

If you wish to take the online course privately, the cost (per short course) will be \$35 pp + booking fees. Register at: <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko/> or see poster for more details.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **60 Years of Sacrosanctum Concilium:** The Second Vatican Council promulgated the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy on 4th Dec 1963. The Archdiocese of Sydney Liturgy Office, in cooperation with University of Notre Dame Australia, will be hosting four public lectures on Sacrosanctum Concilium starting on Wed 8th Nov 2023, leading up to the 60th anniversary on Dec 4. For details visit: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/news-events/>
- **The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation presents the 2023-24 Summer Series events featuring world-renowned quests: Matt Fradd, Jason Evert, & Dr Christopher West!** For more info and to register, visit <https://sydneycatholic.org/summer-series/>. See poster in the church foyer.
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites groups of **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (YEARS 9-12) AND YOUNG ADULTS** to the inaugural Archdiocesan youth conference – **PURPOSE CONFERENCE. Featuring international speakers, Matt Fradd and Jason Evert to be held on Dec 7-8 at Rosebank College, Five Dock.** See posters on noticeboard or visit: sydneycatholicityouth.org

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'll be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.