

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! / I call you friends, says the Lord, / because I have made known to you / everything I have learnt from my Father. / Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*He leased his vineyard to other farmers.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### ■ 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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

8 OCTOBER 2023

## BEARING FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

In the ancient Near East, the struggles involved in agricultural life were numerous and well-known, lack of water, poor soil, and rocky ground. In such a setting, Isaiah's image of the people of Israel as a lovingly tended vine was an extremely powerful one. How could God's own people, so dearly loved, produce only sour grapes?

This image formed the backdrop for Jesus' own parable of the wicked tenants and Matthew's reflection on it. The religious authorities gathered and were marshalling their forces against Jesus. Now the moment had come for him to call them to account for their tenancy. During Jesus' ministry, this parable was unsettling and provocative, but for the early Christians, this parable provided them with a filter through which to see and understand Jesus' violent death at the hands of his own people. It also gave them a means by which they could understand that the vineyard had passed into the hands of others.

At first sight, it seems a far cry from the disappointment and violence that underlie the parables of Isaiah and Jesus to the tranquil encouragement of Paul to the Christians of Philippi. A deeper look reveals that today's parables rightly challenge us to bear fruit. Paul, on the other hand, is concerned as a pastor to give some practical guidance as to how to go about it. The fruit of peace will be ours if we turn to the Lord in prayer and seek what is truly of value.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.*

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and men of Judah,

I ask you to judge

between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds

to rain no rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,

and the men of Judah

that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

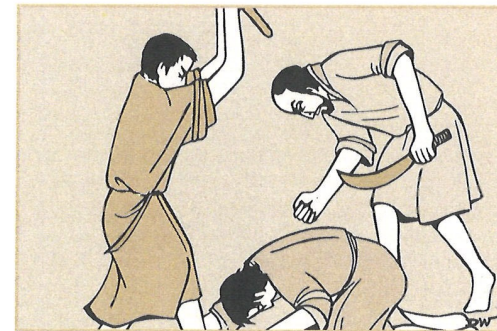
■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

**R.** The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; / to plant it you drove out the nations. / It stretched out its branches to the sea, / to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**



2. Then why have you broken down its walls? / It is plucked by all who pass by. / It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, / devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, / look down from heaven and see. / Visit this vine and protect it, / the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

4. And we shall never forsake you again: / give us life that we may call upon your name. / God of hosts, bring us back; / let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.*

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

■ The word of the Lord.



## Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood

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[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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

8 Oct 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Death Anniversary:** Catherine Ho, Thelma Coe, Bessy Landon, Lindsay & Les Hendry

**Deceased:** Jermelyn Go, Fr Kevin O'Grady, Pieter Tibbertsma, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, 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 Bryan

**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:

Saint John Leonardi Oct 9, Saint John XXIII Oct 11

### A MESSAGE FROM FR PAWEL:

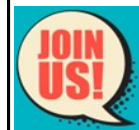
There have been reports of SMS message scams targeting individuals and parishes in the Archdiocese. These scams impersonate the members of our parish, including myself, asking for urgent help and often requesting gift card purchases for those in need. Rest assured that neither I nor any member of our parish staff would ever ask for such assistance through SMS or any other unsolicited means. If you receive suspicious messages, contact us directly by phone or in person. Thank you.

### PARISH NEWS:

• **We wish Fr Tomasz a Happy Birthday!** Thank you for all that you do for our parish! May you be gifted with many blessings from God, today & always! **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** Please join us for morning tea after the 9:30am Mass on Sun 8th Oct.

• **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.

- **The Rite of Acceptance for our RCIA participants will be on Sat, 14th October at Vigil Mass.**
- **On Sunday 15th Oct we have invited back our First Holy Communion 2023 participants to join the Family Mass at 9:30am and celebrate their completion of the program.** All families are invited to join and celebrate the Eucharist as a community.
- **All Masses during the month of November will be offered for the repose of the souls of our dearly departed.** November Mass envelopes are now available. Names of your departed loved ones will be displayed in front of the altar & prayed for, during November Masses.
- **Volunteer Readers and AV Operators needed. Interested? Contact the parish office.**
- **Life, Marriage and Family Sunday:** We invite married couples and their families on any of the weekend Masses on Oct 21 & 22 to receive a blessing in thanksgiving for the gift of marriage & family life.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Parish Christmas Dinner on Sat, 2nd December! Details to follow.**
- **The ST KEVIN'S BROTHERS IN CHRIST CHOIR, have been invited, once again this year, to participate in the Christmas at the Cathedral.** Our choir will be singing at St Mary's Cathedral forecourt on Tuesday December 19th at 6:30pm! SAVE THE DATE!!!
- **ST KEVIN'S PLAYGROUP meets every Wednesday from 9:15-11:15am in the parish hall during school terms.** For more information email: [olivia.cullen@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olivia.cullen@syd.catholic.edu.au)



**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](mailto:parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au).**

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

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

**Ageing Well Masterclasses** at St Charles Borromeo Ryde, starting Tues 10th Oct, 10:30am-12pm. COST: Free! RSVP: email: [office@rgcp.org.au](mailto:office@rgcp.org.au) or Ph9807 2966. See poster for details. Ageing Well is a collaboration between CatholicCare, Catholic Healthcare and Grief Care .

### 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.