

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 24: 42, 44. R. v. 2  
Alleluia, alleluia! / Be watchful and ready: /  
you know not when the Son of Man is  
coming. / Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 25: 1-13  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 NOVEMBER 2023

## BEING ON THE ALERT

Some thirty years of Christian life and experience separate the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians and the writing of Matthew's Gospel. When Paul wrote in the late Forties and early Fifties there was a keen sense and expectation that the Lord was going to return at any moment. These earliest Christians were so convinced that this was the case that they were unprepared and ill-equipped to deal with the death of other Christians before the Lord's return. It is not as though Paul himself had foreseen this difficulty and, as is often the case in his letters, we see how a concrete problem prompts him to further reflection. It is important not to press Paul's description of the return of the Lord too far. This is theology in the making and Paul himself will continue to develop his thought on these matters (see 1 Corinthians 15).

If Paul's Christians faced the problem caused by assuming the Lord would return soon, Matthew's community had to confront another set of circumstances. The fact that by the early to mid-Eighties the Lord had not returned placed another dilemma before them. For Matthew, the problem was that of a community becoming apathetic and seeing its initial enthusiasm and commitment wane. The parable of Jesus about the bridesmaids who fell asleep and missed their opportunity was the perfect means to stress the need for Christians to be prepared as they waited for the Lord's return.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

**FIRST READING** Wis 6: 12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

*Wisdom is found by those who look for it.*

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;

be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her

and graciously shows herself to them as they go. in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 62: 2-8. 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. On my bed I remember you.  
On you I muse through the night  
for you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**



**SECOND READING** 1 Thess 4: 13-18

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

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

*Shorter form, 1 Thess 4: 13-14*





# 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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## ST KEVIN'S PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER Sat 2nd Dec, after the

Vigil Mass. Enjoy a festive dinner + great raffle prizes to be won!!

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the end of each Mass starting next weekend! To register: scan the QR code or call the parish office on 9874 2533. COST: Adults & Children 13yo and up - \$20; Pensioners \$15; Children 12yo & under FREE! BYO drinks & nibbles. Tea and coffee provided. Payments can be put in an envelope labelled 'Christmas Dinner.' Add your name and drop them in the collection bags at weekend Masses. Or pay online via: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/eastwoodparish>, choose 'Events' on the 'Bill Code.'



## Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

12th Nov 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Recently Deceased:** Fr John Joseph Alt

**Death Anniversary:** Selwyn Jackson, Charlotte Saunders, Florence Landon, Don Mees

**Deceased:** Wynne & Joe Ford, Peter Leung, Juliar Lamudji, Jusuf Lay, Janet Innes; deceased members of Shanahan, Miller and McMahan families; John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Don Raffin, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayan



**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 Gertrude Nov 16; Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Nov 17

### PARISH NEWS:

• **Thank you for donating towards the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal.** Your support to CWF will help keep alive the ministries of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Envelopes still available. Donate now or visit: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/>

• **Break Open the Word Book** for rostered liturgical readers are now available for collection at the back of the church. Limited copies available.

• **Funeral for Fr John Alt will be on Thu 16th Nov, 10:30am at St Michael's Meadowbank.** Funeral will be livestreamed via: [www.FuneralVideo.com.au/FrJohnJosephAlt](http://www.FuneralVideo.com.au/FrJohnJosephAlt)

• **Be a Catechist or help a Catechist spread the Good News about Jesus** to primary school children in Eastwood, Carlingford & Ngarala Public Schools. We need scripture teachers and helpers on Wed, Thu or Fri. All resources and training provided. For more info, speak to one of our catechists after Mass or contact the parish office. Also, our congratulations to, Amy Mak, for her 30years of service as Catechist. This Life Member Award will be given at the Annual Catechist Mass (ACM) on Sun 19th Nov at St Mary's Cathedral. On

this ACM, Tia's choir and our parish catechists will provide the music. We thank Tia for helping us prepare for this event!

- **On Sun 19th Nov, we will have a Family Mass at 9:30am.** All school and parish families are invited to join and celebrate the Eucharist as a community.
- **On Mon 13th Nov 10:30am, the Ryde Library Musical Morning Tea will showcase the forthcoming St Kevin's Fiftieth Festival of St Cecilia.** All welcome. Bookings recommended.
- **To help us prepare & reflect on the scriptures this Season of Advent, parishioners are invited to join our Advent Reflection Group to be led by Fr Pawel, starting Thu 30th Nov at 6:30pm in the Church.** ALL WELCOME. We will use the Advent Companion 2023: Listen to the Word, Prepare for His Birth. Limited copies available in the church foyer.
- **Brothers in Christ Men's Choir** - will be Singing at the St Mary's Cathedral Christmas Celebrations—December 19th at 6:30pm. Please join us!

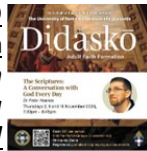
### ARE YOU KEEN TO EXPLORE MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH, THE SCRIPTURES AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH?

Join us for the **Didaskō Adult Faith Formation** courses organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. **Our parish has registered for these online courses and we invite parishioners and young adults to join us in the parish hall for an in-person gathering. Cost: FREE!**

**Coffee, tea & biscuits provided. TO REGISTER** contact the parish office. **Topics include:**

- \* **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.**

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:

**Sydney Street Feast 2023**, Fri, 17th Nov, 12-2pm. Archbishop Anthony Fisher will host a free luncheon for Sydney's homeless in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral. Parish volunteers are invited to help. Register at: <https://bit.ly/StreetFeast2023>

### 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.