

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4, 5

Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

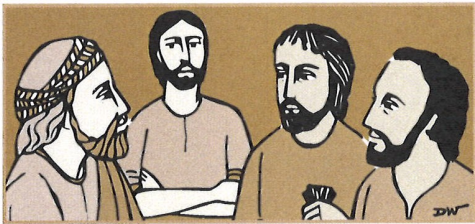
Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 NOVEMBER 2023

BEING READY FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD

At first sight, it seems hard to make sense of the choice of readings for this Sunday. How are we to understand and appreciate the combination of the description of the perfect wife from the book of Proverbs, Paul's advice on the coming of the Day of the Lord, and the warning contained in Jesus' parable of the talents?

The first reading comes from a world where the role and possibilities for a woman were solely defined by her responsibility for the home. The key to understanding the reading is not the cultural expectations of the woman, limited as they were, but the qualities which mark her life – generosity, diligence, care for the poor and openness to the needy.

Paul sets out to help his community to prepare for the Lord's return by reminding them that they had no need to fear the coming of the Lord if they live good Christian lives. The most important thing is to live in the present moment well to be ready for the Lord's return.

Matthew's community is encouraged to prepare for the Day of the Lord by focusing on the need to make use of the talents and opportunities which the Lord had given them. One of the striking elements of the parable is that the tenants are judged in accordance with what they have been given on an individual basis. Like the woman in the first reading, it is not what you have but how you use it that is most important.

FIRST READING

Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have
worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city
gates.

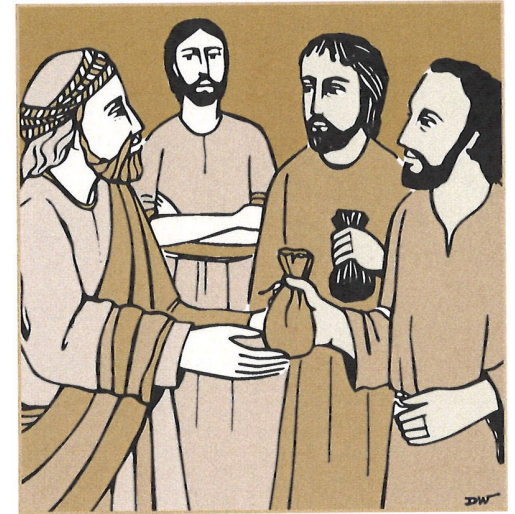
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R.**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R.**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
in a happy Jerusalem
all the days of your life. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5: 1-6

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

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

■ The word of the Lord.

Christopher Monaghan CP



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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
PARISH
QR CODE TO
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Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A 19th Nov 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Death Anniversary: Kathleen McElhone, Selwyn Jackson, Charlotte Saunders, Doreen Furlong, Florence Landon

Deceased: Leonardo Barbagallo, Tony Youssef & Cecilia, Abbas Wahbe & Lila, Wynne & Joe Ford, 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:

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Nov 21; St Cecilia Nov 22; **Christ the King Nov 26**

ST KEVIN'S PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Join us in the Parish Hall on Sat 2nd Dec, 6:30pm (right after the Vigil Mass) and enjoy a festive buffet dinner plus a chance to win great raffle prizes!!!

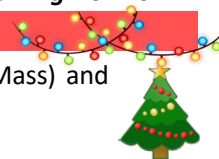
Registration essential. **Deadline to RSVP extended until Nov 26!**

To register for the dinner: 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! This cost includes: buffet dinner, dessert, tea & coffee. BYO drinks & nibbles. Cash payments can be put in an envelope, write 'Christmas Dinner' together with your name, and drop them in the collection bags at weekend Masses, or hand them to our volunteers after each Mass this weekend or next. You can also pay online via: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/eastwoodparish>, choose 'Events' on the 'Bill Code.'

To purchase raffle tickets: See our parish volunteer/s in the church foyer after Mass. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. Collect a flyer in the church foyer for raffle details.



NB: All proceeds from the Christmas dinner and raffle will be used for the liturgical enrichment of our church, upgrade of the Stations of the Cross, a new monstrance for the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the renovation of the baptismal font. Your generosity and support will be needed to achieve these goals. Thank you.

PARISH NEWS:

- **Welcome to all school and parish families joining us on this Eucharistic celebration.** We also thank and farewell, **Mrs Olivia Cullen, St Kevin's Family Educator**, for her support and dedication in strengthening the relationships between the school, families and parish.
- **Break Open the Word Book** for rostered liturgical readers are now available for collection at the back of the church. Limit: 1 copy per family of readers.
- **NEXT WEEKEND, 25 & 26 Nov - Festival of St Cecilia at St Kevins: 50th celebration** of a one-off event started in 1974 to enhance music in the parish. All masses have special music for the *Feast of Christ the King*. The afternoon concert features St Cecilia, Handel's "Fireworks" & Mozart "Coronation Mass". Handbills available in the foyer or visit: www.kevinwood.org
- **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!
- **See pictures from Uganda on the parish noticeboard.** Marissa, one of our parishioners went to visit Fr Fabius to bring donated items like clothing, etc. Thank you to all those who have donated & have been supporting the feeding program at Pere Achte Primary School.

To help us prepare & reflect on the scriptures this Season of Advent, parishioners are invited to join our **Advent Reflection Group, led by Fr Pawel, starting Thu 30th Nov at 6:30pm in the Church.** We will use the Advent Companion 2023: Listen to the Word, Prepare for His Birth. This free Advent Companion contains Gospel readings & reflections for the Sundays of Advent & Christmas. Limited copies available in the church foyer or download via: www.gomakedisciples.org.au.



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Prayer for Peace in the Middle East:** Aid to the Church in Need has produced and printed 1.5 million prayer cards for distribution across all Catholic parishes and schools in Australia and New Zealand. Please get a prayer card as you leave the church. Thank you.
- **Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal:** The sudden escalation of hostilities in Israel & Gaza since Oct 7 has seen unimaginable impacts for the people affected by this conflict. Caritas Australia is working with our partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), providing emergency shelter for over 1,200 people & cash support to over 7,100 families. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal by phone 1800024413 or via: www.caritas.org.au/gaza

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.