

GOSPEL

Mt 23: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

5 NOVEMBER 2023

CALLED TO SERVE

Leadership has always been a risky business. With leadership comes prestige and the esteem of others and yet these can be dangerous and murky waters. Those involved in leadership often experience being caught in the tension between the respective privileges and responsibilities that accompany their position. Today's readings converge in their concern to reflect on the nature of authority and how it should be exercised.

At the time Malachi wrote, the people of Israel were in dire need of religious reform and the priests were called to account for their role in creating that situation. If the charge could be laid at the feet of the priests in Malachi's time that they did not care for the people, the same could not be said for Paul. While Paul was called to be an apostle, he was also most concerned to offer the gospel without charge. In the ancient world wandering teachers were usually sponsored financially. Paul avoided such ambiguous relationships by not accepting any help from a community till he had established it and was ready to move on to another.

When Jesus sets out to address the disciples and the people about the scribes and Pharisees it probably sounded fairly safe. Anyone can be comfortable when another person is being subjected to scrutiny and criticism! But the second half of the Gospel suddenly changes direction and disciples in every age are given some guiding principles. Firstly, leadership comes from God, secondly, we belong to one family and thirdly, leadership means service.

FIRST READING

Mal 1: 14-2: 2, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

- O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. **R.**
- Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. **R.**
- O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 2: 7-9, 13

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

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 23: 9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia! / You have one Father, your Father in heaven; / you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. / 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 (lives streamed); 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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Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year A

5th Nov 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: Judy Williamson
Death Anniversary: Margaret Teutsch, Margaret Raff, Juliana Chong
Deceased: Juliar Lamudji, Jusuf Lay, Janet Innes; deceased members of Shanahan, Miller and McMahon families; Peter Lee & Joyce Minary, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, 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 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 Leo the Great Nov 10, Saint Martin of Tours Nov 11

PARISH NEWS:

- **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal - Nov 4 & 5.** Your support to CWF will help the charitable and pastoral work of the Archdiocese of Sydney. Help keep alive the vital ministries of the Church. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Donate now or visit: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-cwf/> Thank you!
- **Next weekend, we will have a Catechist Recruitment Drive.** Be a Catechist or help a Catechist spread the Good News about Jesus to Catholic children in Eastwood, Carlingford and Ngarala Public schools. We need scripture teachers and helpers on Wed, Thu or Fri for about 30-40 mins. All resources and training provided. For info, contact the parish office at 9874 2533 or E: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au. Flyers available in the church foyer.
- **All Masses during the month of November will be offered for the repose of the souls of our faithful departed.** November Mass envelopes still available. Names of your departed loved ones will be displayed in front of the altar & prayed for, during November Masses.
- **Next Baptism Information Session will be on Tues 7th Nov at 8pm** in the parish office. This

will be our last session for 2023. Baptism Info Session for 2024 will start in February. To register and for all other queries, please contact the parish office.

- **Liturgical Rosters are now available for collection at the back of the church.** Thank you.
- **SAVE THE DATE: Parish Christmas Dinner on Sat, 2nd December! See details below.**
- **Brothers in Christ Men's Choir** - will be Singing at the St Mary's Cathedral Christmas Celebrations- December 19th at 6:30pm.



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

Join us for the **Didasko Adult Faith Formation** courses organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Next topic will be "The Scriptures," presented to us by Peter Holmes. Peter has lectured in Scripture, Marriage and Sexuality, Theology, and biblical languages. **Our parish has registered for these online courses and 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,** email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au or Ph: 9874 2533.

- * **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.

ST KEVIN'S PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER Sat 2nd Dec, after the Vigil Mass. Enjoy a festive dinner with salad and sweets! BYO drinks & nibbles. Tea & coffee provided. For catering purposes, please email parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au or call the parish office on 9874 2533 to register. COST: Adults & Children 13yo and up - \$20; Pensioners \$15; Children 12yo & under FREE! 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: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/eastwoodparish>, choose 'Events' on the Biller Code.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **Call for Volunteers: Sydney Street Feast 2023.** On Fri, 17th Nov, Archbishop Anthony Fisher will host a free luncheon for Sydney's homeless in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral, 12-2pm. Volunteers from parishes are invited to help serve food & accompany guests during lunch. Register at: <https://bit.ly/StreetFeast2023>
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites groups of **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (YEARS 9-12) & 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: sydneycatholicyouth.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.