

waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 1: 1-8

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.**

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

10 DECEMBER 2023

## IN THE WILDERNESS

In Australia we experience the desert and wilderness in all its beauty and expanse, yet it can be a lonely, dangerous place. Today we hear a voice crying out in the wilderness in the time of Isaiah and echoed in the Gospel. This voice also cries out to us today, in the wilderness and the desert of our lives. The voice is consolation: "Console, console my people" (Is 40:1). It bellows, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Is 40:3). Isaiah's words create an image of the landscape of our life and soul, in need of God.

The Gospel engages this imagery for John the Baptist, a guide in the wilderness who heralds the Messiah. Mark gives name to the voice just as he identified that this writing is "The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (1:1). Although the name of Isaiah is invoked, the first quote is from Malachi "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way (1:2 cf. Mal 3:1); then comes the echo from Isaiah 40:3. Here in the wilderness John announces the one who is to come who will baptise with the Holy Spirit (Mark 7-8). This is the announcement of the Messiah, the one longed for. As we hear that voice in our wilderness, we know that Jesus is with us. We can reflect on our attention to his presence and our welcome to him in our souls and lives.

## FIRST READING

Isa 40:1-5, 9-11

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah.**

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

'Console my people, console them'  
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,

that her sin is atoned for,

that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
double punishment for her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low,

let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,

say to the towns of Judah,

'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,  
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast

and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

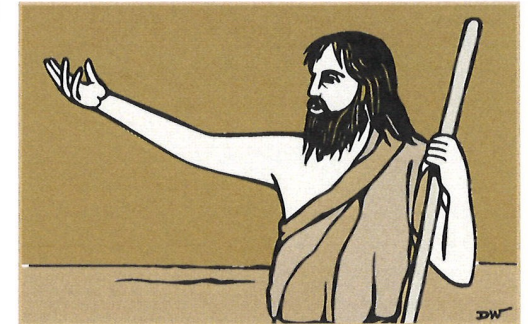
■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace,/ peace for his  
people./ His help is near for those who fear  
him/ and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**



2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;/ justice  
and peace have embraced./ Faithfulness shall  
spring from the earth/ and justice look down  
from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper/ and  
our earth shall yield its fruit./ Justice shall  
march before him/ and peace shall follow his  
steps. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Pet 3:8-14

**A reading from the second letter of St Peter.**

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are



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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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## Second Sunday of Advent/Year B

10 Dec 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Recently Deceased:** John Siely, Antonio Odango Sr.

**Death Anniversary:** William & Margaret Smith, Marija & Stjepan Zubak

**Deceased:** Selwyn Jackson, Des Ebejer, Matthew Perry, John Davidson, Lucy Ng, Cecilia Tan, Peter Leung, Mary & Joseph Maher, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron and Jan Braylan

**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 Lucy Dec 13, Saint John of the Cross Dec 14

### CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES 2023:

<p>For this day in the city of David there has been born to you a Savior who is Christ, the Lord.</p>	Fri 22 Dec	7:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation
	Sat 23 Dec	5:30pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Week of Advent Vigil Mass
	Sun 24 Dec	8:00am, 9:30am	4th Week of Advent Mass
		12 noon	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)
		5:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass (Children's Mass)
		7:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass (Livestreamed Mass)
		9:00pm	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)
	Mon 25 Dec	11:30pm	Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass
		8am, 9:30am	Christmas Day Mass
		12 noon	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)
NO EVENING MASS			

### ADVENT WREATH LITURGY: As the 2nd candle is lit, we pray together -

“Lord, stir up PEACE in our hearts to help us prepare for the coming of your only begotten Son this Christmas. Amen”



### PARISH NEWS:

- A **BIG** thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Parish Christmas Dinner Fundraiser last week. It was a night to remember! **Thank you to all those involved, we raised a total of \$5,252!** Special thanks to Jenny Saouma for her tremendous effort in coordinating the food, raffle prizes, and overseeing the event from start to finish. Thanks to Fr Pawel, Fr Tomasz, Men's Choir, all the hardworking volunteers, and everyone who contributed & participated in the auction! **We also raised \$1,280 for our 'Bid for a Cause' silent auction of hand woven scarves made by Flame of Hope Foundation—an orphanage for children with special needs in India.** All these will not be possible without your help!
- Sr Angelica will be selling hand crafted Christmas cards & other items at the 8am and 9:30am Mass this Sun, Dec 10.** Proceeds from this fundraiser will support the poor/orphan children in Myanmar under the care of Fr Gregory Gray. Sr Angelica has been supporting Fr Greg's mission for years. Let's help Sr Angelica raise funds for this worthy cause.
- As we begin our preparations for our Christmas liturgies, we request our liturgy volunteers to please add your name on the CHRISTMAS ROSTER sheet in the sacristy if you are available to help. We still need AV operators, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers and Junior Servers.**
- Parishioners are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Fri 22nd Dec at 7pm.**
- Calling all children interested to join the Christmas Eve pageant!** If you would like your child/ren to take part in the Nativity Play at the 5.30pm Children's Mass on Sun 24th Dec, please E: [simone.scoullar@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:simone.scoullar@syd.catholic.edu.au) with your child's name, age & contact info.
- 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, Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Church.** Advent Companion 2023 is free to download at: [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)
- Due to infant baptism queries, we have scheduled a **Baptism Info Evening on Tues 12th Dec at 8pm** in the parish office meeting room. To register, please contact the parish office.
- Visit:** <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/fundraise-your-way-conference/svdp-eastwood-conference-christmas-2023-appeal> to donate to our Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

**Christmas at the Cathedral:** On Tues Dec 19, we are considering to hire a BUS to take parishioners to St Mary's Cathedral for the annual Christmas Celebration. The bus will leave the Church at 5pm & return approx. 9:30pm. **Booking essential. Contact the parish office on 98742533 by Dec 15.** Hurry! Book your seats now! Watch our very own, **St Kevin's MEN'S CHOIR perform at 6:30pm.** Enjoy the light show & many more!



### 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.

