

**GOSPEL**

Jn 1:6-8,19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

17 DECEMBER 2023

**SHEER JOY**

What brings joy to you? What makes your heart sing? Joy is infectious. Joy rings out today from the beginning of our prayer with the Entrance Antiphon "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Phil 4:4-5). Isaiah proclaims, "I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God" (Isa 61:10). The psalm, drawn from the Magnificat in Luke, invites us to respond: "My soul rejoices in my God" (Luke 1:46), and we hear "My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my saviour" (vv. 46-47). Paul's final exhortation from his First Letter to the Thessalonians begins "Rejoice always" (1 Thess 5:16). What is the cause of all this rejoicing? It is the story of the Good News unfolding from the prophet Isaiah, becoming flesh through Mary's faithful response; it is God's gift of God's son, Jesus, born among us who has been raised. We draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth but we live in the light of resurrection, so we have reason to rejoice.

Today's Gospel reveals the witness to the coming of Jesus, "a man sent from God" (John 1:6). We hear emphatic repetition of the truth with both "witness" and "light" repeated three times. John is the voice in the wilderness confirming "the one who is coming after" (1:27).

Today our hearts lift with joy amid all that might distress us. We are faithful believers in God's saving grace. Take a moment to hear: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks to God" (1 Thess 5:16-17).

**Dr Rosemary Canavan**

**FIRST READING**

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of  
salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of nations.'

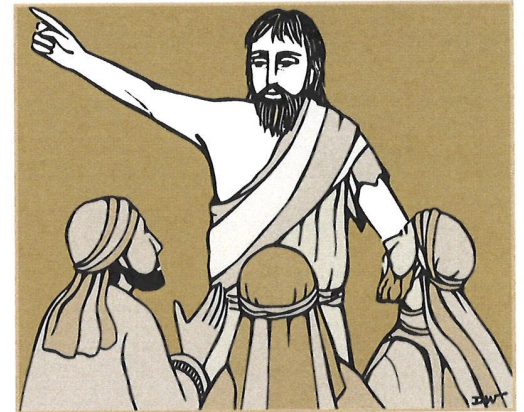
■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

**R. My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **R.**
2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. **R.**
3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. **R.**



**SECOND READING**

1 Thess 5:16-24

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

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!**



# 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

SCAN OUR PARISH QR CODE TO DONATE ONLINE



## Third Sunday of Advent/Year B

17 Dec 2023

### PRAYER REQUESTS:



**Death Anniversary:** Amale Koura, Antoni G Menassa, Wayne Whalan, William & Margaret Smith, Marija & Stjepan Zubak

**Deceased:** Coral Whalan, Patrick Whalan, Francis Simon, Mercedes Simon, Mary Samany, Lilie James, Selwyn Jackson, 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 Brayon

**Sick:** Gerard Landon, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

### UPCOMING FEAST DAYS, SOLEMNITIES AND MEMORIALS:

NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25<sup>th</sup> December

### CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES 2023:

 For this day in the city of David there has been born to you a Savior who is Christ, the Lord.	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	8am, 9:30am	Christmas Day Mass
		12 noon	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)
	Mon 1 Jan	9:00am	Mass of Thanksgiving (NO 7: 30am service)

### ADVENT WREATH LITURGY: As the 3rd candle is lit, we pray together -

“On this third week of Advent we pray for the gift of God’s distinctive **JOY** as we prepare again to celebrate the feast of the Christ child. Amen.”



### PARISH NEWS:

- Thank you to all those who volunteered for our Christmas liturgies. There are still roles to be filled. If you can help, please add your name on the **CHRISTMAS ROSTER in the sacristy**.
- **Congratulations to our parish and local public school students for completing another year of learning! Have a restful break & safe holidays! May God bless you in your next journey!**
- **CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES now available.** Feel free to take one home and return on the following weekend. Thank you for your ongoing support.
- **Advent Reflection Group: Last session will be on Thu 21st Dec at 6:30pm in the Church.**
- **Parishioners are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Fri 22nd Dec at 7pm.**
- **No 7:30am Communion Service on Mon, 1st Jan 2024. We will have Mass of Thanksgiving at 9am. All are invited to attend.**
- **St Patrick’s Church Hill needs your help in providing a special Christmas brunch for the homeless next weekend. To donate, please leave non-perishable food items in the foyer.**
- Thank you for your generosity. The amount collected in our parish for the **Vinnies Christmas Appeal was around \$8,000.** Receipts will soon be in the box at the back of the church for those who requested them on the donation slip.
- We received exceptionally great response from St Kevin’s parishioners to support **Sister Angelica’s fundraiser for the benefit of the poor/orphan children in Myanmar under the care of Fr Gregory Gray. We raised nearly \$1,200!** A big THANK YOU for your support!
- **CAROLLING AROUND THE STREETS OF EASTWOOD, Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 7pm start at the church then move around on foot with torches & appropriate footwear etc. Words provided. Route to be travelled chosen on the night, but call Suzanne on 9874 2809 beforehand if there is somewhere special you’d like us to include on our travels.

**Christmas at the Cathedral:** On Tues 19th Dec, St Kevin’s Eastwood parish & school community will join the festivities at St Mary’s Cathedral to support our Men’s Choir (performing at 6:30pm. We’ve chartered a BUS to take parishioners & school families. The bus is now FULL. Bus will leave St Kevin’s Church at 5pm, returning at approx. 9:30pm.

### PARISH NEWS:

**“Carols For Peace”, 7pm Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at St Mary’s Cathedral: Join Archbishop Fisher and a Choir & Orchestra of 70 musicians.** ENTRY BY DONATION: All funds raised support ACN & its charity works in The Holy Land & Ukraine. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: [www.carolsforpeace.org](http://www.carolsforpeace.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](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.