

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

THE SAVING WORD

24 DECEMBER 2023

THE ANNUNCIATION

On the eve of Christmas, today's Gospel reminds us of how the birth of Jesus is possible. Luke's narrative describes God sending the Angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. It is a familiar story to us, yet nothing of it is in our realm of experience.

This event is reported in a series of stories paralleling the annunciation and birth accounts of John the Baptist and Jesus. The narrative will present John as herald of the arrival of Jesus as Messiah when the time of his public ministry arrives, fulfilling God's promise.

Rightly this is an account of God's activity via Gabriel announcing first to Zechariah and then to Mary. Here is a moment bathed in God's grace. God's incarnation will occur in a natural human manner, born of a woman. Yet take a focus on Mary and imagine again the appearance of an angel. No surprise that she might be perplexed (Luke 1:29). Yet Mary responds, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (v. 38).

Mary also hears of her cousin Elisabeth's fortunate conception and sets off to see her. Their meeting, the centrepiece of the double annunciations and births, reveals these two women in embrace, together they usher in the birth of the Son of God. Today, the focus is on Mary's embrace of her mission but she is part of a larger story, God's story. Mary is a courageous woman who in the face of an impossible challenge steps forward in faith.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel
The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.' '

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 88: 2-5, 27, 29. R. cf. v. 2

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; / through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. / Of this I am sure, that your love lasts



for ever, / that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; / I have sworn to David my servant: / I will establish your dynasty for ever / and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, / my God, the rock who saves me.' / I will keep my love for him always; / for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.



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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 DONATE ONLINE



Fourth Sunday of Advent/Year B

24 Dec 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: James Prendergast

Death Anniversary: Gregory Smallhorn, Amale Koura, Antoni G Menassa, Wayne Whalan

Deceased: Jan Wiczorkowski, Barbara Wiczorkowska, Władysław Malicki and Jan Sycz; Alan, Molly & Peter McNamara; Bill, Eileen & John Taylor; Mehzen Moujalli, Tony & Rose Isaac; Joseph & Sandra Wehbe, and late members of the Al Mokachar family; Coral Whalan, Patrick Whalan; Francis Simon, Mercedes Simon, Mary Samany; Lilie James, Selwyn Jackson, Peter Leung, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron and Jan Brayen

Sick: Gerard Landon, Ling Sin Fong, 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 25th Dec, St Stephen 26th Dec, St John the Apostle 27th Dec, The Holy Innocents 28th Dec, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, And Joseph 31st Dec

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.	Sun 24 Dec	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass (Children's Mass)
		7:30pm	Christmas Eve Mass (Livestreamed)
		9:00pm	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)
		11:30pm	Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Mon 25 Dec	8am, 9:30am	Christmas Day Mass	
	12 noon	Chinese Mass (Bilingual – English/Cantonese)	
Sat 30/Sun 31 Dec	USUAL MASS TIMES		
Mon 1 Jan	9:00am	Mass of Thanksgiving (NO 7:30am service)	

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY: As the 4th candle is lit, we pray together -

“O Lord, aid us with your powerful assistance and LOVE so that by way of your presence in word and sacrament, we may come closer to you in word and action. You who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.”



PARISH NEWS:

- **On behalf of Fr Tomasz and myself, I would like to wish you and your families, boundless trust in God, for this Christmas and New Year 2024!** May His love and peace always dwell in you and to everyone who needs our prayers and support. Merry Christmas and have a blessed New Year! - Fr Pawel
- We thank all those who came for the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation last Friday. We also thank all the priests who helped hear confessions.
- **Congratulations to St Kevin's Men's Choir for their outstanding performance at St Mary's Cathedral last Tuesday evening!** Thank you to the families, parishioners, Fr Pawel, and all those who watched and supported our parish choir!!
- **Our condolences to the family of James Prendergast, long-term parishioner at St Kevin's.** The funeral will be on Thu, 28th Dec at 1:30pm in our parish. Please include him and his family in your prayers. May his soul rest in peace.
- **On Mon 1st Jan, we will have a Mass at 9am to celebrate the SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD and in thanksgiving for the New Year 2024.** All welcome.
- **Fit & Well Exercise Class for Parishioners** will resume on Tues 23rd Jan 2024. Any queries, contact Michael Wilkinson 0412 383 364. Classes are held weekly at 4.15pm in the hall.
- **The parish office will be on reduced hours during the Christmas and New Year period. Please contact the parish office at 9874 2533 before coming in.**
- **St Patrick's Church Hill needs your help in providing breakfast for the homeless.** To donate, please leave non-perishable food items in the church foyer. Thank you.
- Early this year, we had an appeal to support **St Joseph Lumezi Nursing School and Provincial Hospital in Zambia** initiated by Dr Mark Hanley, GP & long-time parishioner at St Kevin's. With your donation we were able to cover the cost of sending a 2nd shipping container to Zambia full of medical & AV equipment, hospital beds, etc. THANKS EVERYONE!!!



Original Baptismal Font Restored!: When Fr Pawel discovered that the original baptismal font from the old St Kevin's Church (1919) has been safely stored and kept for many years in the parish hall, he took it upon himself to give it a second life. With the help of Fr Pawel's friend, Jacek Luszczuk, sculptor and skilled restorer, the baptismal font has been carefully cleaned, polished & repaired, to return it to its former glory. Finally, on Tue 19th Dec, the baptismal font has been installed in the Church! More photos on parish website.



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.

