

FIRST READING Isa 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 97:1-6. R. v. 3  
R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord / for he has worked wonders. / His right hand and his holy arm / have brought salvation. R.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; / has shown his justice to the nations. / He has remembered his truth and love / for the house of Israel. R.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen / the salvation of our God. / Shout to the Lord all the earth, / ring out your joy. R.
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, / with the sound of

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music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. R.

SECOND READING Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the  
Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / A holy day has dawned upon us. / Come you nations and adore the Lord. / Today a great light has come upon the earth. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to John

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all

things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

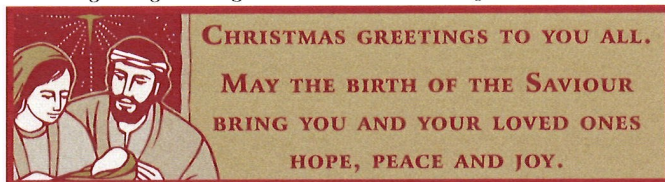
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received — yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



# THE SAVING WORD

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD / B

25 DECEMBER 2023

MASS DURING THE NIGHT

FIRST READING Isa 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet  
Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS 95:1-3, 11-13 R. v. Lk 2:11  
R. Today is born our Saviour,  
Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / O sing to the Lord, bless his name. R.
2. Proclaim his help day by day, / tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. R.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, / let the sea and all within it thunder praise, / let the



land and all it bears rejoice, / all the trees of the wood shout for joy / at the presence of the Lord for he comes, / he comes to rule the earth. R.

4. With justice he will rule the world, / he will judge the peoples with his truth. R.

SECOND READING Tit 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of  
St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 2:10-11  
Alleluia, alleluia! / Good News and great joy to all the world: /

today is born our Saviour,  
Christ the Lord. / Alleluia.

GOSPEL Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census — the first — took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.





## 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  
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## The Nativity of the Lord/Year B

25 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:

St Stephen 26<sup>th</sup> Dec, St John the Apostle 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, The Holy Innocents 28<sup>th</sup> Dec, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, And Joseph 31<sup>st</sup> Dec, Mary the Holy Mother of God 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE: *As the Christmas candle is lit, we pray together*

“Lord Jesus, we celebrate Your birth, Your presence, and Your future return! Bless us with Your love. May we sing Your praises as the angels who broke through the night sky to proclaim Your glory! Amen.”



### PARISH NEWS:

- Thank you to all parish volunteers who participated in our Christmas liturgies and to all those *who helped clean, decorate & prepare our Church for Christmas! A special thank you to those who provided flowers and to Tina Nguyen for donating the beautiful poinsettias.*
- ***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.

- A BIG thank you to all parishioners who have been supporting our parish financially. If you wish to contribute, **Christmas Offering** envelopes are now available. *Feel free to take one home and return the following weekend. Thank you for your ongoing support.*
- Next weekend, we will have our usual Mass times: Sat 5:30pm, Sun 8am, 9:30am and 6pm.
- **No 7:30am Communion Service on Mon, 1st Jan 2024. 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. All are invited to attend.**

**Original Baptismal Font Restored!:** When Fr Pawel discovered that the original baptismal font from the old St Kevin's Church, built in 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 & 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 website.



### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR PAWEL:

My Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Kevins at Eastwood

Full of confidence in the words of the prophet Isaiah's exhortation: Seek the Lord when he allows himself to be found, call on him while he is near! (Isaiah 55:6), on Christmas night we join all those who seek God with a sincere heart.



With the light of the Spirit, we come to the truth about ourselves and to the conviction that it was God who sought us first.

We are called to discover in our life's concrete gestures and signs of the extraordinary caring God, who is Light, Love and Peace. He, who watches over us with kindness and mercy.

Among the many problems of the modern world, the concern for peace is absolutely the most critical. We are aware of the devastation caused by war, terrorism, and all forms of violence. We experience this reality both in situations of international conflict and in our personal lives. Caring for peace, first in our own heart, and then of the whole world, is becoming a challenge for all of us today.

Peace, John Paul II teaches, is a good to be brought about through goodness: it is a good for individuals, for families, for the peoples of the world and for the whole of humanity; It is, therefore, a good to be safeguarded & developed by choosing and doing good & avoiding evil. 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 Kopczynski CSMA

### 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.