

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and
come down — at your Presence the mountains
would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but
you act like this for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,/shine forth
from your cherubim throne./O Lord, rouse up
your might,/O Lord, come to our help. **R.**



2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,/look
down from heaven and see./Visit this vine
and protect it,/the vine your right hand has
planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,/the man you have given your strength./
And we shall never forsake you again:/give us
life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces
you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank
him that you have been enriched in so many
ways, especially in your teachers and preachers;
the witness to Christ has indeed been strong
among you so that you will not be without any
of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting
for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he
will keep you steady and without blame until
the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,
because God by calling you has joined you to
his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

■ 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
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First Sunday of Advent/Year B

3rd Dec 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently Deceased: John Siely, Antonio Odango Sr.

Death Anniversary: Marija & Stjepan Zubak, Lorraine Smith

Deceased: 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 Brayon

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 Ambrose Dec 7, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Dec 8

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 nd Rite of Reconciliation
	Sat 23 Dec	5:30pm	4 th 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			

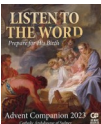
ADVENT WREATH LITURGY: As the 1st candle is lit, we pray together -

“Lord, help us prepare again to celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus, your Son, who brings HOPE for one and all. Amen.”



PARISH NEWS:

- As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent this weekend, we will also begin our preparations for our Christmas liturgies. **To our liturgy volunteers, please add your name on the Christmas roster sheet in the sacristy if you are available to help.** Thank you.
- Fri 8th Dec is the Solemnity of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.** All parishioners are welcome to attend the school Mass at 9:30am or the parish Mass at 5pm. We'll also have the blessing of our new statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the 5pm Mass.
- We welcome into the family of God, Sienna Parks; Orion, Hanna & Hans Cheung.** Congratulations on your baptism!
- St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal Dec 2 & 3:** At Christmas our Vinnies team will be delivering food vouchers to people in need in our local community. Your generous support provides us with the means to help those struggling with rising rent and cost of living. Donate using the envelopes on the pews or scan the QR code to visit our SVDP Eastwood Conference fundraising page. Thank you.
- 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 with your child's name, age & contact info.
- THIS WEDNESDAY 6th December 6-8pm Kevinwood Bells will be “the choir” playing carols for the City of Sydney around Martin Place Christmas Tree.** Please join us!
- Sr Angelica will be selling hand crafted Christmas cards & other items at the 8am and 9:30am Mass on Sun, Dec 10.** Proceeds from this fund raiser 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.
- Due to infant baptism queries, we have scheduled a **Baptism Info Evening on Dec 12 at 8pm** in the parish office meeting room. To register, please contact the parish office.
- 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.** We will use the Advent Companion 2023: Listen to the Word, Prepare for His Birth. Limited copies available in the church foyer. Free to download at: www.gomakedisciples.org.au.
- Christmas at the Cathedral, 14-25 Dec 2023:** Festivities begin at 5.30pm with: Christmas market stalls, food, fun kids activities, and live entertainment. **St Kevin's Brothers in Christ MEN'S CHOIR will perform on Dec 19 at 6:30pm.** Please join us! All welcome.



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.