



It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Heb 1: 1-2

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 2: 22, 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form Lk 2: 22-40

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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FAMILY TREASURE

What a treasured gift is a child, especially one longed for. In the story of Abram and Sarah we see how bereft they are to have no heir, no child, yet God gifts them Isaac. The Gospel tells us of another couple, Mary and Joseph, who also have a child gifted by God, Jesus. They “stood and wondered about the things that were said about him [Jesus].” While both of these sets of parents and their sons had a much larger role than many, let us not lose sight of the sacredness of family: the ability to bring a life into the world and to nurture that life to fullness.

The invitation on this feast of the Holy Family is to reflect on family – our own family, those around us and in our world. Families come in all shapes and sizes. The Holy Family is centred on Jesus and our families, centred on Christ, grow in holiness and love, face challenges together and are held in God's care. Parents and carers can identify with Mary and Joseph wondering and worrying about their son. A child raised in a loving environment has the opportunity to thrive and to grow into their full potential. The treasure of a family is not limited to the nuclear family but to the extended relationships through all of its members, centred on Christ, forming a community where all can thrive in faith and love whatever might come.

FIRST READING

Gen 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Your own son shall be your heir.

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, ‘Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great’.

‘My Lord,’ Abram replied ‘what do you intend to give me? I go childless . . .’ Then Abram said, ‘See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir’. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, ‘He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood’. Then taking him outside he said, ‘Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants’ he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 104: 1-6, 8-9. R. vv. 7, 8

R. The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, / make known his deeds among the peoples. / O sing to him, sing his praise; / tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, / let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. / Consider the Lord and his strength; / constantly seek his face. **R.**



3. Remember the wonders he has done, / his miracles, the judgements he spoke. / O children of Abraham, his servant, / O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, / his promise for a thousand generations, / the covenant he made with Abraham, / the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

SECOND READING Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.



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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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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

31st Dec 2023

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Recently Deceased: James Prendergast, Cecilia Quizon

Death Anniversary: Leonardo Barbagallo, Gregory Smallhorn

Deceased: William & Kathleen Harris; 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; Selwyn Jackson; Peter Leung; John & Bonnie Bowdern, Jonathon Ellsmore and all late members of Ellsmore family, Stanley McCarthy; Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron and Jan Bryan.

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:

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Jan 1, Saint Basil and Gregory Jan 2

2023 AT A GLANCE, IN 2023 ST KEVIN'S HAD



36	Baptisms
1	Wedding
11	Funerals
37	Received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation
38	Received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion
53	Received the Sacrament of Confirmation

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL WITH A PEACEFUL, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS 2024!



PARISH NEWS:

- **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.**
- **Our condolences to the family of Cecilia Quizon**, whose funeral was held here at St Kevin's on Saturday 30th December. Please include her and her family in your prayers. May her soul rest in peace.
- **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.
- **NO FOSK morning tea on Sun 7th Jan.** Next FOSK morning tea will be on Sun 4th Feb 2024.
- **Next Men's Prayer Breakfast for 2024 will be on Sat, February 3rd at 7am in the Parish Hall, followed by Mass and devotion in the Church at 9am.**
- Next **Baptism Info Evening** will be on Wed 7th Feb 2024 at 8pm in the parish office meeting room. To register, please contact the parish office.
- Save the dates! The next **Didaskō Adult Faith Formation** course, organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, will be held Mon Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm-8:45pm in the Haseler Centre. The next topic will be 'Foundations of Theology'. **Cost: FREE!**

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- **The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation in the Archdiocese of Sydney is excited to present the 2023-24 Summer Series**, with world-renowned guests: Matt Fradd, Jason Evert, and Dr Christopher West! For info and to register, visit <https://sydneycatholic.org/summer-series/>
- **Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal:** Caritas Australia is working with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), providing emergency shelter for over 1,200 people & cash support to over 7,100 families. Please donate by phone 1800024413 or via: www.caritas.org.au/gaza

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.